

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel.

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Millard Simmons, Rod Musselman, Michael Simon, Sallie Brach, Stew Brown, Tom Durston and Joanne Byrd

GUEST: Barbara Scott—Mission Outreach Board

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: (Rod Musselman)

Our meeting was opened in prayer followed by Rod's very personal experience last Saturday at his niece's Bat Mitzvah. The ceremony was held at the beautiful Mickve Israel in Savannah which is the third oldest Jewish congregation in America, 1733. Rod was asked to participate in the service by reading Isaiah 9:5, which promises the coming of the Lord. He then shared his confident, niece's sermon on *Do Not Covet*, the 10th commandment of the *Ten Commandments* given to Moses by God.

II MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT: (Barbara Scott)

Barbara Scott presented and reviewed the request for funds from the Missions Board (see below).

III MINUTES: (Joanne Byrd)

The Vestry Minutes were approved as written and distributed electronically.

IV FINANCIALS: (Michael Simon)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We continue to be amazed with the generosity and blessings we continue to receive. Our plate income for January was \$283,893 (vs. a budget of \$201,306). Our total Revenue income for January was \$338,138.75

Our total expenses in January were \$242,968 vs a budget of \$272,510.

These January income and expenses includes the Mission Outreach Donations, Cross School Scholarships, Diocesan Pledge and Diocesan Blessings.

The transfer of the Titles for the Chapel and Argent Properties from COM to TCOTC is still in process Legally and should reflect on the BL before end of February which will significantly increase the Total Assets number.

Below is the request to approve the funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of January \$244,065.94.

They have already commitments for February (funds which they allocate monthly) \$14,181.

The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$58,000 for a total number of \$72,181. Keep in mind, any request from any Mission, needs to first have an application filed, then reviewed by the Mission Board, who discuss, pray and vote for a decision. The financial Board reviewed the request, filed and approved a motion to recommend to the Vestry to APPROVE the request for funding. Barbara Scott presented and reviewed the request for funds to the Vestry. There was a motion to approve the funds disbursement, it was seconded and approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Restricted accounts remain in healthy standing and our cash position remains very strong February PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$129,963.65 against our PLATE budget of \$221,475.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM BISHOP EDGAR

There are two parts of the Law Suit pending, one against the Diocese and the other against 3 remaining Churches. The remaining Diocese suit is regarding the Bishop's residence. To settle, they had to get two appraisals and determine the amount for settlement. The appraisals have been accepted and an amount agreed to for the Diocese to purchase this property. Bishop Edgar has requested our financial assistance to help fund this and the request is for \$100,000. In discussion, there previously was the Jerusalem fund which we provided \$100,000 to assist small churches. We still have a balance of \$80,257 in our Restricted Funds which would be used for this request, plus we will fund the remaining \$20,000 from the Diocesan Blessings account. The request was presented in a motion to the Vestry, which was seconded, and approved by the Vestry.

Streaming

Every day, we have an average of 200 people visiting our websites of which half are first time viewers. Streaming is extremely important to most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, just this past week, our website and streaming reaches an average of **15 different countries, 8 different states every month.**

In-person attendance numbers:

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 8,801 vs. 2,451 in 2022. Praise God.

V OTHER:

A. 2023 Proposed Infrastructure Repairs/Upgrades —See Handout

Fr. Owens discussed the most urgent priorities on the list being numbers 2,3 4 and 5.

B. Annual Gathering—February 21, 2023

The evening will begin 5:30pm with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (no cost) at Cross Schools. It will be followed by the Parish Annual Gathering at 7pm in The Chapel.

C. Diocesan Convention March 10-11, 2023

TCOTC will be hosting the Convention. Friday night's gathering will commence in The Chapel with a Eucharist at 4:00pm followed by dinner at Cross Schools. Saturday's Convention will be held at Cross Schools.

Delegates to the Convention are Lynelle Jensen, Doug Barone, Rod Musselman and Millard Simon.

CONCLUSION: (Rod Musselman)

Rod closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry Meeting will be March 17, 2023 at 12:30pm in The Chapel Conference Room. Sallie Brach will have prayers and devotion.

Respectfully submitted

Joanne Byrd