Annual Meeting & Report
Christ Church Grosse Pointe
January 31, 2021
Our Mission

The mission of Christ Church is to bring God and people together to know and live the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Christ Church Vision Statement

A beacon of God’s love, Christ Church Grosse Pointe is a welcoming, compassionate and inclusive community overflowing with activity seven days a week. People of all ages and all walks of life flock to this Christian center and become involved in its life, finding themselves spiritually nourished, educationally enriched, and empowered to serve as they live the Gospel joyfully. Christ Church embraces growth, serving the needs of today’s and tomorrow’s generations while maintaining the glories of its Anglican worship and traditions.

Annual Meeting Agenda, Call to Order
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector, Presiding Officer and Chair

Opening Prayer and Welcome
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Appointment of the Secretary
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Approval of Minutes: 2020 Annual Meeting
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Parish Connections: Celebrations
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Rector’s Address
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Report from the Nominating Committee
Ms. Betsy Creedon, Jr. Warden

The Vestry Election
Ms. Paula Labadie, Senior Warden

Acknowledgment of Written Reports
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Celebration Video

Report of the Treasurer
Mr. Gregg Russell, Treasurer

Report of the Senior Warden
Ms. Paula Labadie, Senior Warden

Parish Connections: Dreams
Ms. Betsy Creedon, Jr. Warden

The Vestry Election
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Report on Stewardship
Ms. Paula Labadie, Senior Warden

The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Appreciations
Mr. Thom Nealsohn, Stewardship Chair

Closing Remarks and Prayer
The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector

Adjournment and Reception

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Message from Fr. Drew

Dear People of Christ Church and Our Friends,

Every year we come together with a singular purpose: to bring God and people together to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This is our thing; this is our purpose. For 90 years, we have been about this singular purpose.

COVID-19 did not change that. Yes, it has changed the way we did things: it changed how we worship (virtually); it changed how we greeted one another (elbow bumps); it changed how we connected (socially distanced and with masks); it changed how we cared for one another (Wellness Checks and poinsettias); it changed how we cared for the world (COVID testing and Spring Starters); and it changed how we learned (Zoom from home).

But it didn’t change our purpose — through it all, through elbow bumps and masks, with COVID tests and Spring Starters, we came together in new and different ways to do our one thing — to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

And there has been a great deal of Good News.

In the pages that follow you will get a taste of the good and important work that we — you and your sisters and brothers in Christ here at Christ Church — have been about this past year. There’s no way to say or show it all, and there’s no way to name everyone who has been involved, but this I can do: thank you!

Thank you for all that you have done to make this ministry possible. In spite of the distance we have had to keep from one another and the doors of our church being closed far longer than any of us could have imagined — we have grown closer together and we have extended our love, and God’s!, further into the world.

And that wouldn’t have been possible without your love, your prayers, and your support. So, again, thank you!

Thank you for helping us Excel in Love for God, for one another, and for the world!

With affection and every blessing,

The Rev’d Andrew Van Culin, Rector
THE CHRIST CHURCH WELCOME
We welcome all whether they are new to our congregation or are from other ministries or faiths.
You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:19)

RESPECT OTHERS
We speak our own ideas and make our observations in ways that respect other peoples’ needs, beliefs and feelings. We treat everyone in the same manner that we wish to be treated ourselves.
Do unto others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)

SEEK AND SEE THE GOOD
We seek and see the good in others and take a positive approach in our common life and ministry.
We avoid negativity. Seek Christ in all people.

LISTEN
We listen to understand what is on the minds and hearts of the people around us.
We do not express our own thoughts without understanding what is important to others.
Listen...and be attentive, that you may gain insight. (Proverbs 4:1)

DIRECT COMMUNICATION
We speak honestly, directly and supportively to others. When there is a conflict (we are human!) we go to the person involved, not others.
Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts, but profuse are the kisses of an enemy. (Proverbs 27:6)

USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
We use language that honors the other person. We are clear and supportive in our expression.
Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Proverbs 12:18)

AVOID JUDGING OTHERS
We are not judgmental.
Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. (Matthew 7:1)

PRAYERFUL IN ATTITUDE AND WORD
We participate in the activities and prayers which sustain our life together.
They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS
We maintain mutual respect between staff and volunteers, respecting the unique responsibilities and gifts that we provide.
Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)

CONFIDENTIALITY
We respect the confidences that have been entrusted to us.
...one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence. (Proverbs 11:13)

At all times, we are committed to being a Safe Church for all.
**Voting Requirements – Who is eligible to vote?**

Any adult (16 years or older) communicant who has been a Communicant in Good Standing in this parish for not less than six (6) months shall be eligible to vote at all Parish Meetings [Bylaws 2.2].

**Who is a Communicant in Good Standing?**

A Communicant in Good Standing is any baptized member who, during the preceding year, has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. [Bylaws 2.1.4]

**Voting Instructions**

Voting for membership of the Vestry shall be by written ballots cast by the eligible voters present at the annual meeting. No ballot shall be counted unless it shall have been voted for the same number of nominees as there are vacancies to be filled on the Vestry.

As required by the Canons of the Diocese of Michigan and the laws of the State of Michigan, no nominee shall be declared elected to the Vestry unless he or she shall have received at least a majority of all the valid votes cast. If more nominees than necessary to fill the vacancies shall have received a majority of the valid votes cast, the nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If fewer nominees than necessary to fill the vacancies shall have received a majority of the valid votes cast, then only those candidates receiving a majority of votes shall be declared elected. Additional ballots shall be taken until all of such vacancies shall have been filled.

If additional ballots are required, a number of nominees equal to twice the number of remaining vacancies to be filled shall be eligible for election. These nominees shall be those individuals not elected on the preceding ballot receiving the highest numbers of votes on that ballot. This process shall continue until all vacancies are filled. If after any ballot a vacancy remains to be filled and a tie occurs, balloting shall continue until the tie is broken.
TO EXCEL IN LOVE . . . FOR GOD

Joyful, authentic worship of God
Weekly Virtual Services (March 15)

All Saints Sunday & Baptisms (outdoors)

Zoom Morning & Evening Prayer

Rose Garden Eucharist Service

Livestream Camera System installed

Homecoming Sunday (outdoors)

Virtual Choir performs
O for a closer walk with God (Stanford) and Sans Day Carol (Rutter)

Virtual Alumni Choir performs A Welsh Lullaby (arr. Scott)

Bishop Perry “visits” CCGP for Pentecost

Blessing of the Animals (outdoors)
TO EXCEL IN LOVE . . .
FOR ONE ANOTHER

Community bound by faith, affection, and grace
Musical Moments featuring Christ Church singers

100+ Masks Sewn

453 Christmas Poinsettias delivered

Hymnfest Raises $16K

Virtual Christmas Party

Live Carillon Concert

2 Virtual Organ Concerts

500+ weekly wellness checks

Fall Cleanup of our grounds/building
To Excel in Love . . .
for Children, Youth & Families

A great church for families and beyond
TO EXCEL IN LOVE . . .
FOR THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Working to build up the Beloved Community
43 volunteers delivered Christmas poinsettias to 513 CCGP families

4 Red Cross Blood Drives

27 volunteers with Carstens Literacy Initiative and SOAR Detroit

8624 meals provided through Summer Starters

577 COVID Tests (partnership with Wayne Medical, Wayne State University, and Ford Motor Company)

2400 meals served at Crossroads of Michigan

7000 COVID Memorial Flags on our front lawn
To Excel in Love . . .

To Excel for Christ

Where Christ is worshipped and adored, where Christ is met and proclaimed, where Christ is loved and served
To Excel in Love . . .

FOR THE WORLD

With gratitude to and generosity for God, one another, and the world
60+ hours of sewing masks

$84k in Outreach Grants and Agency Support

56 students received breakfast for 22 weeks through Summer Starters

$148k in Diocesan Support (meeting our tithe!)

100+ volunteers

2600+ hours of community outreach

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100+ volunteers

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$148k in Diocesan Support (meeting our tithe!)

100+ volunteers

2600+ hours of community outreach
## Stewardship 2020: Journey to Generosity

### Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Contributions¹</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Contributions²</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,062</strong></td>
<td><strong>$903</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,028</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contributing Households ⁴

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Gifts</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Gifts</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contributing Households</strong></td>
<td><strong>531</strong></td>
<td><strong>392</strong></td>
<td><strong>424</strong></td>
<td><strong>350</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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¹ Unrestricted contributions include pledges, non-pledge giving, free-will offering, children’s offering Foundations/Grant

² Restricted gifts include appeals for fundraising, outreach appeals, and other contributions purpose restricted


⁴ Contributing Households - a household is counted seperately based on gifts by cateogry

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## Balance Sheet

### in thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Audited</th>
<th>2019* Unreviewed</th>
<th>2020* Unreviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and Cash Equivalents</strong></td>
<td>$ 379</td>
<td>$ 477</td>
<td>$ 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investments</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,503</td>
<td>$ 10,819</td>
<td>$ 11,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,882</td>
<td>$ 11,296</td>
<td>$ 12,321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Audited</th>
<th>2019* Unreviewed</th>
<th>2020* Unreviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Investments</strong></td>
<td>$ 4,642</td>
<td>$ 5,422</td>
<td>$ 5,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted Investments</strong></td>
<td>$ 5,130</td>
<td>$ 5,718</td>
<td>$ 6,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interfund Copier Loan</strong></td>
<td>$ 29</td>
<td>$ 17</td>
<td>$ 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SBA Loan</strong></td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accrued Pension Obligation/payroll withholdings</strong></td>
<td>$ 80</td>
<td>$ 139</td>
<td>($34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,882</td>
<td>$ 11,296</td>
<td>$ 12,321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Audited</th>
<th>2019* Unreviewed</th>
<th>2020* Unreviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets: Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td>$ 17,447</td>
<td>$ 17,507</td>
<td>$ 17,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Property</strong></td>
<td>$ 27,329</td>
<td>$ 28,804</td>
<td>$ 29,828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Investments as of December 31, 2020

### in thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$ 10,803</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning of Year 01/01/2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additions (donated funds)</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawals</strong></td>
<td>(300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year-to-Date Change in Value</strong></td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Portfolio Value End of 12/31/2020</strong></td>
<td>$ 11,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Portfolio Year-to-Date Return (net of fees, w/d and adds)</strong></td>
<td>11.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Composite Blended Benchmark</strong></td>
<td>10.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S&amp;P 500 Total Return</strong></td>
<td>18.34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges, Contributions, &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$833</td>
<td>$841</td>
<td>$912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds Used</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs and Services</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member Contributions &amp; Funding</strong></td>
<td>$1,904</td>
<td>$1,992</td>
<td>$1,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Giving Shortfall (Vestry Approved; Funded from Reserves)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$1,949</td>
<td>$2,092</td>
<td>$1,775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation and Benefits</td>
<td>$1,015</td>
<td>$1,003</td>
<td>$910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Expenses/Insurances</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, Meals, and Lodging</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services/Communications</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$1,948</td>
<td>$2,194</td>
<td>$1,822</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Revenue Less Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Revenue Less Expense</strong></td>
<td>$(102)</td>
<td>$(47)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Notes:
- CCGP received $195k from the Payroll Protection Program. Cash will be used for operations but held on balance sheet as a loan. The loan has enabled us to not use additional investment funds in 2020.

### Revenue Variances:
- Member Giving 2020 actual was $50k better than 2019 Actual (note 2019 is $20k less than reported at last years annual meeting. A pledge for $20k contribution received for FY2020 was moved from 2019 income to a time-restricted account and released in 2020)
- COVID closure reduced program and services income from PDO | Concerts | Pizza Lunch, etc
- Cancelled Choir Trip reduced net asset releases; fewer Conservation Trust projects completed

### Expense Variances:
- Compensation/Health insurance: $132k below budget due to vacant Director of Children, Youth, and Family and COVID-related reductions in professional singers | PDO | Nursery staff
- Travel and Meals: $200k below budget; cancelled choir trip, no in person parish events, and no staff development conferences
- Other General Expenses: down $70k for supplies | utilities | postage (net of COVID increased costs )
- Conservation Trust Projects $67k below budget, COVID impacted work completion
- Professional Services: $10k below budget, COVID impacted concert expenses, lower facilities expenses

### 2021 Budget Notes:
Assumes we remain virtual all of 2021

### Revenue:
- 2021 Member Giving is conservatively budgeted below 2020 actuals. We remain hopeful that member commitments and generosity will continue the upward trajectory of 2019 and 2020
- 4% Draw plus $200k supplemental if needed

### Expenses:
- Diocesan Apportionment Increased by $7k - maintaining commitment to our diocesan tithe
2021 Budget Revenue/Expenses by Ministry

2021 Budget Revenue
$1,853 [in thousands]

2021 Budget Expenses by Ministry
$1,853 [in thousands]
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020

The meeting was called to order noting that a minimum of fifty (50) members were present and that we have a quorum at 10:45 by our Rector, Drew Van Culin, who also offered the opening prayers.

Appointment of Secretary: Father Van Culin appointed John Snyder as Secretary of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Father Drew’s Opening Remarks: Words of Gratitude from Father Drew. Gratitude first to God, to everyone who helps make our ministry possible, to those serving us today from our Ushers, to Cooks, to Bakers, and all our staff. And especially to our outgoing Vestry Members; Eric Ash, Lisa Baruah, Colleen Fitzgerald, Blair Osborn, and Thom Nealssohn. Personally, I want to thank my family, Jessica, Catherine, and Sam, for their understanding and support for what are often interrupted family moments.

Approval of Minutes: Annual Meeting 2019

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of these minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve these minutes. Both motions were approved.

Rectors Address

As I stand here today, for what is my 6th annual meeting with you as Rector of Christ Church and, more importantly, fellow member of this holy and good community of Christian faith, there are two stories to share.

On the one hand, there is the story of 2019; the story of great work, great ministry, we have been about these past months. The story of faithful Church School volunteers and squirming children. The story of beautiful flowers quietly arranged to the glory of God. It is the story, too, of hammers and nails, paint and paint brushes, baskets of food and pots of chili, each an expression of God’s love offered by a unique expression of God’s love. Like all years, of course, 2019 brought to our life countless stories of God’s activity for us and through us – an activity we celebrate today!

On the other hand, there is the story of these past several years. Viewed together, these years reveal the subtle, yet significant changes we have faithfully pursued. Over these years, our leadership – the Vestry, Senior Staff, and I – have worked tirelessly to address hidden problems in our community; problems that, I am told, often have plagued us for decades. There was, of course, our confusion about roles which, inevitably, led to conflicts – and so we gave detailed (some would say overly meticulous) thought to our structure so as to be clear about our respective roles and responsibilities, in order that we could better collaborate with one another. There was, too, our un-Christian conduct toward one another, conduct that was not only hurtful to so many, but diminishing of our community – and so we worked to establish and live up to Community Norms. There was, too, confusion about our finances and our nominating process, and so we strove to be excruciatingly clear about our struggles and the obstacles we faced, and to develop structures and processes that aid our ministry and life together. There were the mixed messages we presented regarding our journey in faith, and unclear expectations of members – were we to come when we could and give what we can, or are we to be actively engaged,
striving toward a tithe, constantly growing in love and affection for Christ and one another? And so, we have worked to clearly articulate our member expectations, not as barriers to engagement, but as steppingstones in our journey to the heart of Christ. There was, as well, the brokenness within our Vestry itself, a brokenness that had led many former members to speak of the end of their very term as welcome relief rather than a sad though natural conclusion. And so, we worked to reestablish the ethos of the vestry itself, reshaping our time to build up our bonds of affection with one another and to deepen our common commitment in Christ. Lastly, there was a confusion among us as to our principal purpose – for some it has been the preservation of all that we have received while for others it was the activities of ministry that gave us purpose. And so, with the Vestry we have worked to hold up our singular purpose – to bring God and people together to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Now, I share all of this, not to dwell on the difficulties of the past, but to celebrate the good and hard we have been about. And hard work it has been. Addressing culture, which each of these changes has done, demands relentless attention and a willingness to bear with resistance and opposition, often resulting from our very human desire for stability, not change.

For some these changes felt unnecessary, for others they took too long, and for others they were long overdue.

So today I celebrate. I celebrate because, while cultural work is never truly done, it seems as if we have turned a corner. The norms we once actively discussed at Vestry are simply the way of the Vestry. The roles and relationships which once were confusing and conflicted, are now lived into with respect and goodwill. Most importantly, a clear focus for our community has emerged – Christ, our chief cornerstone.

Most exciting of all, this work has now freed our leadership to look not to our past, but to our future.

As I began my remarks, I noted that there were two stories to tell. That was true, but not complete, for there is one more: the story of our future that we will write together over the coming years. It is the story of new ministries and new friendship in Christ that will emerge in 2020 and beyond. It is the story not only of bustling activity in these walls (and the faithful stewardship of these walls), but, even more, the growing faith within these walls.

It will be the story of everyday kindnesses and the remarkable acts of mercy and grace that mark the Christian life. It will be the story of cherubic choristers and faithful volunteers.

It will be the story we write together as we strive to Excel in Love. . . to Excel for Christ.

But that story is just beginning. The Vestry has done important work to guide us, identifying 6 areas of focus and development for the coming years, each with the simple goal to Excel in Love:

- To Excel in Love . . . for God through joyful, authentic worship of God.
- To Excel in Love . . . for one another through ministries of engagement and care.
- To Excel in Love . . . for Children, youth and families, through socially relevant, theologically engaging programs that nurture community, formation, and service for children and youth.
- To Excel in Love . . . for the Beloved Community as we work for justice and equity through housing stability, education equality, and food security.

- To Excel in Love . . . for the World, living with gratitude and generosity for God, one another, and the world.

- To Excel in Love . . . to Excel for Christ with Christ as our foundation as we bring God and people together to know and live the good news of Jesus Christ.

It will be our work to give shape to these dreams and, even more, to nurture them into life.

Friends, 2019 was a good year. It had its challenges, as every year does; yet was filled with grace and life as well, and for that I give great thanks.

2020 promises to be just as good, for Christ remains faithful, calling us to go deeper, to come closer to his remarkable love; and for that I give thanks as well.

I give thanks, as well, for one final gift that God has given to me – and that is you, a remarkable community of resilient, honest, life-giving faith.

I look forward to the year – and years! – to come as we strive together to Excel in Love . . . and to Excel for Christ.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Paula Labadie, Jr. Warden, thanked those who participated on the nominating committee

Thom Nealssohn, Sr. Warden
Karen Kienbaum, Former Sr. Warden
Creedon, Betsy, Former Sr. Warden
Eric Ash (3rd Year-Vestry Member)
Lisa Baruah (3rd Year-Vestry Member)

Lori Mouton Boeckler (member-at-large)
Mary Trost (member-at-large)
Ed White (member-at-large)

Mr. Nealssohn then outlined eligibility as follows:

Candidate’s must be an “**Adult Communicant in Good Standing**” of Christ Church; that is, a Communicant “who for the previous year has been:

- Faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented,
- Faithful in working
- Faithful in praying
- Faithful in giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God
Ms Labadie shared that the Wardens have responsibility for determining who was eligible to run for election. Thom Nealssohn and I worked with Fr. Drew to identify those members of Christ Church who or the past six-months, have been Adult Communicants in Good standing.

To be in good standing you must be an Adult Communicant in Good Standing is:

**Faithful in Worship:** through regularly and consistently participates in weekly corporate worship at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

**Faithful in Working:** through active engagement in at least one (1) ministry at Christ Church; is reliable and responsible, and accountable.

**Faithful in Praying:** and leads a life that reflects the life of prayer which is marked by openness, listening, kindness, respect and charity toward their neighbor.

**Faithful in Giving:** A member in good standing has made a prayerful, sacrificial, annual, and unrestricted financial commitment (commonly called a “pledge”) that reflects a movement toward a tithe to support the ministry of Christ at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

With the list of members who were in good standing identified the nominating committee discerned those they thought were called to the Vestry using the following additional characteristics:

- **Model Christian Life and Discipleship**
- **Embody, articulate, and advocate for the vision of Christ Church within the parish and community**
- **Will help us to discern God’s vision for Christ Church**
- **Can serve Leaders in Stewardship, first and foremost by modeling the sacrificial generosity of Christ.**

The review identified 43 which the nominating committee then placed in order of priority for being invited to serve. Father Drew extended the invitations to seven (7) members to get our slate of five (5). I am pleased to present to you the following slate:

- Adam Waugh
- Mark Lorenger
- Monica Hubbard
- Betsy Creedon
- Deb Champion

**Interlocution of Nominees and Election Process**

Mr. Thom Nealssohn, Sr. Warden shared the election process. In addition to those candidates presented by the Nominating Committee, our Bylaws provide members an opportunity to make nominations by petition. This year, as no nominations by petition were submitted, the Vestry ballot consists only of those members nominated by Nominating Committee. Again, those individuals are:

- Adam Waugh
- Mark Lorenger
- Monica Hubbard
Betsy Creedon  
Deb Champion  

As per the Bylaws, the method of voting for the Vestry is at the discretion of the Wardens. Unlike previous years in which a written ballot was necessitated by the number of candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee and Parish, this year’s Nominees are equal to the number of vacancies we have on the Vestry, permitting us to consider alternatives to our customary written ballot.

After consideration of these options, Paula and I have concluded that we should continue with a written ballot at least for another year. We made this decision out of consideration for our historic practice and in consideration for those members who voiced appreciation for the anonymity of the written ballot.

We are aware, however, that, as there are five excellent candidates for election to the five vacancies, an affirmation by voice of the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee would be an equally good and fitting method to use.

Therefore, with the consent of the Chair, I would invite comment on our decision.

Various members, stood, and encourage us to change the process to accept the slate as presented, rather than do a written ballot.

Based on comments the overwhelming support was to vote by voice acclamation for the slate as presented. The Chair called the question. The Vote acclamation affirmed the slate.

**Recognition of Written Reports**

Father Drew thanked all involved in Ministry and recognized the written reports in the annual report. Father Drew highlighted that all the work of the church can only be done with support of the volunteer work that supports each Ministry.

**Treasurer Report**

Dan Skedel, Treasurer of Christ Church Grosse Pointe, then presented the financials for 2019. Mr. Skedel began by reviewing the state of our investment portfolio. I often year concerns that we are “using up” our investments irresponsibly. That is far from the truth. Our balance at the end of 2019 is 11.1 Million dollars. It is at the highest level it has been since 2014. Annually we draw 4% from our investments to support operations, but that is not enough to cover all our operational needs. Mr. Skedel outlined that between our annual draw and our gifts from the Tannihill trust we receive 547k in 2019. If we were to operate on just those funds, we would have funds to cover basic utilities, insurance, basic lawn care,
worship supplies, a part-time organist, a rector with part-time support. Everything else is supported by unrestricted giving.

Dan then presented the Balance sheet he noted that our total assets for 2019 ended on a positive note with assets totaling 28.8 million and an unrealized gain of one million three hundred thousand dollars for the year. This is the opposite of what we saw last year. It is why we don’t react to one month or even one year in our planning and budgeting for the church.

Turning to the Income statement, we budgeted to draw an additional $100,000 if needed over the 4% draw and drew 100k as planned. If our giving has come in as planned, we would not have had to draw the funds. Please note, that our giving was better than last year, but below our need by 158k. Mr. Skedel reminded the parish that this additional draw is to cover the giving shortfall from members pledges and gifts. Mr. Skedel encouraged all of us to recognized that we are the stewards of the future, and by giving today for today’s needs will protect the investment and endowment funds for future use.

Mr. Skedel then presented the budget for 2020 which is again balanced, based on the following assumptions:

- Giving from the members reaches $947,000 – reduced but still with a growth factor
- Includes the approval to use an additional $250,000 over and above the draw if needed.
- Expenses are basically flat and comparable to 2020 except for increases that are beyond our control [health insurance, insurances, inflation on utilities]
- Our total expenses in 2020 are higher than 2019 mainly due to choir trip in 2020 – which are covered by fundraising and registrations. Not an increase to operational funds.

Mr. Skedel thanked the parish for their continued support.

**Sr. Warden Comments:**

Thom Nealssohn thanked Dan for his report and proceeded to share his remarks.

It’s my duty and honor to report to you on the work of the Vestry this past year. A formal letter from me can be found in your booklets - I’d encourage you to read it at your leisure. While much of what I’ll share this morning is contained within the report, it provides a more wholistic view of what the Vestry has addressed this year.

This is the formal business meeting of the Parish, and I’d be remiss if I didn’t start my remarks addressing the issue that often consumes much of our discussion within the Vestry meetings - our stewardship. Weekly, I receive an e-mail entitled “the Abundance Insider”. While some may assume this email addresses challenges with stewardship – nothing could be farther from the truth. This e-mail contains stories weekly of major technology advancements that support their organizations’ thesis that our future is one of abundance. In a world where so much of our news highlights the risks and dangers around us, I’ve come to appreciate this e-mail and the point of view that suggests the technologies of the future will build a more abundant world, where the rising tide
lifts all boats. In my reflections on who we are at Christ Church I’ve taken an abundance viewpoint; I believe we have much to be grateful for.

I first give thanks to God for God’s generosity to us. As the beautiful Prayer of Thanksgiving found in Morning Prayer reminds us: “we give thanks each day for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ”. I give thanks as well for the generosity of this community which makes the ministry of Christ Church possible. As this first slide shows, in 2019 424 distinct households made a financial contribution to Christ Church. 424 households supporting our worship together, our emerging ministries with the Carstens Literacy Initiative and with Rebuilding Together, and treasured ministries including our Music program and our Christian Formation. **If you were one of those households, thank you!**

In 2019, these 424 households included 32 more households than in 2018. There were 149 households that either made a first-time gift or resumed giving in gratitude to God. Another 143 households increased their giving over their 2018 gifts. I celebrate this and again thank you all for taking another step along the journey of Generosity.

As a parish, our giving in 2019 again topped the $1MM level at $1,060,000. Most parishes – and churches of any affiliation – dream of giving totals in seven digits. We have been blessed as a parish. God continues to provide abundantly though you so that we can be His hands and feet to the world around us. These are things I celebrate and trust you celebrate them as well. Thanks be to God for his great abundance.

As your Vestry, we have concerns. While we celebrate the increases we’ve seen, we do not overlook the fact that our contributing households have declined by 110 from the recent past. **There are households – friends - within the embrace of our community whose journey with us seems to have ebbed.** A few, we know, have moved on to another church community feeling that life here no longer nourishes their faith as it once had. We are saddened, of course, by their departure, but we continue to hold them in prayer as they walk with Christ still today.

There are others, **far more in fact**, who have simply dis-engaged; **they have not left**, but they are no longer engaged in our life and ministry as they once were. Some are older and find remaining engaged more difficult. Others, no doubt, feel bereft as ministries dear to them (and us all) have been lost. No doubt there are many other reasons for this disengagement – but within our community, this remains a sadness. As Fr. Drew has often said, “We are better together” and when a member retreats from our life for any reason, it not only diminishes our community, but offers a challenge as well. **We must be better as a community**, a true community of affection, in reaching out to those who are on the periphery of our common life – either because they are new and just finding their way in, or because they are dear friends who feel disappointment, or perhaps have just grown older and simply find “getting to church” more difficult today. Each of these households presents us an opportunity – an opportunity for us as a community to reach out in Christian fellowship and affection to one who stands now a bit further from the center of our life.

Stewardship is as much about our generosity of spirit, in caring, in giving our time and our talents as much as it’s about giving our treasure.
As your Vestry, we made a conscious decision to move our stewardship campaign from the fall into the Lenten season. It’s our belief that Lent is a more appropriate time to reflect on God’s abundance we’ve experienced in our own lives. Frankly, the challenges of a new school year, the impending holidays, our need to draft and approve budgets and the myriad of requests from others for gifts make the stewardship campaign feel as if it’s one more financial ask and about nothing more than money.

**Friends, stewardship is so much more than money** – It’s about our relationship with Christ. It’s answering the question how do we choose to respond to God for the gift of salvation through his Son? Are we grateful to God for Christ – or is everything merely a work of our own hands? Are we reliant on God in Christ or are we in this alone? Are we committed to Christ, not only on Sundays but every day; or is it all about us and our families? **Is Christ at our heart or in the outer orbit of our lives?** These are a few of the questions that Stewardship is meant to raise within us. Questions, we hope, will be contemplated more naturally in Lent when budgets are done and the Cross stands before us.

So, what am I asking of you? Three things. **First, participate.** We are better together. The Christian community, our Christian community, is not only stronger but kinder, more comforting, more illustrative of God, when we are together. We cannot do this alone; we are meant for one another. Find places where God is calling you to serve. Join in. Be open to trying something new. Be among us.

Secondly, connect with others and encourage them to engage. There are members who are yearning to be engaged, but for whatever reason, aren’t feeling “the love.” **Be that love for them.** If you know of a family or friend who you haven’t seen for a while or who is feeling a bit disconnected to our life today – reach out. Invite them to join you for church on Sunday and then coffee afterward. If they are disappointed or even angry about something, help connect them to the ministry or minister that can help. Most importantly, let them know that their Christ Church family – that is, you and everyone you represent – misses them!

Similarly, connect with those who are new to our community. Invite them to be part of who we are - whether by bringing them into areas in which you participate or connecting them to ministries to which they have passion. Walk alongside all who have not yet found ways to engage in our parish. A regular greeting and a personal invitation are often the nudge one needs to overcome the trepidation of being new.

Finally, **continue to engage yourself!** Join us this Lent as we Take the Next Step in our Journey to Generosity – pray with us, learn with us, grow with us, dare with us! And wherever you are on the Journey to Generosity, take the next step in faith.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a Vestry is discerning where God is leading us as a parish. Throughout 2019, we spoke about aspects of the work of the Parish in becoming God’s hands and feet in Grosse Pointe and beyond. In honesty, I often came away from those conversations feeling like one of the blind men trying to describe an elephant. I have a sense of what I’m feeling, but don’t completely understand the bigger picture. Whether stewardship, outreach, or parish life development, I believe God is at work in our parish – but I couldn’t clearly articulate how.
Stewardship and budget have long been one of those issues. After several years of trying it on our own, we sought assistance from outside. We asked Horizons Stewardship to conduct a Next Level Generosity Analysis of the parish and offer us insight on what we’re doing and what other parishes are doing to live out God’s call in a changing society. It most likely will not surprise you when I say that there is no ‘silver bullet’ that addresses the challenges of the modern Christian church. However, there was research Horizons brought to us that caused many of us to pause.

Churches that are growing today excel in 6 specific areas.

- Their worship is relevant to their community
- They show high levels of small group participation
- They offer excellent children’s programming, especially on Sunday morning
- They offer high levels of hands-on mission involvement
- They consider all interaction with parishioners with a customer service mentality lens
- They work to connect people to Christ more so than connecting them to the parish

We know that we must continue to grow as a parish. This research offered insight into what may be missing. We asked, as a Vestry, how we would rate ourselves against these 6 points. We deliberated individually and as a group. What’s come out of those discussions is a vision of what we believe we as a parish are called to be.

Our focus for the last two years as a parish on the discipleship journey is a start at connecting people to Christ more so than to our parish. Discipleship is a personal commitment – a decision to develop the disciplines found in the teachings of Christ. As your vestry we’ve worked to personally consider where we are on our own discipleship journey and to spur each other on as a group – in worship, fellowship, study and generosity. Each vestry member can share with you what this change has meant to them and how we’ve come to better walk together in love as we’ve journeyed the path together.

We considered what draws people to a parish – relevant worship, meaningful outreach and formation. We believe on the whole, our worship is relevant to the community we serve. It’s by and large excellent in offering.

We recognize the need for more opportunities to serve outside of our parish. Our outreach commission has revamped our outreach strategy after three solid years of discernment. The Vestry was excited to affirm this in 2019 and we are beginning to see the first fruits of that fine work. While not what we believe it can be, we believe it’s well on its way to that place.

Without question, your Vestry believes that focus on our children’s and youth ministries is an immediate priority for this parish. We see many young children every Sunday morning as they head out to children’s chapel. We do not see many of these children grow with us into high school and beyond if they are not actively involved in the music program. Our work in the early 2000s to build the education wing has given us a structure – we, as your Vestry, believe we must now prioritize
filling that wing with children, youth, and young adults who are excited to learn about Jesus and know His love for them in their lives in a meaningful way.

We know that another draw for people to a parish is a desire to find a genuine sense of belonging. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we share a connection that is deeper than many of the social bonds that bring us together – the bonds of family. While we are more connected to one another with information than ever before – studies tell us, that people are feeling more alone than ever. The church – specifically you and I – has experience in what it means to be in community. Christ teaches us this. **As your vestry, we believe that we must also prioritize the development of community in our parish through small groups.** Our circle groups have been a start at this. How can we as a parish live out the love of Christ for others by accepting people as who they are – and whose they are – independent of what we may have in common with them.

We believe it’s time to share this vision for Christ Church with you.

We believe this is where God is calling us to go. **This is the “what”.** For the incoming vestry – and for us as a parish, **the pressing question now is How??**

The fact is this – living into this vision will require us to face difficult questions. How can we focus on these priorities and not let the quality of what we already do well diminish? How do we find the resources – the talent and the finances – to live into this vision? How fast do we move toward this vision and how patient are we willing to be to see God honor our best efforts?

Your vestry has struggled with these questions for many years. We believe our next steps are best discerned together with you. In the coming days, the Vestry is scheduling time to be in conversation with you. We want to affirm with you what we’ve seen through our discernment and seek your insights into how to best live into what we strongly believe God is calling us to be.

We serve an infinite God with whom all things are possible. As we move into 2020 as a parish, it’s my sincere desire that we consider how we might excel in love...

- Excelling in Love for God
- Excelling in Love for One Another
- Excelling in Love for children, youth and families
- Excelling in Love for the beloved community; and
- Excelling in Love for the world

We are calling you to **Excel in Love and to Excel for Christ.**

May God find us faithful in the work he has set before us.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Father Drew thanked congratulated all incoming Vestry members and again, thanked our outgoing Vestry members for their hard work over the last three years.
A motion was then made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Father Drew offered closing prayers. Meeting closed at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  

Diane E. Ward  
Associate for Finance and Administration

Approved by:  

John Snyder  
Secretary