

Christ Church Vestry Meeting
January 27, 2026
Via Zoom

Attendance

Clergy: Rev. Noelle York-Simmons, Rev. Robbie Laughton & Rev. Beth Bingham
Others: Emily Meeks, Julie Simonton, Anne Richardson, Dave Rees, & Pouyan Meghdadian
2026: Steve Reed, Cornelia Horner, Ken Knapp, & Jay Purcell Manchester
2027: Wendy Montes de Oca, Kathleen Hickman, Chris Thompson & Nan Lawson
2028: Paula Dubberly, Jane Baird, Jessica Hughes & Steve Slaton

Absent: none

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
Opening Prayer was led by Chris Thompson

Consent Agenda - Steve Reed

It was moved and seconded to accept the December vestry meeting minutes. One minor edit was made. The motion carried with one abstention.

Noelle briefly introduced Emily Meek, our Seminarian for this semester.

Staff Introduction - Pouyan Meghdadian, Director of Facilities

Pouyan gave an overview of the facilities team and all they are responsible for:

- Safe, clean and reliable operations of all of the buildings on our campus.
- Including regular maintenance
- Inspections
- Cleaning and housekeeping
- Supporting worship and use of the building with set up, signage, etc.
- Managing supplies

Some of the larger projects have recently included

- Supporting comprehensive campaign to support
- Major elevator maintenance & contracting a new service company
- Lighting on exterior of Fowler House
- Painting of windows

It was asked about the burden space rental puts on the staff and whether we have the resources needed. We currently have two full time and one part time FA. It would be helpful to have a third full time FA.

It was also asked about our recent internet outage. There was confusion with the scheduling of an appointment with Comcast that happened on a Sunday morning, but all is good now.

All were thankful for Pouyan's service as well as that of the entire facilities team. It's an excellent team!

Stewardship Report & Comprehensive Campaign - Julie Simonton

Julie began with a look at our current pledges for 2025.

- We received pledges of \$1,595,881 and anticipate a few more to close out the year
- The number of pledges received was 361, which is closer to the 2023 number of pledges and a bit lower than 2024. She will be evaluating the list to see who didn't pledge in 2025.

2026 is going well. Our goal for 2026 is \$1,667,262.

- We are currently at 86% of meeting our goal compared to 89% at this time last year
- Pledges are increasing on average by 6.8%.
- 56% have increased by 10% or more
- Our current pledges stand at \$1,437,303 from 269 households.

The Comprehensive Campaign interviews show that the majority of people believe these projects are critical (61%) or important (28%), with 100% of respondents saying they will likely participate. More details were included in the report sent to the vestry.

She would love to hear what people are hearing from other parishioners.

A question was asked about whether we are confirmed for three years for the campaign? Yes, that is the general timeframe.

Treasurer's Report – Anne Richardson & Dave Rees

Dave shared that the 2025 year ended on a very positive note with a result of a net income of \$71,522.

- We came in \$59K over in revenue & \$10K under in expenses.
- This was in comparison to the budgeted net income of \$1,616.
- The draft of the 2023 audit has been received but not reviewed yet, and 2024 is coming quickly.
- A reminder that December is still open as we close out the year, so there could be slight variance to what we see here.

There was some discussion around the staff participation in the retirement fund and how we can encourage more participation.

The conversation turned to the 2026 budget and the gap we will have due to the 6 months of no rental income due to the change in the lease. We know this is a short term situation that will be covered by the rent as laid on in the lease. There are choices in the assets available to use for our budgeted deficit.

- In the last two years, we have had nearly \$100K in surplus funds.
- The gap in rent is approximately \$110K.
- The reserve fund holds \$530K.
- The Offutt Fowler House Fund is an option as well and will have approximately \$400K after the brokers' fees are paid.

The communication to the congregation will discuss that the vestry is confident that the assets available are sufficient to meet the gap between the reserve assets and the Offutt Fowler House Fund.

December Revenues: \$353K

December Expenses: \$175K

Clergy Housing Allowance - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

Similar to last month, we have a clergy member asking to change their housing allowance, which shifts the line item reflected in the budget.

It was moved and seconded to designate \$19,900 as housing allowance for the Rev. Robbie Laughton as per IRS code. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting & Vestry Elections - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

The Annual Meeting will be held March 1st after the 10:00 service. It would be great to have the vestry in attendance.

The slate of people for the vestry election will be presented at this time. The third year vestry members are currently serving on the nominating committee. All are encouraged to discuss their vestry service with others in the congregation and to pass names along to those on the nominating committee. Please ask people before you nominate them.

News & Notes

There are new members that are getting more involved.

The youth ski trip was this past weekend. They returned on Saturday night to avoid the weather. The five chaperones made things possible that wouldn't have worked without them. All returned safely.

Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

At the next vestry meeting, we will discuss a bequest that was made in 2024 and is now coming to fruition.

We have a potential opportunity that is an honor - Megan Beyer asked if we would be able to host the Monks walking from Ft. Worth to Washington, DC for peace. They are due in the area on February 11, which is an estimate. If they do come, there would only be 24 to 36 hours notice. We have informed Linder that they will not be disruptive to the school.

It was asked if we have a date yet for the next bishop's visit. Yes - it is May 31st.

Party this weekend on Saturday night. Bring a dessert to share. There will be pickleball!

The weather closure has been difficult with the ice on the ground causing challenges with the clean up as well as getting staff out of their houses.

Marty Burnett will be rescheduled since her talk was cancelled in the snow.

Warden's Reports - Steve Reed

Nothing new to report.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- January 31 - Endless Summer Party at the Fowler House
- February 1 - Lee Hill will serve as "Preacher Teacher"
- February 1 - Evensong
- February 18 - Ash Wednesday
- March 1 - Annual Meeting
- March 7- 8 - Women's Retreat
- April 17-18 - Vestry Retreat

Closing Prayer

Jane Baird offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.