

## **The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes**

**April, 30, 2025**

Fr. Owens called the meeting to order at 12:00PM in the Conference Room of the Chapel.

**PRESENT:** Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Joanne Byrd, Craig Pelley, Linda Laird, Wayne Bowerman, Laura Strange and Kevin Sevier

**ABSENT:**

### **I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Wayne Bowerman**

Wayne shared a memory of a large wooden cross at his church. Members would pound their notes of sins or prayers onto the cross. He was grateful that Jesus was on the cross for us, but wondered if we ever thought about that sacrifice. God created us to say "yes" or "no." Would we choose to do what Jesus did for us. We must die to the cross and follow Jesus. Let us continue to be a light on the hill.

### **II: MINUTES: Linda Laird**

The Vestry Minutes for March were electronically distributed. Michael made the motion we approve the minutes, Joanne seconded and all approved.

### **III: FINANCES: Treasurer's Report for Month Ending March 31, 2025: Kevin Sevier**

#### **Revenue Discussions:**

The Financial statements were previously distributed to the Vestry members.

Income and giving continue to exceed expectations as we move into the second quarter of 2025.

March monthly Income finished at \$382,794.49 to a budget of \$315,028.50.

Comparatively, February 2025 monthly income was \$374,691.

Monthly Plate/Pledge Income was \$300,937.64 to a budget \$237,342.00 March

Plate/Pledge income variance is +\$63,595.64. Total Income for the month was higher than budgeted by \$67,765.99.

**Note:** Total income includes Giving, Bequests, Missions, Faith Formation and Counseling Center revenue.

God's Goods Income transferred to the Missions Fund was \$56,284.00 compared to February GG income of \$60,090.30.

**Expenses Discussion:** Overall expenses were lower than budgeted.

Total expenses for the month were \$309,932.29 to a monthly budget of \$339,636.22.

The monthly expenses budget variance is under by \$29,703.93.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH:**

<b>March</b>	<b>HC 5:28</b>	<b>HC 8A</b>	<b>HC 10A</b>	<b>Chapel 9A</b>	<b>Crosspoint</b>	<b>Cross School</b>	<b>Wk Total</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1452</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1230</b>
<b>23rd</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1542</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1595</b>
<b>Mo Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2258</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>7824</b>

**(NOTE:** Shrove Tuesday supper/service 280 and 5 Sundays in March)

Current Month: 7,824 Year to Date: 20,228

STREAMING AND ONLINE: THE COTC WEBSITE DAILY VIEWS/VISITS AVERAGES WERE LOWER THAN

DECEMBER. (AVG. 850) AND JANUARY 2025 AT 619. AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC FOR FEBRUARY WAS AT 580 VIEWS PER DAY.

**WE GIVE THANKS TO CHRIST, OUR KING, FOR EVERYTHING.**

---

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kevin Sevier, Vestry Interim Treasurer**

Michael made the motion to approve the Financial Report, Craig seconded and all approved.

The report from the Mission Outreach Board was electronically distributed. Due to timely distributions for funding, Michael made the motion that we cast our votes electronically. All approved and the funding was dispersed.

Missions Outreach Board Meeting, April 14, 2025. Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$63,253.41
April Set Aside Distributions:	\$20,150.00 (See Appendix A)
April One Time Grant Approvals:	\$40,500.00
Total April Distributions, if Approved:	\$60,650.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$ 2,603.41

#### **April One Time Disbursements**

- a. Great Lakes Outreach - Approved \$5,000 for Muslim Outreach Programs under APRID, the Association for Interfaith Relations and Development.
  - b. Hope Compassion Center: Approved \$1,000 to assist with care for 4 families who lost their homes in Mathare Slum to fire in March 2025.

- c. Anglican Frontier Missions: Approved \$10,000 to support 4 aspects of the ministry: Great Commission Fund, Training and Security Fund, Member Care Fund and New Wineskins Pre-conferences.
- d. Pine Valley Camps, Ellwood, PA: Approved \$9,500 for tuition for 10 campers
- e. Diocese of Mahajanga, Madagascar: Approved \$15,000 to be applied toward building a wall around the property of the Diocesan Campus to secure it, so that no one else will begin to build on it. This amount may also be applied toward Bishop Critch's housing and personal needs at his discretion.

**Funding Renewals – None.**

**Appendix A**

<b>April Set Aside Commitments</b>	
<b>Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2025</b>	\$2,250.00
<b>Bluffton Community Kitchen - End January 2026</b>	Gift is disbursed every other month
<b>Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2025</b>	\$500.00
<b>CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025</b>	\$3,000.00
<b>Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2026</b>	\$300.00
<b>COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2025</b>	\$1,250.00
<b>CS Cross Schools Monthly - End May 21 2025</b>	\$2,500.00
<b>Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2025</b>	\$3,350.00
<b>HELP Madagascar - End January 2026</b>	\$1,850.00
<b>Hope Compassion Center - End October 2025</b>	\$1,500.00
<b>SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2026</b>	\$1,500.00
<b>UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2024</b>	\$1,650.00
<b>Young Life New Gen Program - End July 2025</b>	\$500.00
<b>Total April Set Aside Disbursements</b>	<b>\$20,150.00</b>

#### **IV: Other**

##### **A Cross Schools Board of Directors (Michael)**

Vestry Resolution regarding membership of  
the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools

Adopted April 30, 2025

I. In accordance with Article III, Section 3.2, of the Bylaws of Cross Schools Inc, the Vestry of The Church of the Cross immediately and permanently appoints to the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools with seat, voice and vote its Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Rector (or their designated representatives). The terms of these appointees shall run concurrently with their Vestry terms with their successors being appointed by the Vestry. Additionally, the Vestry appoints Frank Byrd, former Chairman of the Cross Schools Board of Trustees, to immediately hold seat, voice and vote on the Board of Cross Schools with the intent being that he be elected its next Chairman; he will serve a term of indeterminate length but at least one year.

II. In accordance with Article III, Section 3.2, of the Bylaws of Cross Schools Inc, the Vestry of The Church of the Cross will henceforth utilize a process as thorough as it deems necessary to ensure that those nominated to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools support the Vision, Mission and Strategy of the Parish as it relates Cross Schools Inc.

III. The Vestry discerned the need to hire a consultant to work with the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools; this consultant would begin work this summer and would be paid by the Parish.

Vestry Resolution regarding membership of  
the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools  
Adopted April 30, 2025

- I. In accordance with Article III, Section 3.2, of the Bylaws of Cross Schools Inc, the Vestry of The Church of the Cross immediately and permanently appoints to the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools with seat, voice and vote its Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Rector (or their designated representatives). The terms of these appointees shall run concurrently with their Vestry terms with their successors being appointed by the Vestry. Additionally, the Vestry appoints Frank Byrd, former Chairman of the Cross Schools Board of Trustees, to immediately hold seat, voice and vote on the Board of Cross Schools with the intent being that he be elected its next Chairman; he will serve a term of indeterminate length but at least one year.

- II. In accordance with Article III, Section 3.2, of the Bylaws of Cross Schools Inc, the Vestry of The Church of the Cross will henceforth utilize a process as thorough as it deems necessary to ensure that those nominated to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools support the Vision, Mission and Strategy of the Parish as it relates Cross Schools Inc.
- III. The Vestry discerned the need to hire a consultant to work with the Board of Trustees of Cross Schools. The consultant would begin work this summer and would be paid by the Parish.

Michael made a motion to approve, Linda seconded and all approved.

## **B Looking Ahead**

**1 The Chapel Columbarium's most recent timeline** – (Fr Owens) Construction on the Columbarium was delayed due to drainage problems and connecting to the existing drain culvert. Construction should be completed by mid-June

**2 Update from Wayne on Cross School's construction** - Wayne shared that the progress on the cafeteria continues to be slow. Workers are not coming on a regular schedule. The roofline continues to be a challenge. The HVAC replacement parts have arrived and all systems are running, except one that was later discovered to be irreparably damaged and must be completely replaced.

**3 Reconnecting Cross Church Inc. and Cross Outreach Ministries Inc. to the Church of the Cross Inc.** Father Owens described how the church was acquired from a private owner. We also recalled the difficult times when we were in danger of losing our Historic Campus. By God's grace, we were able to keep our property. Now it is time to consolidate all of our properties under the Church of the Cross Inc. Westin Newton will be working on this process and hopes all will be completed by mid-summer. Michael made the motion to proceed with the consolidation of all properties to The Church of the Cross Inc. Craig seconded and all approved.

**4 Building the Argent East campus** – Father Owens shared his vision for building the Argent East Campus. The growth in Jasper County has developed quickly and the need for Christian presence is great. His hope is that the youngest children from 6 weeks to 6 months will attend this campus. Families in Jasper County will be exposed to Jesus through their children. We are currently beginning the building process, starting with public hearings and permits secured.

**5 Fr. Owens' role and Bishop Edgar's attending our May 23,2025 meeting** – Bishop Edgar has accepted Father Owens' invitation to attend the Vestry's May 23rd Gathering to discuss how best to maximize the Parish's future ministry opportunities in partnership with the Diocese.

## **V: Closing Prayers:**

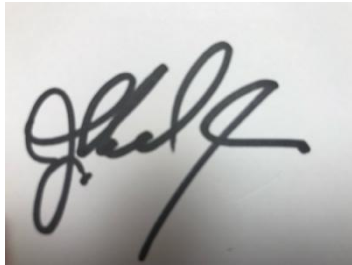
Next Meeting – May 23 – 12:30pm – Conference Room in The Chapel

Michael has the devotional and prayers.  
[Meeting/Devotional schedule: June 27 – Joanne; July 18 – Laura;  
August 22-Kevin; September 19-Craig; October 17 – Linda]

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Linda Laird, Vestry Clerk**

**J. Michael Simon, Sr. Warden**

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "J. Michael Simon".

*Linda Laird*