

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

CHRIST CHURCH 

Oak Brook | Butterfield | ChristChurch.us

Christ Church | Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Christ Church Auditorium | Zoom

Welcome & Call to Order	Sara Harris, Trustee & Rev. Steve Carter, Lead Pastor
Worship	Rev. Suanne Camfield, Pastor of First Impressions Jamal Sarikoki, Classic Worship Director Dave Garza, Senior Director of Contemporary Worship Christina Mitchell, Trustee
Pastor's Report	Steve Carter
Trustee Report	Tim MacKenzie, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees
Christ Church Constitution	Tim MacKenzie
Financial Report	Kevin Waden, Treasurer
Elder Report	Dave Lacine, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders
Celebration of Servanthood	Dave Lacine
Mission Report	Peter Celauro, Senior Director of Missional Living
Clarification & New Ideas	Steve Carter & Tim MacKenzie
Closing Prayer Adjournment	Steve Carter & Rev. Dave Melvin

Minutes | March 12, 2024

Welcome | At 7:00 p.m. Courtney Shuster welcomed in-person and online guests to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Christ Church of Oak Brook.

Call to Order | At 7:01 p.m. Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer, Lead Pastor of Christ Church of Oak Brook, called to order the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Christ Church of Oak Brook and noted for the record that Minutes of the meeting were being recorded by Trustee Kevin Anetsberger, Secretary of Christ Church. Rev. Dr. Meyer noted that while friends of the church are welcome to attend the meeting, voting is reserved for confessing members of Christ Church.

Approval of Minutes | A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2023, Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of members.

Worship and Prayer | Rev. Tracey Bianchi called the members to worship with the words of Psalm 73. Members continued in worship through song, and were lead in prayer by Trustee nominee Stephanie Oldenkamp Bruzan.

Lead Pastor's Report | Rev. Dr. Meyer noted that this would be his final report as Lead Pastor of Christ Church of Oak Brook. He encouraged the members to pray for the next person to fill that role, their family and for the senior leaders conducting the search. He highlighted the church's progress over the past year, including hiring Disabilities Ministry Director Danielle Shaffer and Preschool Director Kelly Newton, renovating preschool rooms, and beginning a major renovation project for the children and student ministry spaces. Meyer presented a slide show depicting the new spaces. The church has also completed various maintenance projects, upgraded equipment and reduced mortgage debt. He emphasized the church's role in the broader Christian community and shared his excitement for the upcoming year. Meyer also noted that there is still much work for him to do here as we finish the LIFT Initiative and fulfill the LIFT Vision and presented a video showcasing stories of God's impact through Christ Church on individuals' lives over the past year.

Following the video, Meyer expressed gratitude for the congregation's involvement in the church's ministries and acknowledged the impact of their service. He introduced the First Impressions Ministry's new initiative, Discover Christ Church, which provides a behind-the-scenes look at the church's operations and has inspired participants to contribute their gifts. Meyer thanked the church staff, highlighting their character, dedication, and skills, and expressed confidence in the church's future under the leadership of the Senior Leadership Team and the next lead pastor. He specifically acknowledged Rob Kastens, the Executive Pastor, for his role in coordinating the Senior Leadership Team. Meyer also recognized the church's boards, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Elders, for their leadership in the LIFT initiative. He invited the staff members present to stand and be acknowledged, expressing his joy in working with them.

Trustee Board Report | Trustee Board Vice-Chairman Tim MacKenzie began by explaining that the Board of Trustees is responsible for financial, administrative and strategic duties at Christ Church. They have been working with Rev. Dr. Dan Meyer and the senior leadership team on the five-year Strategic Plan and the two-year LIFT initiative. The Trustees are encouraged by the congregation's financial support and urge them to maintain their stewardship. The church's Institutional Fund reserves have increased to \$6.5 million and the Trustees manage these funds carefully. They have renewed their partnership with PhilanthroCorp Consulting Group for the Intentional Legacy Giving Ministry, which has resulted in over \$7 million in gifts to the church.

In recent months, the Trustee Board has focused on planning for the upcoming leadership transition, reviewing the church constitution and evaluating the board's structure and composition. They are committed to presenting a lead pastor candidate for membership approval. A dedicated Trustee

prayer team, a church leader group and a search team have been formed for this process. A consulting firm, The Ligon Group, has been engaged to develop a profile for the next lead pastor and a search firm, The Slingshot Group, has been engaged to conduct the search itself. The Trustees aim to have the new lead pastor in place later this year, with an overlap period with the current lead pastor, Dan Meyer, until January 2025. Dr. Meyer will then serve as Lead Pastor Emeritus until December 2025.

The Trustees acknowledge the importance of the Christ Church Constitution and have amended it in the past to enhance its effectiveness. They will continue to review it during the leadership transition. The Trustees also strive to build a diverse and effective board, and MacKenzie introduced the four nominees for Trustee positions. MacKenzie expressed gratitude to the retiring trustees Ron Oldenkamp, Deborah Borsum and Maureen Condon for their service and dedication to the church and shared his personal remembrances of working with each of them.

Treasurer's Report | Trustee Kevin Waden, Treasurer of Christ Church, began by thanking the congregation for their continued support of the church, which has enabled the church to provide excellent programming and missional support. The LIFT initiative, which aims to collect \$31.7 million, has so far collected over \$20.15 million, with 370 new givers donating more than \$400,000. The church has been able to reduce its debt by \$565,000 and has a floating rate mortgage of \$7.4 million of which \$5.6 million has an interest rate cap of 3.66% which has saved the church over \$200,000 as interest rates have risen. The church also has a \$1.5 million line of credit, which it has not used due to healthy cash flows.

In 2023, the church collected just under \$17 million, an increase over anticipated giving. Along with proactive expense management by staff and ministry leaders this resulted in a surplus of \$4.5 million for operational year 2023. For 2024, the church expects donation income of \$14.7 million and has proposed an operational budget of \$11,432,000. Key drivers of the budget increases include costs to reopen the preschool, filling key positions, cost of living increases for staff, and growth and benefit costs. To achieve a balanced budget in 2024, the church anticipates using the previously mentioned \$4.5 million 2023 surplus and approximately \$1 million of its reserves. Treasurer Kevin Waden then asked for approval of the 2024 operating budget, which is required to be approved by the congregation. The motion was seconded, and the budget was approved unanimously by both in-person and online members.

Elder Board Report | Vice Chair of the Board of Elders and Chair of the Elder Council David Lacine recognized retiring members from active duty on the Board of Elders, the Diaconate, and the Board of Trustees.

From the Board of Elders | Sally Couture, Joseph Del Preto, Kelly Murphy, Adam Smrha, Duane Steiner and Eva Tameling

From the Diaconate | Susie Frost, Patty Gretch, Kathy Johns, Sue Johnson, Robin Lacine, Robin Leslie, Karen McNaughton, Susan Nolan, Annie Scola and Cindy Wills

From the Board of Trustees | Deborah Borsum, Ron Oldenkamp and Maureen Condon (in memoriam)

Lacine then offered a prayer, asking for God's guidance and preparation for the coming season. The purpose of the Board of Elders was explained, which includes advising the senior pastor and staff on spiritual and fiduciary matters, administering sacraments and governing the mission's ministry. Lacine presented the nominations for new elders and trustees:

For first term on Board of Elders | Edwin Campos, Claire Maly, Dirk McCoy, Mike McCurry, Allie Noble, Mark Schuster and Jill Tenery

For second term on Board of Elders | Sunil Ebenezer, Karl Frantz, Chip Heady, Justin Hertel and Harry McCabe

For first term on Board of Trustees | Pete Legan, Christina Mitchell and Stephanie Oldenkamp Bruzan

For second term on Board of Trustees | Ricardo Simmons

Rev. Dr. Meyer also addressed a question about occasionally adding newer members to the governing boards, emphasizing the importance of having diverse voices and perspectives. Meyer then opened the floor for questions before moving and receiving a second to elect the new slate of Elders and Trustees. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Newly elected Elders and Trustees were asked to stand and be recognized.

Meyer explained the Board of Elders is also involved with the diaconal ministry and asked Elder Vice Chair Dave Lacine back for further remarks. Lacine expressed excitement for the potential of the next season in the church. The list of deacons and deaconesses was displayed, and Lacine explained that it is the role of the Board of Elders to elect members of the Diaconal board. Lacine encouraged everyone to pray for insight and wisdom during the upcoming transition, emphasizing the importance of prayer as a foundation for the church. Meyer mentions that a group of people, including Dave and Tim, pray for the church every Sunday morning, and invites anyone interested to join them. Meyer expresses that the church's mission outreach is highly valued, as they focus on sending people out into the world to be witnesses for Jesus in various spheres and invites Peter Celauro, Senior Director of Missional Living to the podium.

Missions Report | Peter Celauro explained that in 2023, Christ Church had an exceptional year in mission ministries and offered highlights. Church members filled more than 1,500 volunteer roles in various ministries, such as the food pantry, Gospel Justice Center, Global Outreach teams, and Chicagoland Day of Service. The church provided disaster relief to thousands of people affected by natural disasters and war, and the food pantry ministry served over 1,400 families. Through the For Christmas giving initiative, nearly 1,300 presents were donated to children and \$82,000 was raised for special projects. In addition, \$1.25 million was allocated to support Kingdom work locally and globally. Celauro emphasized that the mission of God is not just about numbers, but about the stories of the global church relieving suffering, transforming communities and living the Great Commission. A video was shown to demonstrate the impact of our support for our sisters and brothers in Malawi. Celauro closed by expressing gratitude for the church's generosity and the impact it makes around the world.

Open Discussion | As stipulated by the Constitution of Christ Church, the congregation was invited to present other matters appropriate to the forum to be addressed by the Board of Trustees or the Board of Elders. Members of the Board of Trustees and the Vice Chair of the Board of Elders were invited by Rev. Dr. Meyer to join him on the platform. Questions regarding the future of our Classic Worship service, the future of our Butterfield campus and the opportunity to participate in focus groups for the lead pastor search were fielded.

Closing Prayer | Closing prayer was offered by Executive Pastor Rev. Rob Kastens.

Adjournment | As Rev. Dr. Meyer closed the meeting, he invited the congregation to visit the Atrium for refreshments and fellowship. Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Anetsberger
Secretary of Christ Church

Lead Pastor's Report

For the Year of our Lord's Grace Two-Thousand and Twenty-Four

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace!

NUMBERS 6:24-26

My Beloved Friends and Co-workers in Christ,

As I conclude this treasured great opportunity to serve as your Lead Pastor, allow me to reflect on how God's grace has been evident during Christ Church's second pastorate:

- The church's **mission, vision, values** and **disciple-making model** were freshly defined as a north star for our second season of influence.
- Our **Elders' Ministry** was re-organized and our **Trustee Ministry** migrated to a Board governance model.
- Our church's longstanding commitment to **classic worship and music** was preserved, the choir expanded to an historic size, and a wide array of concerts filled the Sanctuary to overflowing.
- New **contemporary worship** services were introduced to complement traditional ones, resulting in significant growth in overall weekend attendance, especially among younger families.
- **Female pastors** were added to the staff and **female elders** increased to approximately 50% of the Board.
- An elder-led ministry was established (CommUNITY) to advance our church's inter-cultural character and competence and, especially after the COVID pandemic, the church became substantially more **multi-racial**.
- A refreshed focus was given to developing a **First Impressions** ministry that put **hospitality at the heart** of Christ Church, supported by many more volunteer teams, a variety of facility renovations and refreshment improvements.
- A new **Food Service Ministry** was established, led by a staff director.
- A single, unified approach to **spiritual growth** for all ages was developed/implemented to provide:
 - **Sight for the Pathway** | through vision-casting and growth-planning tools
 - **Training for the Soul** | through resources for practicing spiritual disciplines
 - **Equipment for Life** | through classes and conferences aimed at Christian living
 - **Partners for the Journey** | through small groups and midsize communities
- Our **children's and student ministries** were revitalized and regained their place as the pre-eminent youth programs in the near western suburbs, well-supported by renovated facilities.
- The church became host to the largest **Men's Bible Study Fellowship...Young Mother's Program (MomCo)...Women's Bible study (Women of Hope)...and (for a season) Singles Ministry (Ascend)** in the region.
- A **Stephen's Ministry** was launched to expand the lay caregiving ministry of the church.

- Our **support and recovery ministries** were expanded to provide help for people dealing with addiction, grief, divorce, cancer, job transition, mental illness and other difficult life issues.
- The **ASK Ministry** was started to offer advocacy, support and knowledge to older adults and caregivers.
- Our **Disability Ministry** was expanded from the Friendship Bible Class to many other supportive systems.
- The **Greenhouse Ministry** was established to provide a place of fellowship and equipping for older adults.
- Our church's outreach grew to embrace some 70 domestic and global **mission partnerships** in more than 40 countries.
- A **domestic mission** strategy and staffing model was developed, resulting in a dramatic rise in local voluntarism.
- The church joined a **global missions consortium** with College Church, Wheaton Bible Church, and Moody Church and significantly expanded its **short-term mission** team ministry.
- The **Spirit Village** alternative Christmas market was founded, bringing our mission to life for children and generating an additional \$2.6M in support for missionary projects to date. This outreach morphed into the **Oh What Fun! Christmas Party** in 2022 in an effort to reinvent the event to engage younger families.
- Major **mission grants** (in excess of \$75K apiece) were made to Wycliffe Bible Translators, Chicago's Inner City Impact ministry and to complete the Stephen's Children high school in Cairo, Egypt.
- The church partnered with World Vision on a variety of initiatives (e.g. the AIDS Experience, Team World Vision, Vision Tours) that resulted in some 300 child sponsorships, multiple clean water wells and the construction of a school in Namanjivara, **Mozambique** (an overall investment of approximately \$2.2M)
- Significant new life-changing projects were launched with urban and rural mission partners in **Kenya**.
- The congregation launched its first **multisite** branch (2017) and a second seven-acre campus was purchased from the Fountain of Life Church in unincorporated Lombard (2019) to house **Christ Church Butterfield**.
- Voluntarism in a local **food pantry and food-packing events** increased, providing tens-of-thousands of meals to needy households in DuPage County and abroad.
- A Christian community development initiative (**Resilient**) was launched in the Roosevelt Road Corridor and many volunteers engaged in tutoring, mentoring, and job-training at-risk kids and families. (2018)
- A multi-service providing **Lift Center** was established at our Butterfield campus (2025) to better our food ministry and to cluster around it a variety of other people-developing ministries (e.g. Administer Justice)
- Overall giving to **external mission outreach** causes during the Second Season totaled well over \$30M.
- The church became a satellite site for the **Global Leadership Summit**, resourcing more than 400 influencers annually. We then suspended our involvement in the wake of the allegations and abuse revealed at Willow Creek Community Church and the Willow Creek Association, and the thousands of women that shared their MeToo and ChurchToo experiences.

- From a context where there was no digital ministry (no network, internet, or screens) a state-of-the art **media and communications** ministry was developed, moving the church beyond its historic print, radio, and TV channels into the worldwide web, HD video, livestreaming, social media, handheld devices and digital marketing.
- A modern, multi-dimensional **human resources** infrastructure was built.
- Numerous **books, publications, podcasts, national recognitions, and even Emmy awards** were generated by Christ Church staff members, as but one indication of the quality of people recruited to or developed by our ministry.
- Annual **contributions** more than doubled, the church's **endowment** and **institutional reserves** rose from \$4.0M to more than \$7.0M and a **generosity/planned** giving ministry was formalized creating great pipelines for the future.
- The largest sum of commitments and expected gifts in a two-year campaign for any church of our size was raised as the result of the **Take Root Initiative** (\$20M of new resources, \$38M overall)—supported by a new department of **Stewardship & Generosity**. Additional efforts like the **LIFT Initiative** followed, raising nearly \$32M over two years.
- Additional **land was purchased** south of the church along York Road and the southernmost plot sold in 2021.
- Extensive **new construction** was completed to support the church's growing ministries:
 - Expanded Kitchen & Storage (2008)
 - Student Center 2 (now grades 4 & 5)
 - Preschool Entrance & new Classroom
 - Sanctuary AV balcony & Media Center
 - Lower Basement (2018)
 - Main Entrance/Foyer (2018)
 - Auditorium Media Center (2018)
 - New Parking & Traffic Flow (2018)
 - Oak & Acorn Rooms
 - Children's Discovery Center
 - Worship Auditorium (2018)
 - Lower Narthex (2018)
 - Elevator (2018)
 - Restroom (2018)
 - New Parking Entrances (2018)
- Substantial **renovations** were performed to improve existing ministry facilities:
 - Chancel
 - Trinity Windows
 - Oak & Acorn Rooms
 - Early Childhood Wing
 - Garden Chapel
 - Garden Plaza
 - Fellowship Hall
 - Children's Classrooms
 - Butterfield Gym
 - Numerous Offices
 - Restrooms
 - Commons
 - Parking lots
 - Student Center

And God's Word was preached and took root in people's lives through some **1,570 sermon messages**.

Thank YOU for devoting your time, talent, or treasure, during this defining time in the history of our church. I hope that you have experienced God meeting and strengthening you through your participation in this blessed **body**. **Join me in giving thanks to...**

- **The Trustees, Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses**, whose wise guidance and faithful servanthood has expressed the will of God and the love of Christ all across our ministry;
- The hundreds of **Caregivers, Ministry Team Members** and **Leaders** who have brought the Kingdom of God to life with their hearts and hands and witnessed to Jesus' presence;

- All the **Teachers, Shepherds, Mentors** and **Group Facilitators**, whose weekly efforts to communicate the message of God's Scriptures is shaping generations of disciples;
- The faithful **Choir Members** and **Musicians**, whose splendid gift of song or instrumental praise has glorified God week-by-week and inspired the rest of us;
- The **Ushers, Greeters** and **Hospitality Helpers** who so regularly make a large church feel more like an intimate family all across our campus;
- Every **Financial Steward**, whose generosity and sacrifice has enabled the church to continue to advance the Christian mission around the corner and around the world;
- Each **Class or Group Member**, whose engagement with one of the church's Christian education circles has helped our congregation stay on the spiritual growing edge;
- All the **members of the Church Staff**, whose steady, often unsung, dedication has supported the ministry of our congregation and expressed God's love to so many people;
- **Each of You** who regard yourselves not as spectators or consumers of religious services, but as vital players and contributors in the life of our church family.

Our ministry and mission go forward because YOU have chosen to let God's grace flow through you. It is because of YOU that we are more able to see the LIFT of God's grace in the lives of people here, near and far, in a way that draws them closer to His great name. And please, always remember, YOU ARE LOVED!

With love and hope,



Daniel D. Meyer, Lead Pastor
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Trustee Report

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

Dear Members of the Board of Elders of Christ Church,

As we gather at the onset of 2025, we are blessed with an opportunity to reflect on the year 2024 and look forward with hope and purpose. This is a moment to celebrate the incredible ways God has blessed the work of our dedicated staff and volunteers during a remarkable season and to embrace the promise of flourishing in the days ahead.

It is a tradition for the Board of Trustees to begin each meeting with a devotion led by one of our members. At the January meeting, Pete Legan offered a reflection inspired by Ecclesiastes 3, reminding us that there is a season for everything. This reflection prompted each Trustee to consider and share how Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer has personally impacted each of us during his 28-year tenure as Lead Pastor of Christ Church. While we celebrated Dan's incredible legacy at his final Trustee meeting, we also turned our attention to the future as we continue to prepare for Rev. Steve Carter to lead us into a new season.

2024: A Year of Milestones

The Trustees are entrusted with key financial, administrative, and strategic responsibilities for Christ Church, and 2024 was an especially busy year. Our efforts included:

- Advancing the goals of our Strategic Plan
- Successfully concluding the two-year LIFT initiative
- Partnering with our stewardship and finance teams to ensure the financial health of our church
- Overseeing the search and nomination process for our next Lead Pastor, and
- Conducting a thorough review of our governance documents

Financial Overview

We are deeply encouraged by our congregation's ongoing generosity. To align with the LIFT Initiative, we structured both a traditional annual budget and a multi-year budget for 2023–2024. Our 2024 donation goal of \$14.7 million represented 46% of the cumulative two-year LIFT commitment target of \$31.7 million.

By God's grace, 2023 and 2024 represented an encouraging demonstration of congregational generosity. Total donations of \$31.9 million over the past 24 months exceeded our commitment target by approximately \$250,000. Operating expenses related to staff and programming costs were at budgeted levels during the 2-year period, which reflects our staff's prudent expense management and excellent oversight of our operating areas. Total expenditures during the 2-year LIFT Initiative period (including the debt reduction discussed below) were approximately \$1.7 million higher than originally budgeted due to unique and exciting opportunities we were afforded to invest in our facility's Student Ministry and Preschool areas. The option to increase our commitment to facilities serving our future generation was exhaustively reviewed and debated by the Trustee Board. Ultimately, the Trustees unanimously agreed that investing in these areas was essential for serving future generations, and we elected to utilize a portion of our Institutional Funds to underwrite these additional expenses.

The Trustees also confirmed the utilization of \$2 million LIFT contributions to repay a portion of our outstanding mortgage debt, which was consistent with one of our LIFT goals outlined to the congregation in late 2022. Striking an appropriate balance between reducing our debt and preserving funds for future opportunities requires both detailed financial analysis and thoughtful discernment.

After going through this process, the Trustees validated the initial LIFT goal to allocate sufficient funds, through scheduled principal payments and the \$2 million special payment, to reduce our outstanding debt to \$5 million, a total reduction of \$3 million from the mortgage balance two years ago.

Following this repayment of mortgage debt and the additional investment in the church's facilities, our unrestricted Institutional Fund reserves will be approximately \$4.9 million, slightly higher than our reserve level at the end of 2023. The Trustee Board will continue to prioritize the thoughtful and prudent management of these Institutional Funds, which serve as a "safety net" for our church in times of significant economic uncertainty and as a means to support the church's mission for occasional non-budgeted initiatives.

In conjunction with the Board's Finance Committee and church staff, the Trustees are diligently working on finalizing a 2025 budget that will be presented for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting on March 11.

Lead Pastor Transition

One of the most significant milestones of 2024 was the Lead Pastor search and transition. The Search Committee, co-chaired by Sara Harris and Luke Tenery, conducted a nationwide search, utilizing a thoughtfully constructed Lead Pastor Profile while reviewing nearly 100 applicants. The Committee conducted extensive interviews and ultimately recommended Rev. Steve Carter as their candidate for Trustee consideration. The Trustees also conducted a set of interviews before nominating Steve for a congregational vote. Our membership's 96% affirmative vote reflects both Steve's exceptional qualifications and the thoughtful, prayerful process that guided this decision.

Governance Updates

Our Constitution, crafted 60 years ago, remains a testament to the wisdom of Christ Church's founders. While its theological foundations are as relevant today as ever, the complexity of our operations has grown significantly. Recognizing the need for updates, the Trustees, in collaboration with the Elder Council and senior leadership, have prepared suggested revisions to the governing documents.

These updates are designed to incorporate best practices in governance, enhance operational efficiency, and better support our pastors, staff, lay leaders and congregation. The proposed changes will be presented for congregational approval at the March 11 Annual Meeting, with an opportunity for Elders to provide feedback in advance.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude a fruitful season under Dan Meyer's leadership and move forward with Steve Carter in our Lead Pastor role, the Trustees remain confident in God's guidance for this new chapter. We are committed to supporting Steve, the pastoral staff and the entire Christ Church team as they lead us in fulfilling our mission to make an eternal impact for the Kingdom.

We ask for your continued prayers for Steve, our staff and the countless volunteers who serve faithfully. Your support—through your time, generosity and prayer—is a powerful testimony to this season of flourishing and to the transformative work God is doing through Christ Church.

Let us move forward together, trusting in God's promise to bless all seasons under heaven.

Giving God the glory for all blessings



Tim MacKenzie
Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees

Trustee Nominations

FOR THE OFFICE OF TRUSTEE 2025–2027

Trustees are to be respected disciples with a record of effective service to Christ Church. Normally, they will also be persons with mature experience in the leadership of a large organization. Together with the Lead Pastor, the Trustees are charged by our constitution with responsibility for oversight of the church’s staff, finances, facilities, and the other resources and business practices that support the church’s ministry and mission.

NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM



SARA HARRIS | Member since 2018 and Trustee since 2022 | Sara has been involved primarily in small group ministry and church governance throughout her life. Most recently, she co-chaired the Lead Pastor Search Committee and served on the Elder Council. She was also part of the founding core of the Butterfield campus, where she currently serves on the AV team. Some of her most meaningful ministry experiences have been participating in mission trips with middle and high school students. Sara’s professional background is mostly in human resources, having served as Vice President of Human Resources in the food industry. She also served as Executive Director on a church staff. Sara enjoys traveling,

golf, and spending time in nature, as well as cherishing life with her children, stepchildren and two grandchildren.

PHILIP PERZEK | Member since 1986 and Trustee since 2022

Phil and his wife Gayle served in the preschool ministry and have hosted and participated in various small groups over the years. Phil also participated in the Nehemiah workplace ministry in several capacities, first as a candidate, then as an instructor and last as board president of the workplace program. Phil is partner with the law firm of McGuireWoods LLP in Chicago and serves on the board of Chicago Fellowship. He and Gayle reside in Hinsdale and their daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Dan Egan, live in Chicago.



NOMINATED FOR A THIRD TERM

TIM MACKENZIE | Member since 2006 and Trustee since 2017

Tim serves as the Board of Trustees Vice-Chairman. He is the Managing Director of Merit Capital Partners, a private equity firm in Chicago. Tim is involved at Christ Church serving on several Board committees, as a co-leader of a small group, and a 25-year participant in Bible Study Fellowship. He also serves as the President of Chicago Fellowship, President of the Hinsdale Young Life Foundation, Past President of the Hinsdale Golf Club and on the Board of All God's Children (Honduras). Tim and his wife Mary live in Hinsdale, have three adult children and two amazing grandchildren.



KEVIN J. WADEN | Member since 2015 and Trustee since 2017

Kevin serves as the Church's Treasurer and Finance Committee chair. Kevin is currently the CFO for Fresh Films, a nonprofit organization working with high school students, after spending 30 years in various financial leadership roles at Fortune 500 organizations and at a Big Four public accounting firm. Since joining the Trustee Board, Kevin has focused his time on improving financial controls, budgeting and longer-term forecasting. Kevin is actively involved in co-leading Financial Peace University at Christ Church and was previously active with Men's Fraternity. Kevin and his wife Chris have three children

and reside in Downers Grove.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might.

COLOSSIANS 1:10-12

Christ Church Constitution

Summary of Changes and Key Provisions of New Bylaws

The current Constitution of Christ Church was drafted in 1965 when the church was founded and has been periodically amended by the congregation from time to time to address certain changes as our church body has grown and evolved. The breadth and complexity of Christ Church and its operations and ministries today are significantly different than what existed in 1965. Presently, Christ Church has no bylaws and the current Constitution does not adequately address the array of organizational issues which face a church the size of Christ Church.

About a year ago, a committee of the Board of Trustees began evaluating our Constitution and studied the organizational documents of other large non-denominational Christian churches to divine best practices and structures. After careful consideration over a period of many months, the Board of Trustees concluded that responsible organizational management requires that the Church adopt appropriately tailored bylaws, certain changes to the Constitution and amended articles of incorporation.

Because of the expressed need for bylaws, a number of sections of the Constitution which addressed organizational matters (such as the calling and content of annual and special meetings, certain operations of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Elders, the Elder Counsel and their respective committees and administration of sacraments) be moved from the Constitution into the new bylaws where the same will be aligned with current practices. Other major changes in the Constitution include (i) deleting the requirement that the Lead Pastor be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, (ii) acknowledging the Board of Trustees' power to set the compensation of the Lead Pastor but making clear the Lead Pastor has primary authority over compensation and employment matters relating to church staff, (iii) clarifying that a limited and designated set of individuals (rather than all Elders) serve as officers of the Church which have authority to legally bind the Church, and (iv) amendments which eliminate the requirement that dismissal of the Lead Pastor requires a vote of two-thirds of the membership and instead delegate the power to dismiss the Lead Pastor to the Board of Trustees under the new bylaws.

CONSTITUTION

Article IV

Article IV, A | Specific details regarding the administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were moved out of the Constitution and into the Bylaws (see Section 3.01(c) and (d) (Duties of Elders)). However, the Constitution still notes Baptism and the Lord's Supper as the two Sacraments of the church.

Article IV, B | Clarifies that the Board of Elders should approve all ministries of the church annually i.e., all organizations and their instructors and leaders. However, the requirement that each organization submit a "constitution" to the Board of Elders has been deleted as it was not a procedure commonly followed or required.

Article IV, B9 | Renames the Committee of "Diaconate" to Deacons and makes clear this role of ministerial care and service is to be performed by both men and women.

Article V

Article V, A | Makes certain clarifying changes as to membership, including making explicitly clear that members may be dismissed upon recommendation of the Board of Elders. Additionally, this section makes clear that membership will normally be granted by a public confession of faith in a worship service, but the Minister may otherwise approve membership for an individual in their discretion rather than requiring a letter of recommendation from another church. This change was made after consulting with the pastoral staff on historic practice in this area since such letters of recommendation are largely a thing of the past.

Article VI

This section (Meetings and Fiscal Year) was moved out of the Constitution and into the Bylaws due to the fact that these are primarily corporate (and not spiritual) matters.

Article VI

Article VI, A.1 | Removes the previous minimum and maximum set for number of Trustees and instead clarifies that the Board shall have no fewer than 7 members. (The Bylaws will contain provisions limiting the maximum number of Trustees.) This section also clarifies that each member shall be elected by a majority vote of the Church members.

Article VI, A.2 | This section notes that the Board shall have a Chair (a position now separate and distinct from the Minister), a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and Treasurer, and that these individuals, along with the Minister, shall serve as officers of the Church. This change solidifies a more limited officer group for the Church i.e., a more limited group of individuals that can bind or act on behalf of the Church, which is appropriate for an organization the size of Christ Church.

Article VI, A.6 | Clarifies that the Board shall set the compensation of the Minister, while the Minister, in consultation with the Board or any committee thereof, shall administer the compensation of staff and other employees. This is in keeping with actual practice and clarifies the Board's role is supervisory and not administrative in nature.

Article VI, A.8 | Clarifies that the Board oversees and provides input regarding the hiring and firing of other ministers and professional staff, but that the decision to employ or terminate such minister or professional staff remains with the Minister.

Article VI, A.10 | Revisions to this section add important clarification on decisions that the Board cannot take without approval by a vote of the Church members. For example, it has now been made clear that while the membership must improve any new mortgage on any real property owned by the Church, the Board has the power to amend and refinance any debt which may be secured by such a mortgage lien.

Article VI, B. 1 | Clarifies that members of the Board of Elders shall be elected by a majority vote of the Church members and that each ordained clergy shall be a member of the Board of Elders.

Article VI, B.6 and B.7 | These changes reflect current responsibilities and practices of the Board of Elders.

Article VII

Changes to this section were clarifying in nature e.g., opting for gender neutral language with regard to the Minister.

Article VIII

In conjunction with the revised Articles of Incorporation, which delineates how other Christ Church documents may be amended, this section clarifies that amendments to the Constitution require a three-fourths vote of the Board of Trustees and a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Church members. Importantly, the threshold for amendment is high with regard to the Trustee and member votes that are required, and we feel that this provides adequate protection against hasty amendment of such an important document.

BYLAWS

The goal in adding the Bylaws as a core Christ Church document is two-fold. On one hand, certain organizational functions are more appropriately addressed by the Bylaws (a corporate document that spells out how an organization functions) rather than the Constitution (a spiritual document that identifies the governing philosophies and principles of the Church). For example, how the Church wishes to indemnify officers, trustees, etc. is an important and necessary consideration for the Church, but not a spiritual matter. Second, the addition of Bylaws allows Christ Church to more comprehensively address and capture how the Church should function on matters that are not strictly relevant to the Church constitution. By way of illustration, it is important for the Church to establish rules and guidelines that govern committees of the Board of Trustees, but the frequency of meetings and composition of those committees is not a spiritual matter. Please see below for a few high-level notes on the Bylaws:

Most importantly, this document is intended to supplement the Constitution—not override it. To that end, if the Constitution addresses an issue, we've imported the Constitutional language so that anyone reading the Bylaws would know that the Constitution has spoken on this issue. For example, Section 2.02(a) imports the Constitutional section on the number of Trustees and how they are elected.

Note—as in Section 2.02, the Bylaws do provide additional guidelines and/or further clarification for certain matters. Section 2.02, for example, further provides that the Board of Trustees shall generally not have more than 12 members and provides term limits for those members. Importantly, while the Bylaws do offer additional details on certain issues, Article VIII of the Bylaws provides that the Board of Trustees may amend or repeal the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees. This allows the Board of Trustees to continually address areas where additional operating procedures (that are not spelled out in the Constitution) have been included.

Section 2.03(h) | This section clarifies that the Board of Trustees has ultimate authority over the terms and duration of the employment of the Minister. This section adds important clarity around the Board of Trustees' power (following consultation with certain officers of the Board of Elders) to end the employment of the Minister if compelling reasons are presented rather than seeking a majority vote of the membership.

Section 2.04 | This section details the permanent committees of the Church—the Governance Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Personnel Committee—and identifies committee expectations.

Section 2.06(b) | Identifies that the Board of Trustees shall maintain a Trustee Policy Manual regarding Board vs. Management duties and responsibilities.

Section 3.01(c) | Identifies that the Board of Elders are responsible for administering Baptism and identifies who may be baptized at Christ Church.

Section 3.09 | Provides detail on committees of the Board of Elders, including the Missions Committee and Elder Council.

Article IV | This section of the Bylaws speaks to the duties and powers of the officers of the Church (as opposed to the Trustees or Elders). As detailed by the constitution, the officer group is more limited and is responsible for carrying out the corporate functions of the Church e.g., signing documents.

Article VI | The section on Meetings and Fiscal Year has been imported from the Constitution. Section 6.03 further clarifies that a two-thirds vote of Church members is required for certain important issues.

Amendments to the current Constitution may only be made upon the approval of two-thirds of the members of Christ Church present at a properly called membership meeting. In addition to an affirmative two-thirds member vote, the revised Constitution also requires that any future amendments to the Constitution be supported by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Board of Trustees. While the current Constitution contained some language that made certain sections unable to be modified, amended articles of incorporation were filed which legally supersede such limitations and permit the Christ Church members to revise the Constitution in the manner proposed.

It is important to note the faith convictions and covenant expressed in our original Constitution will not change.

The Board of Trustees has worked closely with Rev. Dr. Dan Meyer (Lead Pastor Emeritus), Rev. Rob Kastens (Executive Pastor) and Rev. David Melvin (Executive Director of Ministry Resources) in preparing the revised Constitution, new bylaws and amended articles of incorporation. Since being confirmed, Rev. Steve Carter (Lead Pastor) has reviewed and discussed with the Board of Trustees the proposed changes. In addition, the Board of Trustees consulted with David Lacine (Chair of the Board of Elders) and other members of the Elder Council before the documents were finalized. All members of the senior pastoral staff, Board of Trustees and Elder Council support the revised Constitution, new bylaws and amended articles of incorporation.

Christ Church of Oak Brook

Constitution

Incorporated March 11, 1965

Amended December 5, 1968

November 30, 1981

December 2, 1985

February 28, 2006

February 25, 2020

March 11, 2025

31st Street & York Road | Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

DRAFT

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the Church is Christ Church of Oak Brook.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The general purpose of this Church is to conduct and maintain a Church for the worship and service of Almighty God according to the principles outlined in Articles III, IV, and V of this Constitution.

ARTICLE III COVENANT

The Covenant by which the Church exists as a distinct body, and which every member accepts, is as follows:

We profess our decided attachment to that system of the Christian religion which is designated Evangelical.

WE BELIEVE that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE that there is one and but one living and true God, subsisting in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the World and that through His life, death, and resurrection, an atonement was made for sin, and redemption was provided for all mankind.

WE BELIEVE that repentance for sin and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as a personal Savior is the one and only way whereby sinful man can inherit eternal life.

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit regenerates the soul of the believer and brings man into saved relations with God, and that He is the Comforter and Guide of all who receive Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

WE BELIEVE in what is termed the "Apostles' Creed" as embodying the fundamental facts of the Christian faith.

ARTICLE IV

THE SACRAMENTS

We believe that Jesus instituted two Sacraments for the edification of the Church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These Sacraments shall be administered according to the approved forms and under the supervision of the Board of Elders.

MINISTRIES

All organizations, instructors, and leaders of the Church must be approved by the Board of Elders annually.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Any person may be received into or dismissed from membership upon recommendation of the Board of Elders. Except as the Minister may otherwise approve, membership will be granted upon public confession of faith made in a worship service of the congregation.

The duties of the members of this Church are set forth in the Membership Covenant approved by the Board of Elders as set forth in the bylaws of the Church but shall include, without limitation, the following:

To attempt to live in all their relationships according to the spirit and teachings of Jesus as revealed in the Bible.

To attend faithfully the services of worship of this Church.

To contribute to its support, its missionary program, and benevolences according to the principles of Christian stewardship.

To share in the organized work.

Members who move from this congregation shall be encouraged to affiliate with another church which is true to God's Word. The Board of Elders shall have authority to grant letters of recommendation.

ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES AND OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Board of Trustees") shall consist of not less than seven members. Each member shall be elected at a meeting of the Church by a majority vote of the Church members and shall serve for a three-year term.

The Board shall elect officers annually from among themselves including a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Minister, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall also serve as the officers of the Church.

The Board shall make a report of its work to the Church body at its annual business meeting and submit such recommendations as it may deem necessary and desirable.

The Board shall prepare nominees for the Board for the annual business meeting of the Church.

The Board shall prepare and submit to the Church body at its annual business meeting for its consideration and action, budget showing estimated income and proposed expenditures. The securing of funds necessary to meet the current expenses shall be under the direction and control of the Board.

The Board shall set from time to time the compensation of the Minister, while the Minister, in consultation with the Board or any designated Committee of the Board, shall administer the compensation of staff and other employees of the Church.

The Board shall prepare a nomination for the Minister of the Church in the event of a vacancy.

The Board shall be responsible for maintaining oversight over and input regarding the employment or termination of employment of the other ministers and professional staff which are undertaken by the Minister.

The Board shall be responsible for maintaining the legal status of the Church, and its members shall be deemed the "Directors" described in the articles of incorporation of the Church.

The care, custody, and control of the real and personal property of the Church is vested in the Board, and the Board is authorized and empowered to take such steps as are necessary or proper to protect the properties of the Church and its interests therein; to make such repairs, improvements, and alteration of the properties of the Church, and to provide for such maintenance work on said properties as shall be necessary or proper to maintain and keep them in good, safe, and serviceable condition; to regulate and control the use of the properties of the Church; to arrange for annual and special audits by a competent auditor of the books and records of the Treasurer of the Church; to invest funds of the Church, which in the opinion of the Board are not required for current payments or expenses, in such securities as may be lawful investments; to accept or reject on behalf of the Church, gifts, bequests, devises, or trusts, and to determine the manner in which said gifts, bequests, devises, or trusts shall be expended or invested, provided that whenever a condition or direction as to its use is provided for in any such gift, bequest, devise, or trust, it shall be scrupulously complied with; to enter into or make such contracts, deeds, and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the powers and duties of the Board; and to exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as are provided for elsewhere in this Constitution or by law; provided, however, that the Board shall not have power, unless authorized or directed to do so by vote of the Church members, to (1) sell or convey, mortgage, or encumber any real estate of the Church or any interest therein (but excluding any amendments, restatements and/or refinancings associated therewith), (2) erect, construct or enlarge any building (but may without any such membership vote, remodel, renovate and/or repurpose such buildings) or (3) purchase any real estate or interest therein. The Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary or assistant secretary (if any) of the Board or other party authorized by the Board shall have power to execute in the name and on behalf of this Church all contracts, deeds, and other instruments authorized by the Board or by the Church.

The Board shall appoint such Committees as are needed for the proper administration of the Church. A list of nominees for the Committees and their Chairs shall be prepared by the officers and ratified by the Board. Except as may be otherwise provided in the Bylaws of the Church, committee members need not be members of the Board.

Members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as members of the Board of Elders.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders (the "Board of Elders") shall consist of not less than nine members who shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Church by a majority vote of the Church members for a term of three years. In addition, each ordained clergy of the Church shall be deemed to be members of the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders shall elect annually a vice chair and a secretary of the Board of Elders. The Minister shall serve as the chair of the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders shall prepare a list of nominees for the Board of Elders to be presented at the annual business meeting of the Church.

The Board of Elders shall be the advisors of the Minister as to the spiritual interests of the Church.

The Board of Elders shall assist the Minister in overseeing the administration of the Sacraments of the Church, and shall make the necessary preparations for their observances (see Art. IV:A).

The Board of Elders shall be responsible for fostering and promoting the servant ministry and external missions of the Church including, but not limited to, the selection and oversight of mission partners and approval of the annual mission budget of the Church.

The Board of Elders, in consultation with the ministerial staff, shall deal with matters of member discipline.

The Board of Elders shall appoint such other Committees as may be necessary in the discharge of their responsibilities. Members of such other Committees need not be members of the Board of Elders.

Among the Committees appointed by the Board of Elders shall be one consisting of deacons (male and female) with the following duties:

To assist the ministerial staff in visiting and aiding the sick, needy and bereaved.

To assist in the preparation and administration of the sacrament of communion.

ARTICLE VII THE MINISTER

The Minister shall be elected by the members of the Church from a nomination presented by the Board of Trustees.

The duly elected Minister shall be installed by the Board of Elders at a regular worship service of the Church.

The Minister shall have the spiritual oversight of the membership; shall have charge of the exercises of public worship; shall administer the Sacraments; shall preach the Word; shall be the leader of devotional meetings of the Church; and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

The Minister shall be a member of the Board of Trustees and the Chair of the Board of Elders, and an ex officio member of all committees.

The Minister shall be the executive head of the Church staff and employees.

The Minister shall make a report of the work of the Minister at the annual business meeting of the Church.

The Minister shall conduct his/her life in keeping with the office of the Minister and shall preach and teach in harmony with the Scriptures and the Church Covenant

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended only upon (i) an affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the Board of Trustees and (ii) an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the voting members present at an annual business meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that due notice of such proposed amendment has been given at least one month prior to such meeting by means of the most prevalent existing method through which the Church communicates with its members, including, but not limited to, electronic mail or other similar electronic communication. Voting on all amendments shall be by ballot.

2024 Treasurer's Report

Christ Church Stewardship of Financial Resources

The Treasurer and Finance Committee are dedicated to maintaining strong stewardship of the financial resources contributed by the congregation to meet our ministry, missional and capital needs. Following is a summary of the full two-year LIFT initiative, which demonstrates a strong commitment from the congregation, as well as incremental use of institutional funds to prepare the Church for the future.

2-Year LIFT Results (+Q1 2025 carryover)

One Fund Donation Income	\$	31,948,042
Interest, Dividends and Realized Gains and Losses		240,913
Fee Income		1,218,341
Total 2-Year Income	\$	33,407,296
Core Ministry Expenses (Operating, Mission, Capital)	\$	(26,295,851)
Total Lift Spend		(6,145,838)
LIFT Carryover Spend To 2025		(740,580)
LIFT Debt Reduction in January 2025		(1,993,652)
Total 2-Year Expense Plus Carryover Items	\$	(35,175,921)
Incremental Investment of Institutional Funds	\$	(1,768,625)

We praise God for the faithfulness of our congregation for their continued financial support of Christ Church. Operating expenses related to staff and programming costs were at budgeted levels during the 2-year period, which reflects our staff's prudent expense management and excellent oversight of our operating areas. Total expenditures during the 2-year LIFT initiative period were approximately \$1.7 million higher than originally budgeted due to unique and exciting opportunities we were afforded to invest in both the Student Ministry and preschool areas of our facility. The option to increase our commitment to facilities serving our future generation was exhaustively reviewed and debated by the Trustee Board. Ultimately, the Trustees agreed that investing in these areas and reducing our debt was essential for serving future generations and we elected to utilize a portion of our Institutional Funds to underwrite these additional expenses.

Debt as of 1.1.2023	\$	8,091,634
Normal Principal Payments over 2 Years		(1,148,626)
Donations for Debt		(6,348)
As of 12.31.2024	\$	6,936,660
Incremental Debt Paydown January 2025		(1,993,652)
Net debt as of January 2025	\$	4,943,008
Total Debt Reduction over 2 years	\$	(3,148,626)

For 2025, the finance committee and the Trustees have been working in conjunction with the staff to develop a recommended budget informed by our recent giving patterns and acknowledging the completion of the LIFT initiative. The significant components include funding of Ministry Operating expense of \$12.4 million, Missions expenditures of \$1.2 million and Capital expenditures of \$3.4 million, which includes normal principal and interest payments on debt of \$0.3 million and normal maintenance capital of \$0.3 million, with the remaining funds dedicated to LIFT capital work of \$2.8 million (\$2.0 million January debt reduction, \$0.4 million Campus Quality and \$0.4 million Lift Center completion). The Capital Budget has been approved by the Trustee Board and the Mission Budget has been approved by the Elder Board.

Over the years, Christ Church has built up and utilized, as appropriate, various funds designated as our Institutional Fund reserves. As a Trustee Board, we are committed to build these reserves in times of plenty so that they are available for strategic initiatives as well as a backstop, when necessary, against shortfalls in revenues.

INSTITUTIONAL FUND CASH RESERVES (excluding designated accounts)

	in million
Balance as of January 1, 2023	\$ 5.430
Net Contributions and withdrawals	0.675
Net Return on Investments	0.425
Balance as of December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 6.531</u>
Net Contributions and withdrawals	(0.663)
Net Return on Investments	0.610
Balance as of December 31, 2024 ¹	<u>\$ 6.478</u>

¹This balance does not reflect \$1.28 million transferred out to pay down the Christ Church mortgage as that occurred in January 2025.

The Trustees are excited and energized by the results from the LIFT campaign, which has set the seeds for growth in the coming year as we expand our abilities to share the saving work of Jesus Christ, both locally and in the community at large. Thank you for your faithful support of Christ Church in 2023 and 2024. We pray that you will continue to invest and grow with those ministries for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin J. Waden
Treasurer, Christ Church

2025 One Fund

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
RECEIPTS				
Income				
1	\$ 16,980,710	\$ 14,700,000	\$ 14,895,980	\$ 12,540,000
2	501,073	524,000	703,866	642,000
3	-	220,000	13,403	389,000
4	<u>\$ 17,481,783</u>	<u>\$ 15,444,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,613,249</u>	<u>\$ 13,571,000</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Operating Fund				
5	\$ 10,049,900	\$ 11,022,000	\$ 11,276,933	\$ 11,785,000
6	45,541	390,000	334,461	630,000
7	10,095,441	11,412,000	11,611,394	12,415,000
Mission Fund				
8	1,250,447	1,200,000	1,210,220	1,226,000
Capital Fund				
9	299,718	300,000	304,902	300,000
10	908,074	942,000	906,950	327,000
11	1,207,792	1,242,000	1,211,852	627,000
12	484,665	7,124,000	5,401,765	2,797,558 A
13	1,692,457	8,366,000	6,613,617	3,424,558
14	<u>13,038,345</u>	<u>20,978,000</u>	<u>19,435,231</u>	<u>17,065,558</u>
15	4,443,438	(5,534,000)	(3,821,982)	(3,494,558)
16	110,562	980,000	780,732	697,000 B
17	-	4,554,000	4,554,000	1,512,750 C
18	-	-	-	1,284,808 D
19	<u>\$ 4,554,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,512,750</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

- A** The LIFT expenditures consists of \$436,000 to build out the LIFT Center, \$368,000 to complete various campus quality projects and \$2 million to paydown the Christ Church mortgage.
- B** Institutional Funds will be transferred to the Operating Fund to cover these four expenses: additional Classic Worship musicians, senior pastor transition expenses, the LIFT Center and the preschool start up costs.
- C** Represents a planned utilization of LIFT donations to be used against 2025 LIFT expenses.
- D** The Board approved the use of these Institutional Funds to be used to pay down the Christ Church mortgage (another \$.7 million was paid from operating cash).

2025 Operating Budget

	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET
INCOME			
1	Transfer from One Fund	\$ 10,688,000	\$ 10,713,413
2	Fees	744,000	1,031,000
3	Total Operating Income	\$ 11,432,000	\$ 11,430,682
EXPENSE - Recurring			
<i>STAFF LEADERSHIP</i>			
4	Staff & Professional Expense	\$ 6,616,000	\$ 6,717,847
5	Employment Taxes	410,000	380,756
6	Employee Benefits	1,107,000	1,112,927
7	Subtotal	\$ 8,133,000	\$ 8,211,530
<i>MINISTRY PROGRAM</i>			
8	Worship Ministries	\$ 169,000	\$ 227,634
9	Grow Ministries	724,000	774,805
10	Serve Ministries	383,000	301,947
11	Subtotal	\$ 1,276,000	\$ 1,304,386
<i>MINISTRY SERVICES</i>			
12	Administration	\$ 609,000	\$ 655,504
13	Program Support	749,000	750,890
14	Insurance & Utilities	504,000	525,708
15	Maintenance & Repairs	141,000	163,396
16	Subtotal	\$ 2,003,000	\$ 2,095,498
17	Total Expense Before Transfers	\$ 11,412,000	\$ 11,611,414
18	Regular Interfund Transfers net	20,000	(180,732)
19	Subtotal	\$ 11,432,000	\$ 11,430,682
20	INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ -

(A) Provisional Plan is presented to the congregation for working budget for the following year.

(B) Institutional Funds will be transferred to the Operating Fund to cover these four expenses: additional Classic Worship senior pastor transition expenses, the LIFT Center and the preschool start up costs.

Elder Report

What a year it has been as we sense the movement of God throughout the congregation! We are blessed to have experienced once again God's amazing blessings in providing through the LIFT Campaign and the effective selection of a new Lead Pastor in Steve Carter.

The purpose of the Board of Elders is to advise the Lead Pastor and professional staff on the spiritual interests of the church. The board also partners with them in the oversight and development of our mission. The Elder Board is responsible for approving the support and expense plan for the ensuing year as presented by the Mission Leadership Team. It is a marvel to witness the increased activity in each Major Ministry Area (MMA) as we continue to grow and recover from the challenging COVID years. Each ministry is highlighted at the three Elder Board meetings throughout the year as we seek to communicate our challenges, opportunities and accomplishments.

Throughout the year, members of the Board of Elders, church ministry staff and lay leadership have sought to resolve issues and support the efforts in each MMA. We are blessed to have so many dedicated servants sharing the love of Christ to fellow church members and a hurting and broken world.

ELDER COUNCIL

As an Elder Council, we meet monthly and have a continued rhythm of beginning each meeting with 30 minutes of prayer for the church and related matters. It's become a sacred time that knits together our hearts in unity as we seek to see God's Kingdom advanced through the work of the church. The Council consists of members who are active in the various Major Ministry Areas and most often participate on the respective committees. We also receive updates from the members to keep a pulse on the varied activities throughout the congregation as well as receiving presentations from staff members.

Most recently, we held an Elder Council Retreat, sharing our varied stories and praying for one another as we end the past church season and begin a New Year. The sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit was palatable.

We continue to have teams meet virtually on Sunday mornings and other days in the week to pray and look to the Lord for grace and direction. This has been a fruit that came out of the COVID season and continues to grow. We continue to ask all the Elders and members of the church community to be in prayer for wisdom, discernment, and direction as we anticipate and pray for a future that will have a deep positive impact in advancing God's Kingdom both locally and throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Lacine

Elder Council Chair

Celebration of Service

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17

Retiring from Service on the Board of Elders



Lauri Aldrich



Howard Bromwell



Bruce Buteyn



Elizabeth Celauro



Hugh Coonrod



Matt Franklin



Jan Huskisson



Lyn Lammers



Luke Tenery

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!
You have been faithful with a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things.
Come enter into the joy of your master!

MATTHEW 25:21

Elder Nominations

OFFICE OF THE ELDER 2025–2027

Elders are to be mature and respected disciples with gifts appropriate to the spiritual nurture of the church. They are charged by God in Scripture with the role of serving as “examples, shepherds and overseers” of God’s people. Together with the staff, they are charged by our constitution to exercise spiritual oversight of our church’s ministry and mission.

NOMINATED FOR A FIRST TERM



PAIGE BIBA | Member since 2009 | Paige was baptized at Christ Church as an infant and grew up in the church. She was confirmed through Koinonia and returned as a leader, serving in high school small groups, mission trips, Roca Y Agua and middle school breakfast club. She now serves in the nursery, spending time with the Lord and introducing her 10-month-old daughter to the church. Outside of church, Paige enjoys time with her daughter Esther and dachshunds Noodle and Orzo. Paige and her husband, Brant, are excited to welcome a baby boy into their family in May.

ALLICIA SMRHA | Member since 1991 | Allicia currently serves on the First Impressions Hospitality Team and volunteers with Christ Church Kids registration. She has served as a VBS leader, Rock ‘N Canoe leader, LIFT small group leader, Journey Partner and in leadership roles in the MOPS ministry. Allicia and her husband, Adam, live in Oak Brook and have four children—Ella, Aaron, Mae and Caleb.



BEVERLY HEMPHILL | Member since 2005 | Having found encouragement and comfort through participation in GriefShare classes following the passing of her husband, Jim, Beverly felt lead to volunteer her services in the Pastoral Care area. First serving as a deacon, then assisting with coordination of funerals, Beverly now supports the Pastoral Care team by scheduling visits between Diaconal members and our church family. She lives in Downers Grove and has two young grandchildren.

BIRDIE DIXON | Member since 2006 | Birdie has served in the food pantry since 2008. She was a volunteer with the Women’s Ministry, a small group leader, a deaconess and continues to serve throughout the church as needed. Birdie enjoys studying Scripture, striving to learn more about God in order to grow in her faith and achieve spiritual maturity. Currently Birdie is the facilitator of Popin Place, a Monday morning Bible study. Birdie is readily available to listen to and pray for others. She has three adult sons, Freddie, Jinx, and Sam, as well as six grandchildren.





CATHY BULTHUIS | Member since 2021 | Cathy has served on the Hospitality Committee since joining the church in 2021 and has also enjoyed participating in various small groups at the Butterfield campus including Rooted and LIFT. In her free time, Cathy enjoys traveling, reading and horseback riding. She lives in Downers Grove and is married 32 years to Matt, who serves on the Worship Team at the Butterfield campus. They have three grown children, Cassidy, Sydney, and Carter, living in Florida and Michigan.

SENA SLAVIK | Member since 2020 | Sena has served with MOPS and women's ministries creating displays and making visions come to life. Sena used to teach high school science and now substitutes occasionally. She is very active in roles with various civic organizations and her boys' school. Sena enjoys singing, dancing, reading and spending time with family and friends. She lives with her family in Hinsdale and has three boys, Jack, Broderick and William.



JOE GOODWIN | Member since 2008 | Joe has served as a COW middle school ministry leader, usher, small group and LIFT ambassador. He and his wife, Nancy (currently a Koinonia Leader), live in Downers Grove with their four children—Gianna (a disability ministry aide), Joe, Gabriella and Gracie. In addition to coaching his daughter's basketball team, Joe enjoys watching his kids' sports, spending time with family, friends, his small group and, of course, golfing.

STEVE SMRHA | Member since 1999 | Steve was baptized, raised in, and confirmed at Christ Church of Oak Brook. After time away in college and early adulthood, he married and returned to Christ Church. Since that time, he has enjoyed volunteering as an usher, Sunday school teacher, and as a member and host of small groups. He and his wife, Victoria, live in Oak Brook with their three children, Samuel, Jonah and Anahi.



ALISA VAN HEKKEN | Member since 2006 | Alisa served with the MOPS ministry and in her previous tenure as an Elder. As an educator and reading specialist, Alisa has been a classroom teacher, reading interventionist and served as the Chief Academic Officer of a reading curriculum company. Alisa and her husband, James, live in Lombard and have three daughters, Mia, Reese and Nora.

DAVE BIANCHIN | Member since 2017 | Dave served on the Pastoral staff at Christ Church from 2017–2023, as a pastor with Prayer and Care. Now retired, he served as a Confirmation mentor this past fall, and he and his wife, Julie, serve as prayer ministers. He is active in a small group and in the Men's Ministry and sometimes teaches at Greenhouse. He lives in New Lenox, and he and Julie enjoy time together and with their three grandchildren. In his spare time, he likes to exercise, read and build acoustic guitars.





DAVID FARRELL | Member since 1999 | David is a lifelong member of Christ Church, having grown up in the student ministry and celebrated confirmation in high school. He has served for many years as a volunteer audio engineer for Contemporary worship services at both the Butterfield and Oak Brook campuses. David is also active in the Young Families ministry, where he leads a small group and serves as Secretary on the Christ Church Insight Council. He lives in Lisle with his wife, Theresa, and young son Isaac. They attend both the Oak Brook and Butterfield campuses.

DAVE VAN DER LAAN | Member since 2011 | Dave's primary service to Christ Church has been singing in the Chancel Choir and composing music for Classic worship. Dave and his wife, Joya, own and operate Nourish House Calls from their home in Westmont, where they live with their children Sophie, Jude and Emily.



NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM



PHYLLIS SMITH | Member since 2011 | Phyllis has a passion to see the children of Christ Church grow in their knowledge of and love for the Lord. To that end, she serves as a mentor with Christ Church Kids and in the summer children's programs. She also currently volunteers for one of the monthly FOR Chicagoland projects at the Lift Center and participates in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas program. Additionally, she attends Women of Hope and a small group Bible study. She loves to volunteer, read and sing. Phyllis lives in Glen Ellyn.

BECKY ROSS | Member since 2001 | Becky and her husband of 41 years have three children and two grandsons. Becky graduated from Stephens College with a BFA and enjoyed a successful career in theatre and TV before retiring to start a family. Serving the Lord and His people is the passion of her second career. Becky has served on the Elder Council, as a prayer minister and with the Greenhouse Ministry since its inception. A certified mental health counselor, she has served the ASK Ministry for 20 years. Becky enjoys music, literature, travel, gardening, life-long learning, but most of all, family, friends and helping others.



CARLA PEER | Member since 2007 | Carla serves as an Elder on the Elder Council and as an Elder in the Prayer and Care MMA. She is involved in mentoring, facilitating small groups and healing prayer. She also serves as a spiritual director and mentor for many women. She has served on the staff of Moraine Valley Church in Palos Heights as Director of Women's Ministries. Lover of hospitality, good books, conversation and God's presence. She resides in Westchester with her husband Roger and is the proud mother of three adult children and their spouses and is a grandma to ten.

JENNIE GARST | Member since 2009 | Jennie has a passion for serving—her family, the Church, women and missions. She currently serves as a Koinonia small group leader, confirmation mentor and is a member of the First Impressions team at the Oak Brook campus. She volunteers with Villages in Partnership (a mission partner) and has served on the MOPS steering team, in Sunday classes, as a COW herd leader and on mission trips to Malawi and Kenya. She and her husband, Jim, have two children, Charlotte and Lincoln, and two dogs. They live in Downers Grove.



NOMINATED FOR A THIRD TERM



DAVE LACINE | Member since 1990 | Dave has served in various capacities along with his wife Robin on mission trips, Nehemiah Ministries, New Members, Children’s Ministry, Couples Ministry, Growing Your Soul, spiritual formation, small groups, and on the Elder Board over the decades. He is a certified spiritual director as well as works with faith in the marketplace through C12 business forums. Dave and Robin live in Downers Grove and have two adult sons and six grandchildren with whom they love to spend time.

CHUCK WEBBER | Member since 2004 | Chuck is a former Elder on the Elder Council, a prayer warrior and one of the founders of The Upper Room prayer group. Chuck is certified in Spiritual Formation through The Transforming Center of Ruth Haley Barton. He is also a trained Spiritual Director in the Franciscan and Jesuit spiritualities, and he companions multiple individuals monthly. This decade-long ministry operates through Christ Church and Loyola University Chicago where he is Professor Emeritus of Physiology. He continues to co-lead Sunday Discipleship each week where he exercises his spiritual gift of Bible teaching. Chuck and Connie were married in 1970 and look forward to their 55th wedding anniversary this year. They have two adult children and five beloved grandchildren all of whom live in the area.



KRISTEN STUCK | Member since 2013 | Kristen is currently a faith mentor in Kidzone and a sophomore girls small group leader in Koinonia. She enjoys being a part of a Women of Hope small group and the Bible studies. Kristen is continuing in her position on Elder Council as a Student Ministry liaison. She loves to see people’s lives transformed by a personal and growing relationship with Jesus. Kristen and her husband Jason met at Wheaton College, have been married for 25 years and reside in Western Springs. She is home raising their four children and runs a real estate business.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, they must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

MARK 9:35

2025 Mission Report

2024 was a year of exciting momentum in the Mission ministries of Christ Church. God was on the move through our people and our partners, bringing relief, life change and the Good News of the Gospel to thousands.

Our Global and Domestic Missions MMAs disbursed more than \$826,000 of ongoing support to mission partners last year. Serving across the United States and from Costa Rica to Kenya to China and beyond, we are humbled by our partners' faithful work to Lift Women & Children, Relieve Suffering, Transform Communities, Develop Leaders and Multiply Churches & Disciples. Additionally, Christ Church mobilized \$294,000 of Discretionary Funding through grants, new initiatives and disaster relief in Chicagoland and abroad. \$65,000 of Global Disaster Relief offered rescue and restoration to victims of flooding in Kenya, political strife in Haiti and persecution in India. More than \$44,000 of Domestic Disaster Relief provided aid in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Ian, devastating wildfires in California and more.

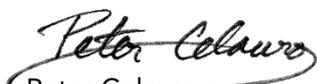
We were also humbled by the Missional Living of Christ Church people in 2024, as global Outreach Teams traveled to India, the Dominican Republic, Romania and Malawi. Here at home, 23 Administer Justice volunteers offered affordable legal assistance to 48 clients at our Gospel Justice Center. Twenty Christ Church adults provided Christian mentorship to elementary students through the Kids Hope program. Our FOR Chicagoland "First Saturday Serve" days saw volunteers delivering groceries to seniors with Breakthrough, preparing meals for DuPage PADS and fellowshipping with English-learners at our English Conversation Café. And October's FOR Chicagoland Annual Day of Service saw nearly 600 people scattered throughout the city and suburbs to serve 40 community organizations and mission partners.

During the FOR Christmas giving initiative, you gave more than \$70,000 to mission partner projects — along with over 1,000 candy stockings and more than 1,600 presents. Through our partners, the donated gifts were given to children in need by their parents, strengthening families.

In September we celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the Food Pantry Ministry, which has served more than 100,000 people with food, clothing, Bibles and prayer. After operating in the Salvation Army gym for many years, this ministry will find a permanent home at the Lift Center, opening at our Butterfield campus in the spring. We are thrilled to bring all of these need-meeting ministries together under one roof—a paradigm shift made possible by your generosity through LIFT.

The story of God's faithfulness continues in 2025. We look forward with eagerness to all that He will do in and through us in this exciting new chapter. We thank God for the privilege of joining Him in this work—and thank you for your generosity in making it possible!

To God be the Glory!


Peter Celauro

Senior Director of Missional Living

2025 Mission Budget

	2022	2023		2024
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Receipts				
Mission Fund Donations	\$ 98,634	\$ 46,780	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Mission Fund Fees	-	9,179	-	-
Christmas Mission Giving ¹	61,426	81,419	85,000	85,000
Donor Directed Funds ²	57,429	2,310	35,000	-
GO Team - volunteer raised ³	30,202	34,821	120,000	207,200
Benevolence Gifts ⁴	-	500	-	-
Total	\$ 247,691	\$ 175,009	\$ 300,000	\$ 352,200
American Missionaries Overseas	\$ 246,500	\$ 236,500	\$ 251,500	\$ 214,000
Nationals Overseas	\$ 177,000	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000	\$ 182,000
U.S. Based Ministries	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 105,000
Global Discretionary Disbursements	\$ 132,561	\$ 200,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 145,000
Total Global Missions Support	\$ 606,061	\$ 653,500	\$ 653,500	\$ 646,000
Seminary Support	\$ 49,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Domestic Outreach Programs	\$ 263,100	\$ 285,100	\$ 285,100	\$ 285,100
Domestic Discretionary Disbursements	\$ 125,030	\$ 175,349	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
Total Domestic Missions Support	\$ 388,130	\$ 460,449	\$ 460,100	\$ 460,100
Christ Church Mission Ministries		\$ 85,509	\$ 86,400	\$ 93,900
MISSION FUND Disbursements	\$ 1,206,769	\$ 1,249,457	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000
LIFT CENTER INITIATIVE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000
MISSION FUND Disbursements PLUS LIFT	\$ 1,206,769	\$ 1,249,457	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,750,000
Transfers ⁴	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Transfers (ONE FUND)	\$ (1,099,135)	\$ (1,109,706)	\$ (1,200,000)	\$ (1,700,000)
MISSION FUND Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (93,792)	\$ -	\$ -
MISSION DESIGNATED FUNDS				
¹ Christmas Mission Fund	\$ 80,585	\$ 43,095	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
² Donor Directed Fund	\$ 122,086	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ -
³ GO Team Fund	\$ 30,202	\$ 54,927	\$ 120,000	\$ 207,200
⁴ Benevolence Fund	\$ 6,440	\$ 7,523	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
TOTAL MISSION DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 1,446,083	\$ 1,355,003	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,052,200
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (99,256)	\$ (70,288)	\$ -	\$ -

CHRIST CHURCH 

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