

"Building Relationships Through Love"

Christ Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Fr. Manny, George Toth, Ron Baran, Drew Eaton, David James, Sara Kirkpatrick, Ron Couch, Jim Berkson, Ed Chrzanowski, Diane Phillips LaGuerre, Jay Abbott, Katie Adams, **Greg Schuckman**, Denisa Abdallah

Members Present via Cyberspace: None

Members Absent: Kathy Simms,

Special Guests: Toni Summerell

Fr. Manny called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm with a quorum established. Drew led the devotion based on a book called "Theo of Golden."

Afterwards, Fr. Manny led the "Dwelling in the Word" reading from Matthew 16:21-28. After the reading, Fr. Manny asked the Vestry to discuss three questions:

What captures my attention?

What questions do I have? What do I wonder?

Where might God's Spirit be nudging us? OR What is God calling you/us to do?

Members shared their thoughts and reflections on the above questions and a discussion was held.

Minutes

The vestry reviewed and provided feedback on the minutes from the July 2026 Vestry meeting.

Corrections: A minor addition to the devotion section.

Motion- To accept the minutes of the July 28, 2026 Vestry meeting was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds. (Motion Passed)

The vestry reviewed and provided feedback on the minutes from the Special Vestry meeting held on August 4, 2026.

Corrections: None.

Motion- To accept the minutes of the August 4, 2026 Special Vestry Meeting was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds. (Motion Passed)

Reports

- Youth Report: No report this month. An election for the position will be held in September.
- Toni Summerell provided an update on the activities of work of the 300-year Anniversary committees. The Vestry was asked to approve the 300th Anniversary Committee's request to begin applying for grants and donations from historical, preservation, and other funding organizations. Draft versions of the proposed grant sources, anniversary schedule, and preliminary high-end budget were presented for planning purposes (Attached). Approval was requested only to initiate the grant application process, with detailed research to follow. Items identified for the church's broader fundraising committee will not be pursued by the 300th Anniversary Committee at this time. Denisa asked Vestry members to support the activities of the committees with their direct involvement.

Motion- To give Toni the permission to apply for appropriate grants in support of the 300-year anniversary celebration was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds or abstentions. (Motion passed).

- Buildings & Grounds (Attached): George summarized this month's B&G committee activities, highlighting work associated with the sprinklers, cherry laurel bushes, updating the playground, and addressing the source of several minor leaks. Details are provided in the report.
- Stewardship: Greg provided a brief update on the committee's activities. He is working to merge the stewardship activities of the committee as well as the groups working on Vision & Strategy, and the 300-year Celebration. No discussion was held.

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

- Drew reviewed this month's treasurer's report, provided a few summary comments, and answered Vestry member questions. A discussion was held.

July Net Income was, once again, negative. Looking at last year, you can see that this is not unusual, the surprise is the size of the negative number. Income for the month is in line with last year. However, on a year-to-date basis, we are behind last year. This is largely driven by the unanticipated decline in plate offerings we've discussed previously.

While July expenses were in line with Budget, they were significantly higher than last year. The picture looks worse on a year-to-date basis where our year-to-date spending is ahead of Budget before the program year starts in the fall. While the pain points appear to be payroll and office operations, we've discovered issues with the way we've been recording expenses that have made it difficult to determine where the actual problems are. We've started a review of year-to-date expenses in the problem areas that should improve our understanding of the issues and may reduce our reported Budget expenses – though not enough to make the numbers look good.

Motion- To accept the July 2026 Treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds or abstentions. (Motion passed).

Wardens' Report

- Denisa provided this month's Wardens report. Highlights this month include work re-establishing the Welcome Committee, the Vision/Strategy Committee, and the search for the Associate Rector.

Rector's Report

- Fr. Manny has focused on the Vision/Strategy Committee as well as preparations for the 300-year anniversary celebration. In addition, he has been meeting with a candidate for Associate Rector.

Right of the Floor/What's on Our Minds

- Sara provided a brief report on the LEMS block party.
- Diane brought up an idea about electronic giving. In addition, she proposed an idea about electronic visitor registration.

- Greg shared some research on recent trends in giving for the Episcopal Church. Some discussion was held.

Old Business

- Sound System Update: Fr. Manny indicated that a \$10k deposit has been made for an upgraded sound system. The aim is to get on the installation schedule in September with completion scheduled before the Annual Meeting in October. Sara indicated that the full system may not be fully installed until a year.
- Action on Historical Marker: Sara presented the amended text for Vestry approval.

Proposed statement:

WOODEN CHAPEL OF EASE OF ST. ANNE'S PARISH, ANNAPOLIS (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) ERECTED HERE BY 1726 ON RURAL LAND OWNED BY CALEB DORSEY ("NEW YEAR'S GIFT"). DEEMED THE PARISH CHURCH FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF QUEEN CAROLINE PARISH IN 1728. FIRST RECTOR, JAMES MACGILL. THE OLD BRICK CHURCH, CONSECRATED AS "CHRIST CHURCH" IN 1811 BY T.J. CLAGGETT, FIRST EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF MARYLAND.

Motion- To accept the amendment of the text above and approved with 11 'ayes' and 1 contrary mind and 1 abstentions (Motion Passed).

- Donation-Playground Update: Nothing to report
- Curacy Program: Alluded to above.

New Business

- 300 Year Anniversary: Reported above.
- Parish Festival: Festival to be held this Sunday.
- Vision/Strategy Committee: Jay reported on recent activities of the committee. A short, but poignant vision statement has been drafted. The committee has made significant progress and is working towards an October milestone.
- Update on the Land: The county has reached out to the State Attorney General to help resolve the status of the land.

- Vestry Resignation: Kathy Simms has decided to resign from the Vestry to focus on Sunday school and altar guild.
- Nominating Committee Report: Sara reported on the current slate of nominees (Ron Baran, Greg Schuckman, Alfred Titus Glover, Jan DeBoissiere).

Motion- To accept the slate of candidates for Vestry Elections was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds. (Motion Passed)

- Cemetery Rules Update: The updated rules will be re-sent to the Vestry and a vote will be held next month
- Confirmation 2027: The confirmation date will be in May.
- Spiritual Life Commission: The next theme will be "Bound to Christ in Love and Hope." The Diocesan convention will be November 20 & 21. Jay volunteered to be the alternate delegate and Greg has agreed to become the delegate.

Motion- To accept Greg and Jay as the delegate and alternate delegate respectively was seconded and approved unanimously with no contrary minds. (Motion Passed)

Executive Session

- No Executive Session this month.

Close-Out

Fr. Manny closed the meeting with the prayer at 9:06 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026

- **Dinner:** -
- **Devotion:** -
- **Vestry Table:** - Ron Couch

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Couch,
CEC Registrar

Attachments

1. Buildings and Grounds Report



BnGreport20268.pdf

2. Treasurer's Report



Monthly Budget



Special Designated



Special Designated

Report - 07312026.pdf Funds Activity - 07312 Funds Balances - 0731

3. Rector's Report

No report provided

Action Items

Item	Description	Assigned By	Assigned To	Date Assigned	Status