

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes

September 19, 2025

Fr. Owens called the meeting to order at 1:00PM 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: Keven Sevier

Ken delivered a perfect devotion for all of us. He read from Walking with God by John Eldridge. John reminds us that the devil is an opportunist. Jesus is always near to us but sometimes the world creeps on in. Our world is in a war and we are being continually bombarded with evil. Stay strong and in Christ and don't be the opportunist. Pray strong against the indifference. Read Isaiah 5:12.

II: MINUTES: Linda Laird

Minutes of the August 22, 2025 gathering were approved as distributed. Laura made the motion to approve the minutes and Wayne seconded the motion. All approved.

III: FINANCE: Kevin Sevier, Vestry Member

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending August 31, 2025:

Revenue Discussions:

Income and giving have slowed as we move through the third quarter of 2025. After making budget adjustments, we are ahead of budget on income and below budget on expenses.

August monthly Income finished at \$262,900.91 to a budget of \$287,401.50.

Comparatively, July 2025 monthly income was \$231,548 (Historically there has been a lull in giving/income each summer over the last 8 years as discussed in Finance Committee...it occurs in June or July each summer). Income has also been adjusted back to June 2025 per the Finance Committee to include interest from the IntraFi accounts. That interest has previously been placed in the Argent designated fund; however, we will include it in our operating account for the time being to assist with cash flow.

Monthly Plate/Pledge Income was \$178,745.76 to a budget \$209,715.00.

August Plate/Pledge income variance is -\$30,969.24.

Total Income for the month was lower than budgeted by \$24,500.59.

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

God's Goods Income transferred to the Missions Fund for August was \$106,591 compared to July GG income of \$52,692

Expenses Discussion:

Overall expenses were lower than budgeted.

Total expenses for the month were \$299,456.96 to a monthly budget of \$329,660.91.

The monthly expenses budget variance is under by \$30,203.95

We have a total variance of income over expenses by \$148,276.31.

Missions Board Budget Stands at the following:

The Missions Board met on Monday, August 11, 2025.

The Missions Reserve at the end of July was at: \$392,344.67

Net Working Capital for the month: \$107,718.67

Monthly Set-Aside Distributions: \$ 26,859.00

Additional One-time Grant Approvals: \$ 59,797.00

For a Total of Grants Approval for August 2025 of: \$86,656.00

Church Attendance for August:

August	HC 5:28	HC 8A	HC 10A	Chapel	Crosspoint	Cross School	Week Total
3rd	109	52	239	133	384	0	917
10th	117	51	210	104	343	0	825
17th	100	59	261	164	433	450	1467
24th	15	56	231	157	426	450	1335
31st	95	56	264	124	401	450	1390
Total	436	274	1205	682	1987	1350	5934

Cross Schools first Chapel of school year was on 8/13

Current Month: 5,934 (up from July of 3,833...4,584 is actual church attendance not including Cross Schools Chapel in comparison to July)

Year to Date: 41,863

Streaming and Online: each week respectively 72, 86, 99, and 108 respectively (no data for 8/31)

We give thanks for our blessings from Christ our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Sevier, Vestry Member

Craig made the motion to approve the treasurers report, Linda seconded, and all approved.

Linda reviewed the MOB report.

Missions Outreach Board - Board Meeting Date: Monday, September 15, 2025

Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$107,718.67
Set Aside Distributions:	\$ 27,459.00(See Appendix A)
Grant Approvals	\$ 59,797.00
Total Distributions if Approved:	\$ 87,256.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$ 20,462.67

1. Funding Approvals:

- a. **Anderson Sanchez Ministries: \$97 approved.** Luncheon reimbursement. Sanchez ministries visited with COTC and the mission group that visited in Peru.
- b. **Aroma Ministries, Japan: \$2000 approved.** Helps with airfare for Christian students to attend Passion Week in Texas.
- c. **Burundi, Diocese of Matana, Bishop Seth: \$5000 approved.** Helps with aging computer, car repair and medical care.
- d. **Cross Schools 2026 Senior Mission Trip to Costa Rica: approved \$15,700 onetime gift and remaining money in Mission Trip set asides; to be paid for 3 months (Sept., Oct., Nov.) at \$3767.00 each month.**
- e. **Hope Compassion Center, Kenya, Kevin Omello: approved \$2000.**
food, school fees, girl's dignitary bags, grannies- onetime special request.
- f. **MEI - Ministry Essential International-Cambodia: approved \$3000.**
Slagel's relocated to Cambodia to run MEI church and counseling efforts.
- g. **TMS Global - Spain- (Bryan/Elizabeth Ballinger): approved \$5000.** They continue to do local ministries via musical and home gatherings.
- h. **UCCD Burundi - \$4000 approved.** Pastor's retreat attended by hundreds.
- i. **COHI Christian Orphan Health International- Romania: \$8000 approved.**
Christmas clothing, gifts and holiday meal.
- j. **Cross Schools: \$15,000 approved.** One time gift for tuition assistance only.

Appendix A

Set Aside Commitments Month: September 2025	
Mission Trip Reserve - Cross Schools Mission Trip 2026 (Sept thru Nov 2025)	\$3,767.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End July 2026	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Community Kitchen - End January 2026 (\$1834.00 every other month)	1834.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2025	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2026	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2026	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2026	\$1,708.00
CS CrossSchool Monthly - End May 31 2026	\$3,750.00
DGL - Young Life - Med Student - Marbelyn- August 2026 (Mary - letters)	\$0.00
DGL - Young Life - Haydeelisbeth - August 2027 (Debbie Letters)	\$0.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2026	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End January 2026	\$1850.00
Hope Compassion Center - End October 2025	\$1,500.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2026	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End January 2026	\$1,650.00
Young Life, Next Gen Program - End July 2026	\$500.00
Total Distributions for the Current Month	\$27,459.00

Note: Organizations must submit a grant renewal application annually. The end date indicates the current grant is valid through the date recorded in the Set Aside list.

Note: DGL Young Life is paid annually in the amount of \$3000.00 per student. Currently, the payment is made in August of each year.

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

IV: Other

A. Status of the Cross Schools-construction projects: Wayne

The certificate of occupancy inspection was scheduled for Friday, 9/19/25. It was not issued because the certificate of compliance inspection failed due to two issues with the pervious concrete installation. Also, for the certificate of occupancy to be issued, slow-closing door closers must be installed on the three, new single-use A.D.A. restrooms. These are expected to be installed during the middle of the week of 9/21/25. Since 10-12 days are required for the faulty concrete demolition, re-pouring of concrete, curing and re-stripping, reinspection is scheduled for 10/2/25.

B. Update on the Chapel columbarium: Fr. Owens

The columbarium is near completion. After placement of the lettering on the back wall and setting of the gates, the water will be activated and all will be complete.

C. Desire by the Cross School Board to consolidate the Argent East project and the development of the high school vision: Michael, Craig and Kevin

The Board has united in their direction to focus on one project at a time. Kim Clark is an asset to the board because of her experience with preschool development. She can correctly address the specifics of class size and the number of children from dippers to 6 years. We are waiting for the Bluffton Council to approve the blueprint (Phase 1) for the high school. There will be a pause on all projects until every detail is clear. We are seeing great progress with everyone contributing to the discussion.

D. Severance pay for Nathan Weaver

There was a motion brought from Laura Strange that it was common to the Jurisdiction of Chaplains to offer a severance payment to Priest's when they leave an assignment. When Nathan was pulled from the Parish, Bishop Jones suggested to Father Owens that the parish pay Nathan's salary through October, which would be a 3 month severance. The Vestry discussed Laura's motion and we agreed to pay Nathan through the remainder of 2025 or an additional 2 months for a total of 5 months. The motion was voted on and approved by all members.

VI: Closing Prayers Joanne closed us in prayer and all said "Amen."

Next Meeting – October 17 - 12:30pm – Conference Room in

The Chapel – Craig has the devotional and prayers.

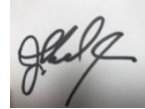
[Meeting/Devotional schedule: – November 21 – Linda; December 19 – Wayne

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird

Linda Laird, Clerk

J. Michael Simon, Sr. Warden

A small, square, black and white image of a handwritten signature. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style, appearing to read "J. Michael Simon".