

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes September 20, 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: Joanne Byrd

Joanne opened our meeting in prayer. She prayed that God's will would be done in our work today. Joanne shared her experience of traveling to Israel with a group from TCOTC. She also shared a new video series by David Stotts called, A Drive Thru History. She focused on the videos on the life of Jesus. She emphasized the beauty and accuracy of the videos, and she recommended them to us. It brought back memories for all of us who had visited Israel.

II: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for August 2024 were electronically distributed and approved by all.

III: FINANCE: Lee Watkins: **Treasurer's Report for Month Ending August 31, 2024:**

Revenue Discussions: Monthly revenue finished over budget:

August total monthly Income was at \$342,147.38 to a budget of \$309,125.00.

Plate Income for August was \$281,730.92 to a budget of \$241,000.00.

Year To Date Plate stands at \$2,112,046.31 to a budget of 1,733,435.00.

Total Income for the year is at \$2,766,813.65 to a budget of \$2,278,435.00.

Just a reminder: Total income is plate income, grants/bequests, faith formation, missions, and counseling center income.

MTD Plate for three of five Sundays in September: \$146,918.70

MTD Plate Budget for September: \$ 216,880.00

Total Funds in the CSB, Money Market and Intra Fi accounts stand at \$1,956,631.31. Interest from the Intra Fi Account was \$4377.16.

(God's Goods revenue for August was \$70,118.70 (Compared to July of \$67,697.90) and has been added to the mission budget. The current Mission Reserve Fund sits at \$388,116.19.

Expenses Discussion: Monthly expenses were lower than July (\$290,044.81) and under budget for August:

Total expenses for the month were \$255,576.74 to a monthly budget of \$304,577.65. Under budget by \$49,000.91

YTD Expenses are at \$2,341,540.54 to a YTD budget of \$2,468,707.61—thru August, YTD expenses are under budget by a total of \$127,167.07.

Expenses will certainly increase as we head into the “busy” season, but we are in position to Finish the year along the current trend in both income and expenses.

Church Attendance for August:

Year to Date attendance and monthly attendance continue to grow. Cross School Chapel has also returned for the new school year. Comparing attendance by service from August 2023—The am Chapel Service had a year over year increase of 100. River Baptism (Sun. Aug 18) attendance was 350.

AUG	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS L SCHOO	CURRENT MONTH YTD 2023	YTD 2024	MTD 2023
4	126	89	182	140	470	150	5,925	4901	45,921
11	125	63	176	154	499	700	50,096		
18	129	70	217	154	524	450			
25	116	84	262	167	428	450			
Totals	496	306	837	615	1921	1750			

Streaming and Online:

The COTC Website views/visits average increased to 437 views per day, with the start of school and folks’ summer schedules ending website usage is once again increasing.

Total YouTube viewers for August were 1136.

May we continue, collectively and individually, to be a bright light to our community and devout in our holy service!

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

Linda shared September Disbursements requested by the Mission Outreach Board.
Missions Outreach Board Meeting - September 2024 Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$87,016.19
September Set Aside Distributions:	\$20,583.00 (See Appendix A)
September Grant Approvals:	\$51,000.00
Total September Distributions if Approved:	\$71,583.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$15,433.19

September 2024 Funding Requests

- a. Rev. Zach Slagel - **\$6,000** to support full time mission work through Ministry Essentials International in Albania
- b. Olomayiana Village - **\$12,000** to support Phase 2 of the building project to construct Olomayiana Christian Academy
- c. Diocese of Matana, Burundi - **\$5,000** as a mercy gift to support Bishop Seth in his ministry

- d. Ed Grecco - **\$1,000** to support his mission trip to Cape Town, South Africa with Extreme Response International. **Note: This gift will be deducted from the Mission Trip Reserve, and it has been accounted for in the September Set Asides.**
- e. Bunia Children’s Home, DR Congo: **\$10,000** in support of ministry needs: completion of a painting project, gift towards a new well, staff support and healthcare needs.
- f. Cross Schools - **\$13,500** toward six scholarship tuitions due to an unexpected deficit created by the new SC Supreme Court ruling that the previously approved "Education Scholarship Trust Fund" was unconstitutional.
- g. UCCD, Burundi - **\$4,500** to support a 3 day conference in November 2024 for all Anglican Pastors in Burundi.

September 2024 Set Aside Disbursements

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

Total September Set Aside

\$20,583.00

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Scott

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

IV: OTHER:

- a. **Review of the 9/3/24 Leadership Gathering and the 2025 Budgeting Process:**

Fr Owens lead us through the agenda presented at the Leadership Gathering. All were reminded that we are servants and are not to be served. The one who serves is more important. We serve the Lord and intensify our relationship with Him. At present, there are 40 staff leaders serving TCOTC, but our congregation is growing every year by an average of 300 families. Our need for more staff and more space will continue to be addressed. For now, all Staff will be responsible for identifying their ministry goals and expectations. Fr Owens shared the details of the Columbarium to be built at the Cross Point Campus. It will be a beautiful sanctuary with a live oak tree foundation, surrounded by fountains, seating areas, and an array of beautiful plants and flowers. All permits have been approved. Construction will take 60-90 days to complete. He also shared that there are many things planned for our area. There will be large developments springing up at the I95 and 278 intersections, both commercial and residential. Growth is moving in all directions. Residential housing will be developed off 170. Our development of the Argent campus could be especially important at this time. All permits have been approved and construction could start in the first quarter of 2025.

- b. 2025 Budgeting Process:** As our congregation grows, we need more details from ministries seeking funding. Scheduling events becomes more difficult with more members but no added space. Rebecca and Nathan will receive these requests and compile a funding request. Regine will collaborate with them and collate program requests with salary information and 2025 income projections. In December, the Finance Committee meets to approve the proposed budget and sends it to the Vestry for approval.
- c. Bishop Edgar's Visit:** The bishop will be coming to TCOTC on October 13. He will be preaching at the Chapel on the Buckwalter campus at 9 o'clock.
- d. Chapters 4-6 of The Rector and The Vestry and Part 2 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 and clarifications were made. Conversations will continue next month.
- e. Other Comments:** Wayne Bowerman shared that Cross Schools' renovations are almost completed. The cross country area will be ready for action soon. Craig Pelly shared a praise from Leah McCarthy for the Counseling Center.

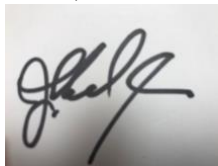
VI: CLOSING PRAYER - Joanne

Next Meeting – October 18, 2024 -12:30 – Chapel Conference Room.

Michael has devotion and prayers.

2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule:

November 15- Linda; December 13 – Craig



Respectfully Submitted,

Senior Warden

Linda Laird