

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

Finance Committee Meeting

November 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order meeting in person at 12 PM by Christine Cook.

Finance Committee members in attendance: Mark Parsells (Treasurer), Bob Reardon (Assistant Treasurer), Christine Cook (Convener), Allison Ayers, Terri Carpe (Finance Manager, Breakwater), Ruth Beresford (Rector), Barbara King (vestry), John Olsen (vestry), Jacqueline Whalen (vestry), Hardy Drane

Others in attendance: Ran Barton (Sr. Warden)

With a quorum of the Finance Committee, Bob opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the October 14, 2025 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Mark reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the year-to-date through November 17, noting pledge giving was down 2.8% versus 2024 and 7.8% lower than budget. Giving needs to continue to be strong for the remainder of the year to hit our budget. Pledges received for 2025 stood at 400 or 41 pledges short of our goal of 441. Mark noted we still need to closely monitor expenses. Ruth requested that the Finance Committee members reach out to their fellow parishioners with a reminder to complete their 2025 pledge and make a 2026 pledge. Bob, Mark, and Christine agreed to write a message for the eNews. A discussion ensued about how regular online giving does not equate to a pledge and the confusion among parishioners about the difference. Solutions to dispel the confusion were discussed.

The Finance Committee agreed an option to pay the credit card fee should be added to Shelby. Terri will work with Barb and Mike Sayer to ensure the option message is compliant with credit card rules.

Terri presented the October 2025 financials noting pledge income is under the seasonal budget by 7% or \$98K. 149 donors have already fulfilled their 2025 pledges (\$541K) versus 152 donors in 2024 (\$560K).

A Finance Committee vote was held via email to approve the funding of the Facilities Master Plan to be completed by ABHA. It was agreed to fund the Plan with the contingency from the leak remediation project and the Woolard discretionary fund. The motion passed with all votes in favor and one abstention. The committee discussed a preference for a special meeting in lieu of an email vote in the future for similar types of funding requests.

Terri presented the preliminary budget communicating the process and significant drivers of income and expense. Mark raised concerns about funding growth. Barb and Ran discussed the list of ideas coming out of the Vestry retreat and other committees to grow the congregation.

Ruth noted worship attendance has increased but that hasn't yet been converted into pledges. Ruth noted it takes time for new parishioners to internalize giving as the mark of belonging.

The committee agreed to meet the first week of December to spend more time reviewing the budget.

Barb closed the meeting with a prayer, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cook