Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross

16 April 2026

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross met on Thursday, April 16, 2026 in the Overlook Room and via Zoom.

Vestry members in attendance were Perri Kersh (Sr. Warden), M.C. Ragsdale (Jr. Warden), Emma Griffith, Scott Beddingfield (Zoom), Sally Goodnight, Strother Murray-Ndinga, Kevin Trapani, Michael Reeves, Lucy Falk, Mary Kent Hill, Eliza McAlister (Zoom), and Carl Wilke.

The following Clergy were present: The Rev. Mary Catherine Young (Zoom), The Rev. Keith Esposito, and The Rev. Dr. Karen Connor McGugan.

Also present were Diane McOmie (Director of Operations and Finance), Alistair Nevius (Treasurer), and Harriet Pegram (Clerk of Vestry).

Call to Order: In the Rector's absence, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Perri Kersh, who facilitated the meeting. She began the meeting by reading the parish mission statement.

Devotion/Prayer: Sally Goodnight shared her personal experience about a recent shooting incident near Carrboro High School and the subsequent lockdown of the school. She described trying to comfort her daughter via text during the lockdown, and the emotional experience of reciting the Lord's Prayer with her while she was hiding. She expressed her gratitude for the support she and her daughter received from the church and from parish friends following the incident, and her hopes that solutions can be found so that children are not terrified to go to school. She ended her devotion by reciting the Prayer for the Care of Children and the Prayer for Young Persons from The Book of Common Prayer.

Consent Agenda: Items on the Consent Agenda were Vestry Meeting minutes and summary for March 2026, Rector's Report, Campus Ministry Associate Rector's report, Associate Rector's report, Director of Music report, Coordinator for Worship, Liturgy and Music (WLM) report, Christian Formation report, Communications and Engagement report, Director of Parish Giving report, Finance Committee report, Faith in Action report, Stewardship Committee report, Building and Grounds report, and Associate Rector/Youth and Family Ministry report. *Upon motion by Strother Murray-Ndinga, seconded by Kevin Trapani, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.*

Senior Warden Update: In the Rector's absence, Perri acknowledged Diane McOmie, congratulated her on her retirement and thanked her for her contributions to the parish during her tenure at the church. Vestry members shared that they have heard

overwhelming support for Diane and for Dr. Joe Causby, called to Christ Church Cathedral, Houston.

Keith reported on the very smooth and successful Holy Week and Easter services, and he noted that there had been eight baptisms in the past two weeks. The staff expressed appreciation for practice of closing the parish for two days after Easter, allowing for rest and recovery. Keith reported plans are underway for the 2026-2027 program year.

Karen expressed her gratitude for the colleagues and volunteers who put the worship services together. She also reported on the Youth retreat, rescheduled from winter, at Valle Crucis last weekend. She acknowledged that it was more relaxed than a ski trip, which allowed the youth to solidify relationships between the middle schoolers and high schoolers.

Standing Committee Updates

Building and Grounds: Chairman Scott Beddingfield reported that the committee did not meet in March. He noted that the church has finally received a $52K refund from the IRS for the solar panels. The recent Capital Needs Assessment (CNA), a 54-page report, is being reviewed by Facility Manager Joe Rosemond and Alan Rimer, and the committee will prioritize and schedule capital projects. Scott noted that the report recommends $7M capital improvements over the next 20 years. There was discussion about a most immediate need to replace the Yates/Battle windows at an estimated cost of $ 550 - 600K. Kevin Trapani pointed out that the CNA is probably not inflation-adjusted. He also remarked that we are under-endowed compared to other parishes our size. There was further discussion about how to build our endowments.

Finance Committee: Alistair reported that revenue is down slightly in March, but still ahead for 2026, with a $35K surplus. There is a $98K surplus for the year with revenue ahead of budget. Investments were down in March, which was not a surprise.

Perri reported on a meeting to look at endowments in more detail. It was recommended that parishioners be encouraged to donate to the general endowment rather than to restricted funds. Michael Hardy and Ellen Medearis are spearheading an effort to better understand our endowments and the associated restrictions on them.

Chairperson Emma Griffith reported that a salary range has been established for the new Executive Director position. Funds will be provided for a reception honoring Joe Causby. Emma asked the Vestry to approve the change in signature authority with the banks, removing Strother Murray-Ndinga as outgoing Jr. Warden and adding Mary C. Ragsdale as new Jr. Warden. *Emma Griffith moved, and Strother Murray Ndinga seconded the motion to*

make the change to signature authority. The motion was unanimously approved and there were no abstentions.

Personnel Committee: Chairperson M.C. Ragsdale reported that the Executive Director job description has been finalized. There will be a broader finance component to the position. Mary Kent Hill, Brad Ross, the Rector, and Perri Kersh are on the search committee. The job description for the Director of Music is being finalized, and Elizabeth Marie is working on interim music coverage for the summer. It was again remarked that parishioner comments have been positive and supportive regarding Diane's retirement and Joe's new calling.

Stewardship: Chairperson Eliza McAlister reported that the committee had its first meeting with Gentry Hodnet, Director of Parish giving, last week. Lucy Falk, Caitlin Saunders, and Jennifer Adams have also joined the committee. Eliza referred the vestry to the "Menu of Ways to Help" included in the vestry packet. Pledges to date are $2.016M on a goal of $2.050M.

The theme for the 2026-2027 Annual Campaign is "On the Way". Eliza outlined some new incentives for pledging.

Eliza reported that Project 5000 and the Annual Campaign usually occur at the same time, and it was recommended that these efforts should be separated in order to give them the focus they deserve. Project 5000 will now be held from late May in to June. This timeline is also preferred by the IFC, which suffers from fewer donations in the summer.

There was a successful planned giving event in March and another is scheduled next week.

The ABC Sale has totaled about $50K.

Faith in Action: Strother Murray-Ndinga updated the Vestry on upcoming events. There will be an Environmental Day of Service on Saturday, April 25, when volunteers will remove invasive species from local green spaces.

The Chapel of the Cross will have a presence in the Chapel Hill Pride Parade June 6, which she described as a visible sign of living into our baptismal covenant.

Other updates from Senior Warden: Perri noted that some committees might be seeking new members, especially the Finance Committee. She also mentioned that Ted Pratt is retiring as Head Teller and will need to be replaced. She asked the vestry members keep both positions in mind. Perri reminded the vestry of the Bishop's visit May 3. As is the custom, the Vestry will have lunch with the Bishop following the 11:15 service.

The Rev. Keith Esposito offered closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Pegram, Clerk of Vestry