

Vestry Minutes February 2025

Christ Episcopal Parish

7:00 pm

Christ Church Parish House

February 25, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Father Tim Carr, Rector

Anne Scott, Senior Warden

Jay Renner, Junior Warden

Jeff Grimes, Treasurer

Bill Hickman, Clerk

Jamie Alvarado-Taylor

Jacqueline Aris

Emily Correll

Jeff Lin

Mohit Mathew

Emily Pearce, Board Chair, CES

Joe Richardson

The meeting started at 7:00 with a scripture reading and a discussion thereof. Then Father Tim offered a thanksgiving for six new families who have joined Christ Episcopal Church.

Emily Correll moved to adopt the agenda. Jacqueline Aris seconded. The agenda was adopted with unanimous approval.

Joe Richardson moved to approve the January minutes. Jay Renner seconded. The January minutes were approved unanimously.

Mohit Mathew moved to approved the minutes of the February 8 vestry orientation meeting. Jamie Alvarado-Taylor seconded. The minutes of the February 8 vestry orientation meeting were approved unanimously.

Bill Hickman presented a brief history of Christ Episcopal Church, including the start of Reverend Murdock's term as rector in 1926, the meaning of Prince George's Parish in the formal name of our church, the background to our 300th anniversary, the church's role in the American Civil War, and the church's history of spinning off other missions and parishes.

Jeff Grimes presented the financial reports for the first month of 2025. The net operating revenue for January was approximately \$20,000. However, the vestry was advised that this rosy picture may be misleading because a number of parishioners tend to pre-pay their pledges in January for the entire year. Jeff Lin moved approval of the financial reports. Mohit Mathew seconded. The financial reports were approved unanimously.

Jeff Grimes also informed the vestry that he would soon be launching the sign-up process for scheduling vestry members for money counting after Sunday church services. Each vestry member will be asked to sign up for one Sunday over the next ten Sundays, beginning March 9.

In reporting on Women's Circle activities, Anne Scott indicated that the Galentine's event was a success. The Women's Circle will be transitioning leadership now that it has become established.

Joe Richardson reported on the Environmental Ministry. There was a meeting at VizArts in Rockville hosted by the Environment Committee of the Diocese of Washington. This committee is collecting 12 months of data from readings of electrical and gas usage by all parishes in the diocese. Joe and Jay Renner will get together with Mark Wright to plan next steps for Christ Episcopal Church in this effort, and then the three of them will meet with Reid Detchon, who is an environmental and climate adviser.

Melinda Adams, who heads the church's HVAC Committee, gave a report via phone. The committee has four additional members besides Melinda. They are Chris Nurse, Jay Renner, John Samson, and Fr. Tim. It is estimated that it will take at least two years to replace the current HVAC system. Replacement of the chiller must take place in the winter, so it's too late to try for that this year. We have a contract with Chris Stanton to help us with the analysis of figuring out the procurement process for a new system. The next step is a Stanton analysis for the mechanical equipment needed. We will have to band-aid the cooling tower through another summer season.

Jay Renner presented the Property Report. Jay made a proposal to adopt a MaintainX system which will help us get a digitally based process for knowing all the property assets under the church's purview, along with the maintenance and inspection needs that accompany each of them. Using QR codes, parishioners will be able to notify the Property Committee about assets that aren't working properly, so that the Property Committee can take action to remedy the problem. Under the proposal, there would be an annual cost of \$1,176 for two users (Jay Renner and Joe Richardson) to have access to the MaintainX system. Emily Correll moved approval of the expenditure. Emily Pearce seconded. There was unanimous approval of the \$1,176 expenditure.

Jay Renner also proposed a \$6,750 expenditure for main water line back-flow valve addition and anti-siphon valve rebuild. This was an upgrade required by the City of Rockville in order to prevent backflow. Emily Pearce moved approval. Jamie Alvarado-Taylor seconded. The expenditure of \$6,750 was approved unanimously.

Emily Pearce gave the report on Christ Episcopal School. The school has 38 applications for next year. It has received 151 inquiries, which is a pleasantly high number. The Storybook Gala and Auction is coming up on March 8.

Father Tim reported on Stewardship for 2025. The amount pledged totals to \$621,000. The church has 163 pledging units, 35 of which are new this year.

Father Tim went over the Parochial Report which needs to be submitted to the Diocese by the end of the month. It reports 2024 data for our parish. Some of the numbers reported include 174 average attendance on a Sunday, 419 active members, and 141 pledges. Emily Correll moved approval of the Parochial Report. Jeff Grimes seconded. There was unanimous approval for submission of the Parochial Report.

Father Tim proposed moving \$10,000 into the Rector's Discretionary Fund for assistance up to that amount to help parishioners who have been Federal employees and who have lost their jobs. Anne Scott moved adoption of that proposal. Emily Correll seconded. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

An opportunity was offered for suggestions to improve Scouts Sunday. A suggestion was made to add a QR code to the Order of Worship for donations to the scouts. Jay Renner will be responsible for contacting the Scouting America leaders to add the QR code into the Scouts pancake breakfast Sunday bulletin next year.

Father Tim next discussed needs for audio upgrades in the sanctuary and elsewhere, as follows:

- Two speakers in the rear of the church
- An improved microphone in the lectern
- A way to efficiently mix the choir

- A microphone in the loft
- A new amplifier in the back
- A new mixer

For all of this, he has a proposal from Space Age Consulting that would amount to approximately \$24,000 in capital expenditures, and he sought vestry approval for those expenditures. Anne Scott moved approval. Emily Correll seconded. The vestry approved unanimously.

It was announced that the Altar Guild will meet on Saturday, March 1. Once again, appreciation goes to Anna Von Arx for her years of stellar leadership of the Guild.

Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday services at 7 am, 8 am, noon, 3 pm, and 7 pm.

The meeting went into Executive Session to discuss visions for 2026.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and then adjournment at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hickman

Clerk

Minutes were approved at vestry meeting on March 25, 2025.

Bill Hickman