

## **The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes October 18, 2024**

Fr. Owens called the meeting to order at 12:30PM in the  
Conference Room of the Chapel.

**PRESENT:** Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Lee Watkins, Tom Durston, Joanne Byrd, Craig Pelley, Linda Laird, and Wayne Bowerman

**ABSENT:**

### **I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Michael Simon

Michael shared that the roots in the parish go very deep. He read a poem written by Lisa Riddle about the crosses that were hand carved from the wood taken from the back of the pews, treasures of the past. The teachings of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life were also discussed. In following God's purpose for us, we are living to be his servants.

### **II. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Elisabeth Markle and Dave Fisher: Pastoral Care Ministries and Chaplain

Elisabeth and Dave blessed us with their current workings of the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Chaplain ministry. They are a well connected team that covers many ministries. Elisabeth leads Care ministries that include the Caregiver Group, Dinner Delivery, Financial Counseling, HAL Grief Support, Intercessory Prayer, Military Care, Prayer Shawls, Stephen Ministry, Visits and Home Communion. Dave serves in Preaching, Teaching, End-Life visits, calls, prayers, care ministries and Funerals and End of Life Planning. They are developing materials and connections on TCOTC APP to educate our Parrish.

### **III: MINUTES:** Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for September 19, 2024, were electronically distributed. Michael made the motion to approve and all approved.

### **IV: FINANCE:** Lee Watkins:

#### **Treasurer's Report for Month Ending September 30, 2024:**

**Revenue Discussions:** Monthly income finished over budget:  
September total monthly Income was at \$330,236.33 to a budget of \$284,805.00.  
Plate Income for September was \$235,500.23 to a budget of \$216,680.00.

A Reminder: The Historic Campus was closed for one weekend, impacting three services.

Year To Date Plate stands at \$2,347,546.54 to a budget of \$1,950,115.00.  
 Plate income variance is +\$397,431.54.  
 Total Income for the year is at \$3,097,049.98 to a budget of \$2,563,240.00.  
 MTD Plate for October: \$ 104,236.50  
 MTD Plate Budget for October: \$ 207,835.00

Total Funds in the CSB, Money Market and Intra Fi accounts stand at \$1,956,631.31. Interest from the IntraFi Account was \$4368.74 (moved to the Argent Account along with \$265,000).

(God’s Goods revenue for September was \$53,086.83 (Compared to August of \$70,118.70) and has been added to the mission’s budget. The current Missions Reserve Fund sits at \$369,620.02.

**Expenses Discussion:** Monthly expenses were higher than August (\$255,576.74)

Total expenses for the month were \$559,644.73 to a monthly budget of \$303,302.65. Over budget by \$256,342.08

The largest variance is from designating funds and moving \$265,000 to the Jasper County/Argent account.

There were some other variances as well, of note:

Missions Funding was over budget by \$29,916.33.

Cross School Scholarships expense of \$8868.00 was budgeted yearly but not monthly.

If we were to deduct the one-time expense of the transfer to the Jasper fund, then MTD expenses would be \$294,644.73—within budget.

YTD Expenses are at \$2,901,185.27 to a YTD budget of \$2,772,010.26—thru September--YTD expenses are still under budget by a total of \$129,175.01.

**Church Attendance for September:**

Attendance in September was impacted by a widespread power outage that meant services for Saturday and Sunday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> were not held at the Historic Campus. This impacted overall attendance by approximately four hundred.

SEPT	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOL	CURRENT MONTH 2023	Y T D 2024	MTD 2023	YTD
1	127	82	202	174	452	450	6,843	56,939	5626	51,547
8	107	80	207	178	479	650				
15	113	79	184	151	428	450				
22	130	84	202	169	529	450				
29	0	0	0	193	493					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>2381</b>	<b>2000</b>				

**Average Attendance Comparisons for September:**

Gracetime: 119 (same as 9/23)

Historic 8AM: 81 (79 in 9/23)

Historic 10AM: 199 (210 in 9/23)

Chapel 9AM: 173 (128 in 9/23)

Crosspoint: 476 (same as 9/23)

**Streaming and Online:**

The COTC Website views/visits average was down to approximately 389 views per day. With most of the area losing internet service for several days due to the storm, the numbers are lower.

Total YouTube viewers for September were 1688 compared to 1136 for August. Some of the increase relates to the additional teaching during the week.

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Lord,

Keep us in continual godliness, that we may devoutly serve you and be a light to this world!

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Lee Watkins, Vestry Treasurer**

Fr. Owens made the motion to approve the financial report. Michael seconded and all approved.

Linda shared October Disbursements requested by the Mission Outreach Board.

**Missions Outreach Board Meeting - October 2024 Disbursement Report**

<b>Net Working Capital:</b>	<b>\$55,000.00</b>
<b>October Set Aside Distributions:</b>	<b>\$24,233.00 (See Appendix A)</b>
<b>October Grant Approvals:</b>	<b>\$29,853.00</b>
<b>Total October Distributions if Approved:</b>	<b>\$54,086.00</b>
<b>Remaining Net Working Capital:</b>	<b>\$914.00</b>

**October 2024 Funding Requests**

1. Funding Requests
  - a. ARDF Disaster Relief - **\$10,000** (previously approved by electronic vote for Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief)
  - b. Kibera Pride Initiative - **\$5,000** (previously approved by electronic vote for repairs due to the orphanage fire)
  - c. Harvesters International Ministries - **\$8853** was approved for the orphan's Christmas celebrations across two orphanages.
  - d. Samaritan's Purse - U.S. Hurricane Helene/Milton Relief - **\$6,000** was approved.
  - e. Cross Schools, Operation Christmas Child, Trip to NC in December - **\$4,650** was approved and will be applied to the Mission Trip Reserve

**Note:** Due to the decreased September income from God's Goods, which created a negative Profit/Loss ratio for September, the Missions Outreach Board voted to work the decreased Net Working Capital amount of \$55,000 vs. the actual Net Working Capital amount of \$73,520.02. The working net capital amount will be re-evaluated next month.

**October 2024 Set Aside Disbursements**

Mission Trip Reserve	\$4650.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - <b>End June 2025</b>	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - <b>End January 2025</b>	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- <b>End November 2024</b>	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - <b>January 2025</b>	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - <b>End December 2024</b>	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - <b>End May 31 2025</b>	\$1,250.00
CS Cross School Monthly - <b>End May 21 2025</b>	\$2,500.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - <b>End March 2025</b>	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - <b>End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024</b>	\$2,100.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - <b>End Jan 2025</b>	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - <b>End Dec 2025</b>	\$1,500.00
Young Life New Gen Program - <b>End July 2025</b>	\$500.00

**Total October Set Asides**

**\$24,233.00**

Respectfully Submitted  
Barbara Scott

Michael made a motion to approve the October disbursements requested by the Missions Committee and approved by the Finance Committee. Craig seconded and all agreed.

**V: OTHER:**

**a. Update on Cross Schools: Wayne Bowerman**

Cafeteria project: Work is currently on hold due to financial uncertainties.

Enrollment is noticeably less than predicted. A motion is expected to be presented by the next B.O.T. meeting on October 22, whether to advance or not.

Amended Development permit pending. Permit needed updating due to value engineering changes. For cafeteria project to be completed by start of '25/'26 school year, groundbreaking needs to occur by third week of November 2024.

Cross Country trail: The Board is waiting for final approval from the Town. The Board will not initiate trail construction, even with permit in hand, until it has a clear understanding of land ownership and insurance recommendations and requirements. The access road was initiated by a parent volunteer in August.

The trail was fully marked in August, required additional town inspection, and has had initial inspection/approval from the town, waiting for final approval. This is due to the last-minute storm water/development issue.

Joe has secured a donor with a not-to-exceed donation that should cover the work. Two contractors bid on the trail work. Winning bidder is ready to begin once we have town approval.

Phase 4 (Middle School) second floor renovation is completed!

The “Back 40” Master Plan Amendment needs to be approved before any progress will be made. This has been a slow process. This may be a blessing in disguise; we need to obtain a clearer financial picture.

- b. Vestry Leadership Session Readiness:** The Leadership training will be on Saturday, October 26. All members of the Vestry are prepared and excited to meet the new team.
- c. Chapters 7-9 of The Rector and The Vestry and Part 3 of the ADOSC Vestry Handbook:** The Vestry continued their study and discussion of the responsibilities of the Rector, the Wardens, and the Vestry. All took part in sharing what spoke to them or interested them. Fr. Owens made clarifications as needed. Conversations and study will continue next month.

## **VI: CLOSING PRAYER - Michael**

**Next Meeting – November 15, 2024 -12:30 – Chapel Conference Room.**

**Linda has devotion and prayers.**

**2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule: December 13 – Craig; January 17 – Tom;  
February 21 – Wayne; March 21 – Lee; April 25 – Joanne; May 23 - Michael**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Linda Laird**