

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes

May 23, 2025

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

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

ABSENT:

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Michael Simon

Michael's devotion was focused on understanding our connection to Faith, Hope and Love. His trip to Africa to visit the mission of Erick Simba gave him a strong understanding of walking in the steps of our missions. In Corinthians 13 we learn that Love is the greatest and without Love our faith and hope are weakened. In Hebrews 11:1, we are reminded that faith provides the assurance of things hope for, hope motivates us forward and love is the essence of our relationship with God and others. We, the people of TCOTC, are the harvest of what Padre and Jonathan have taught us. If we don't realize that, then we have missed the point.

II: GUEST SPEAKER: Bishop Edgar

Father Owens introduced Bishop Edgar before leaving the meeting to allow the Bishop and Vestry to discuss sensitive matters pertaining to the parish's future.

III: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for April 30, 2025 were electronically distributed to all. Lauren made the motion to approve the minutes, Joanne seconded the motion, and all agreed.

IV: FINANCE: Kevin Sevier, Interim Tresure

a. Treasurer's Report for Month Ending April 30, 2025:

Revenue Discussions:

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

April monthly Income finished at \$338,074.97 to a budget of \$322,148.50.

Comparatively, March 2025 monthly income was \$382,794 (note there were 5 Sundays in March vs April, followed by Spring Break in April after Easter Sunday).

Monthly Plate/Pledge Income was \$251,183.03 to a budget \$244,462.00.

April Plate/Pledge income variance is +\$6,721.03.

Total Income for the month was higher than budgeted by \$15,926.47.

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

God's Goods Income transferred to the Missions Fund was \$60,650.00 compared to March GG income of \$56,284.00.

Expenses Discussion: Overall Expenses were lower than budgeted.

Total expenses for the month were \$337,680.92 to a monthly budget of \$353,829.36.

The monthly expenses budget variance is under by \$16,148.44.

We are approximately 5% ahead of budget on income and 3% under budget for expenses with a YTD total variance of \$185,485.90.

Missions Board Budget Stands at the following:

The Missions Board met on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The Missions Reserve at the end of April was at: **\$344,859.41**

Net Working Capital for the month: **\$72,539.41**

Monthly Set-Aside Distributions: **\$21,984.00**

Additional One-time Grant Approvals: **\$48,280.00**

For a Total of Grants for March 2025 of: **\$70,264.00**

Church Attendance for April :

April	HC 5:28	HC 8A	HC 10A	Chapel 9A	Crosspoint	Cross School	Wk Total
6th	135	75	275	179	0/499	700	1863
13th	155	97	347	216	0/484	450	1749
20th	314	200	580	340	243/581	450	2708
27th	117	81	285	206	0/398	0	1087
Mo Total	721	453	1487	941	2205	1600	7407

(NOTE: Easter Sunday numbers followed by Spring Break)

Current Month: 7,407

Year to Date: 27,635

Streaming and Online:

The COTC Website daily views/visits averages were higher than March with an average of 624 views per day. December traffic average around 850 views per day, while January dropped back to 619 views per day and February was at 580 views per day.

We give thanks to Christ, our King, for everything.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Sevier, Vestry Interim Treasure

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

MOB request for May funding – Linda Laird

[Missions Outreach Board Meeting](#)

[May 12, 2025 Disbursement Report](#)

Net Working Capital: \$72,539.41

May Set Aside Distributions: \$21,984.00 (See Appendix A)

May One Time Grant Approvals: \$48,280.00

Total May Distributions if Approved: \$70,264.00

Remaining Net Working Capital: \$ 2,275.41

May One Time Disbursements

- Christian Best Camps Kenya** - Approved **\$5000** for Bible distribution across 4 prisons in Nairobi
- Harvesters Rwanda** - Approved **\$6780** to support Advanced Counselor Training, Community Engagement and follow-up, Gifting 13 goats, and Transportation

- c. **Ministry Essentials International, Rev. Zach Slagel** - Approved **\$8000** for the \$4000 balance needed to purchase a vehicle in Cambodia and to be applied toward school fees and increased living costs in Cambodia.
- d. **Young Lives (Teen Moms)** - Approved **\$7500** to provide scholarships for 10 bilingual nursery volunteers for summer camps
- e. **Heal Ministries** - Approved **\$15,000** in funding to support Scholarship Program for preschool graduates (\$5000) and \$10,000 to be divided toward the Farming God's Way program and Medical Costs for Children and Staff
- f. **Anglican Relief and Development Fund** - Approved **\$6000** in support of the Anglican Diocese in Kigeme and their Food Security Program.

Funding Renewals - None

Appendix A

May Set Aside Commitments	
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2025	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Community Kitchen - End January 2026	\$1,834.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2025	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2026	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2025	\$1,250.00
CS Cross Schools Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2025	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End January 2026	\$1,850.00
Hope Compassion Center - End October 2025	\$1,500.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2026	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Jan 2026	\$1,650.00
Young Life New Gen Program - End July 2025	\$500.00
Total May Set Aside Disbursements	\$21,984.00

Linda made the motion to approve the MOB request, Wayne seconded and all approved.

b. Appointment of Regine Johnson as Treasurer – Michael

Michael reported that Kevin cannot serve as Treasurer due to a conflict with his Profession. Michael made the motion to appoint Regine as our treasurer, Fr. Owens seconded and all approved.

V. Looking Ahead:

a. Thoughts on the Vestry portion of the Church Leadership Workshop - Craig

Craig has been preparing the Vestry portion of the Church Leadership Workshop to alien all leadership training at TCOTC. He is working with Rebecca, Barb, and Elizabeth to develop a new plan. He invited us to attend.

b. Status of the Cross Schools construction protects – Wayne Bowerman

Construction progress reported at April's meeting was slow, mostly due to a minor design change and rework to satisfy that change. May 2025 progress has been considerably more encouraging and more obvious. During May, the following has been accomplished:

1. Outside walls have been erected complete with sheathing and water-proofing applied. Final siding has not been installed.
2. Roof has been erected complete with plywood sheathing and ice & water shield. Final tin roofing has not been installed, but is on-site. Building is now enclosed, except for windows, which are on-site.
3. Interior wall framing (metal studs) is complete.
4. Rough mechanical, electrical and plumbing are complete. Town of Bluffton inspections scheduled for Wednesday, 5/28.
5. All five air handlers are installed and respective ductwork is 85-90% complete.
6. Insulation and drywall installation is expected to start during the last week of May.
7. Excavation of the equivalent of 18 parking places is scheduled to start the first week of June. This imperious pavement is to be replaced with pervious concrete. This effort is to satisfy the Town of Bluffton's storm water calculations since we are adding (impervious) roofline to our structure and thus reducing pervious area.

c. Update on the Chapel Columbarium and the Argent East project: Michael and Fr. Owens

Work continues to complete the Columbarium in July. When it is completed, we will not see any of the infrastructure. It will be beautiful.

The project at Argent East will cost between 18 and 20 million dollars. JEPI financing will be 3.5%. Michael asked about an additional egress but it is not approved at this time on the plans. Opening of Cross Schools East is projected for 2027.

d. Finalizing details concerning Jonathan Riddles' June 1, 2025, resignation – Michael

The Vestry discussed the resignation of Jonathan Riddle. Michael presented to the Vestry the compensation package which was developed with the Financial Board and Father Owens and approved for recommendation to the Vestry. The package includes a 12-month paid sabbatical with his continued benefits through May of 2026. It also included a gift of \$5,000 for each year of his service to TCOTC. The Vestry discussed the compensation package and a motion was presented to approve the package with a favorable unanimous vote.

VI: Closing Prayers (Michael)

Next Meeting – June 27, 2025 - 12:30pm – Conference Room in The Chapel - Joanne has the devotional and prayers.

[Meeting/Devotional schedule: July 25 – Laura; August 22 – Kevin;
September 19 – Craig; October 17 – Linda]

Respectably submitted,



Linda Laird