

Christ Church Vestry Meeting
March 25, 2025
In-Person & Zoom

Attendance

Clergy: Rev. Noelle York-Simmons & Rev. Robbie Laughton

Others: Julie Simonton

2025: Jack Hutcheson, Andrea McNicholas*, Susan Magill*, & Betsy Powell

2026: Steve Reed, Cornelia Horner, & Ken Knapp*

2027: Kathleen Hickman, Chris Thompson*, Nan Lawson & Wendy Montes de Oca

2028: Jane Baird, Paula Dubberly, Jessica Hughes, & Steve Slaton

* attended via Zoom

Absent: Jay Purcell Manchester

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Wendy Montes de Oca.

Consent Agenda - Steve Reed

Nan Lawson moved and Jack Hutcheson seconded to accept the February vestry meeting minutes.

The motion carried with one abstention.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members - Steve Reed

The outgoing class was thanked and acknowledged for the accomplishments that occurred on their watch. Rev. Noelle gifted "Always a Guest" by Barbara Brown Taylor to each of them.

The meeting continued after the departing members left.

Welcome New Vestry Members - Steve Reed

Welcome Jane, Paula, Jessica and Steve. We wish you a productive and fulfilling term.

The Canonical Statement was passed around for new members to sign along with vestry pins and Resource Guides.

Election of Jr. Warden & Clerk - Noelle York-Simmons

Kathleen Hickman & Chris Thompson were nominated to serve as Jr. Warden. Paper was passed out for ballots and Kathleen Hickman was elected.

Cornelia Horner was nominated and elected to serve as Clerk.

Staff Introduction - Robbie Laughton - Youth & Young Adult Ministries

- What is Youth ministry?

- Giving a safe space to the youth
 - They are an end in and of themselves
 - Allowing them to know that someone is going to show up for them
 - Building relationships with each other and the adult leaders
- Youth are the church of today (not tomorrow!)
- Faith Formation opportunities
 - 6th & 7th grade class
 - 8th grade class
 - Confirmation
 - Looking for ideas for 10th - 12th grade
- Youth Group
 - Formation continues but in a less formal way
- Have joined with other churches
 - Highlight of the year was the ghost tour with 7 churches and close to 80 people
- Young Adults group (20s/30s group)
 - Monthly trivia team "I thought this was bible study" with Ariel Rudy
 - This group also did a ghost tour

Stewardship Report - Julie Simonton

- 2025 giving - we are at 96% of our budgeted goal with 355 pledges and a little over \$1.54M.
 - Pledges are still showing increased pledging overall with an average increase of 6.5%, which is higher than recent years.
- Tourist dollars are getting back close to pre-covid years

Treasurer's Report – Steve Reed

We have had a strong February with pledge income, and we are in line with where we should be at this time of year for expenses.

February Revenues: \$238K

February Expenses: \$170K

The audits for 20-23 have completed field work, and we are now awaiting the report from the auditors.

Mid-year Review of 2025 Budget Numbers - Steve Reed

The Finance Committee has reviewed the financials and budget projections and are not recommending we make any changes to the budget numbers.

Annual Convention Delegates - Noelle York-Simmons

We will send 4 delegates to the annual convention based on our membership numbers. Annual Convention will be held in November.

The following delegates will be asked to attend:

Cindi Bartol

Steve Slaton

Carrie Ann Alford

Liz Nelson

If one of them can't attend, the alternates will be:

Mary Catherine Nelson

Tillman Finley

Jenna Mayer

Executive Session

Steve Reed moved & Wendy Montes de Oca seconded that the vestry go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and the executive session began at 8:26 pm.

Fowler House Update - Noelle York-Simmons

- The reason behind us going into executive session was discussed - this is due to the confidentiality of contracts
- Noelle then gave an update that Linder is still in conversation with us and what has been authorized by the vestry thus far towards their creation of a high school

Kathleen Hickman moved & Jane Baird seconded the motion to return from executive session. Executive session returned at 8:45 pm.

April Meeting Date - Noelle York-Simmons

The fourth Tuesday of the month in April is the Tuesday after Easter.

A question was posed as to whether Wednesday, April 23rd would work. That works for those in attendance, so we will move our April vestry meeting to this date.

The vestry will receive calendar invitations for each meeting.

News & Notes

- Sign up for the Bishop's reception on April 6th. Kathleen Hickman will send the link for Cornelia to distribute.
- Nan Lawson asked if any action has been taken on the security training she shared. It has been forwarded, but Noelle will check with activities on that, and we can add this to a future vestry agenda.
- Youth Sunday preachers Michael Dobbs & Eli York-Simmons will preach in May on different Sundays.

Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

- The Lenten book groups have been very successful.
- Federal Workers Support Groups are steadily attended with grateful attendees
- Melanie Gray & Nancy Knapp joined a conversation with Noelle about the Diocese of Renk in South Sudan. This ministry has run its course. The clinic has gone defunct, so we will be sending a final financial gift and end the ministry. We will be letting the parish know.

Warden's Reports - Steve Reed

- nothing to report

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- 29 March Vestry Retreat - 9:00 in the Gibbs Room
- 6 April (Lent 5) – Bishop Harris visit
- 20 April - Easter

Closing Prayer

Chris Thompson offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.