

# 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

CHRIST CHURCH 

Oak Brook | Butterfield | LIFT Center | [ChristChurch.us](http://ChristChurch.us)



# Christ Church | 2026 | Annual Meeting

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Thursday, March 12 | 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Christ Church Auditorium | Livestream & Zoom

<b>Welcome &amp; Call to Order</b>	Sara Harris, Trustee Tim MacKenzie, Chairman of the Board
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Rev. Steve Carter, Lead Pastor
<b>Praise &amp; Worship</b>	Rochelle Burlock, Contemporary Worship Leader Jamal Sarikoki, Classic Worship Director
<b>Lead Pastor Report</b>	Rev. Steve Carter
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Tim MacKenzie
<b>Trustee Report</b>	Courtney Shuster, Vice Chair of the Board
<b>Financial Report</b>	Christina Mitchell, Trustee
<b>Missions Report</b>	Rev. Dr. Tracey Bianchi, Pastor for Adult Discipleship & Missions
<b>Celebration of Servanthood and Nominations</b>	Dave Lacine, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders Tim MacKenzie
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Rev. Steve Carter and Tim MacKenzie
<b>Adjournment</b>	Tim MacKenzie
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rev. Steve Carter



# Minutes | March 11, 2025

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**Welcome** | At 7:00 p.m. Sara Harris 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. Steve Carter, Lead Pastor of Christ Church of Oak Brook, called to order the 2025 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. Carter 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 12, 2024, Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

**Worship and Prayer** | Suanne Camfield offered Romans 11:33–36 as our scriptural call to worship. Jamal Sarikoki and Dave Garza led in the singing of *In Christ Alone* and *Jesus, We Love You*. Ricardo Simmons offered a word of prayer. Rev. Steve Carter prayed for wisdom, humility and clarity to address the matters of the meeting.

**Lead Pastor's Report** | Rev. Steve Carter referred the congregation to the written report of Rev. Dr. Dan Meyer. Rev. Steve Carter began his own remarks by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the new lead pastor of Christ Church. Rev. Carter spoke of his appreciation of the spiritual health and vitality of the church, the support and involvement of the members over generations, and the dedication of the trustees, elders, staff and volunteers. Rev. Carter then presented metrics highlighting growth in attendance, confirmations, baptisms and membership from 2022 to 2025. He also presented a brief donation update for 2025 explaining a weekly giving goal of \$238,750 for 2025. Rev. Carter closed his presentation expressing excitement about the church's momentum. He credits the vision of previous leaders, the faithfulness of the congregation and God's grace. Rev. Carter concluded with an expression of hope and confidence that the congregation will continue its generosity going forward.

**Trustee Board Report** | Trustee Board Vice-Chairman Tim MacKenzie thanked members for their presence and pointed them to his full written report in the annual meeting booklet. He framed the past year through Ecclesiastes 3:1, emphasizing trust in God's timing and faithfulness during a season of transition and growth at Christ Church. MacKenzie then summarized the work of the board during 2024 as follows:

**Financial Health & Stewardship** | The congregation demonstrated remarkable generosity and commitment over the past two years, not only meeting but exceeding the stewardship goals set for the LIFT initiative. Together, members contributed nearly \$32 million, a testament to their dedication to the church's mission and future. At the close of 2024, unrestricted institutional reserves stood at \$4.9 million, providing both a financial safety net and a strategic resource for upcoming initiatives. The church also made significant progress in reducing its mortgage debt, lowering it from \$8 million to \$5 million and fulfilling a key pledge of the LIFT campaign.

To further strengthen the church's long-term financial health, the board renewed its partnership with PhilanthroCorp Consulting Group, focusing on the intentional legacy giving ministry. This effort bore fruit as 62 households completed legacy planning, resulting in \$9 million in bequest commitments from 26 households and an additional \$1.6 million in potential gifts currently in progress.

**Major Investments in 2024** | Under the theme of "investment"—of money, time, prayer and trust—the board prioritized several critical areas. A significant portion of resources was dedicated to the search for a new lead pastor. This included forming a search committee, engaging professional consultants and a national search firm, and assembling a dedicated prayer team. The process culminated in the successful and Spirit-led call of Rev. Steve Carter.

Recognizing the importance of a smooth transition, the Board implemented a thoughtful plan that included a post-transition consulting agreement with Dan Meyer and the creation of a "Guardrails and Referee" document. This document was designed to prevent conflict and ensure clarity during the leadership change. Additionally, the church invested in expanding its Family Ministry and student center, underscoring its commitment to nurturing the next generation.

**Governance & Constitution Review** | The board undertook a comprehensive review of the church's 60-year-old Constitution, seeking to align it with current theological beliefs, best practices and effective governance. This process involved gathering extensive input from trustees, elders, past leaders and the congregation. Key assurances were provided: there would be no theological changes, and both Dan Meyer and Steve Carter expressed strong support for the updates. One notable change is that the lead pastor will continue to chair the Elder Board but will no longer chair the Trustee Board, a move intended to enhance accountability and avoid potential conflicts of interest.

**Trustee Board Leadership** | The board nominated four trustees for additional terms. Kevin Anetsberger and Kevin Waden agreed to continue serving as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, for 2025. Pending approval of the constitutional changes, Tim MacKenzie will serve as Trustee Board Chair, and Courtney Shuster will assume the role of Vice Chair, becoming the first woman to hold this position. The board prioritizes selecting candidates who collectively create a capable, diverse and effective governing body. It seeks individuals with wisdom, spiritual maturity, relevant professional experience, servant leadership qualities, demographic representation and strong communication skills to ensure a well-rounded and functional board.

**Looking Ahead** | The board conducted a forward-looking performance review with Rev. Carter, setting clear goals and expectations for 2025. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of Christ Church, with special celebrations planned to honor this milestone. The Board closed by asking for continued prayers for the church's leadership, staff and volunteers as they move into this new chapter.

MacKenzie described the process the board undertook to update our governing documents. He thanked Trustees Phil Perzek and Kevin Anetsberger for their work on this project. He referred members to the relevant documents in the Annual Report for review. Trustee Courtney Shuster made the following motion:

WHEREAS responsible organizational management requires that the church redraft articles of incorporation providing terms common to and expected for Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporations publicly filed with the Secretary of State,

WHEREAS redrafted articles of incorporation have, therefore, been adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 11, 2025, and filed with the State of Illinois,

WHEREAS responsible organizational management requires that the Church adopt appropriately tailored bylaws effective upon adoption of an amended and restated Constitution,

WHEREAS the filing of redrafted articles of incorporation provides a legal basis for amending the existing Church Constitution,

WHEREAS the church's 1965 Constitution was amended five times since it requires congregational approval for amendment providing that due notice of such proposed amendment has been provided at least one month prior to such meeting; and voting on all amendments shall be by ballot,

WHEREAS notice was mailed to all members on February 11, 2025:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees present to the congregation for ballot approval at the 2025 annual meeting held this day March 11, 2025, the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the congregation approve by ballot the amended and restated Constitution as presented on the church's website and on pages 18 to 21 of the annual meeting materials.

Motion was duly seconded, discussed and the vote called by Rev. Carter. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** | Trustee Kevin Waden, Treasurer of Christ Church, began by thanking the congregation for their continued support of the church, particularly through the LIFT initiative, which enabled projects like the new student center, preschool restart, addressing deferred maintenance and debt reduction. Over two years the church raised \$31.9 million in donations and generated a total income of \$33.4 million. Total expenditures amounted to \$35.1 million, with \$26.3 million dedicated to core operations and missions and \$6 million spent on LIFT-related projects. The church also reduced its debt by \$3 million, leaving just under \$5 million remaining by the end of January 2025.

The debt was refinanced in February, splitting it into two tranches: one with a 5.5% interest rate for five years, and another with a 5.6% interest rate for seven years. This restructuring reduces the church's debt burden by more than 50%, providing greater flexibility in the budget. The church's debt is considered low relative to its assets, which strengthens its financial position.

Looking ahead, the church's operational budget for the coming year is set at \$12.4 million, with the total budget including mission and capital expenditures. The budget is balanced and the church is in a good financial position moving forward, despite recent challenges. The finance team is optimistic and believes the congregation will continue to support the church's vision and growth.

**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 | Lauri Aldrich, Howard Bromwell, Bruce Buteyn, Elizabeth Celauro, Hugh Coonrod, Matt Franklin, Jan Huskisson, Lyn Lammers and Luke Tenery.

From the Diaconate | Shirley Baird, Ann Bradley, Dina Coffey, Peggy Ferrell, Penny O'Neill, Karen Schlueter, Patricia Simms, Steve St. Clair, Terry Koshgarian and Lyn Shean.

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 | Paige Biba, Birdie Dixon, Beverly Hemphill, Allicia Smrha, Cathy Bulthuis, Sena Slavik, Joe Goodwin, Steve Smrha, Alisa Van Hekken, Dave Bianchin, David Ferrell and Dave Van Der Laan.

For second term on Board of Elders | Phyllis Smith, Becky Ross, Carla Peer and Jennie Garst.

For a third term on the Board of Elders | Dave Lacine, Chuck Webber and Kristen Stuck.

For second term on Board of Trustees | Sara Harris and Philip Perzek.

For third term on Board of Trustees | Timothy MacKenzie and Kevin Waden.

Rev. Carter asked for retiring Elders to stand and be recognized. He then opened the floor for questions before making a motion 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.

Elder Vice Chair Dave Lacine explained that the Board of Elders is also responsible for the selection of new Deacons. We will be formally recognizing the new Deacons along with the new Elders at our installation service on March 16.

**Missions Report** | Peter Celauro highlighted a year of significant growth and impact for Christ Church's mission activities. Through the generous support of the congregation, the church was able to contribute more than \$800,000 to mission partners around the world—from Chicago to Costa Rica to Kenya. The church mobilized nearly \$300,000 in special projects and disaster relief.

In addition to financial contributions, the church's global outreach teams traveled to India, the Dominican Republic and Nepal to serve and encourage local missions. At home, volunteers served through various ministries, such as Administer Justice, which provided affordable legal assistance to 48 clients, and Kids Hope, where 17 adults mentored elementary students. The Mission Cafe volunteers, many of whom were high school students, helped support mission efforts by serving coffee and donuts on Sundays.

The church also made an impact through community service events, such as the For Chicagoland annual day of service, which saw nearly 600 participants serving across the city. Additionally, the church's For Christmas giving initiative raised more than \$70,000 for mission partner projects and provided over 1,000 candy stockings and 1,600 presents to children in need.

The church also celebrated the 20th anniversary of its food pantry ministry, which has served more than 100,000 people. Starting in June 2025, the pantry will move to a permanent home at the LIFT Center at the Butterfield campus, which will house a variety of services focused on food, wellness, care, education and community.

In total, Christ Church mobilized more than \$1.25 million and thousands of volunteer hours in 2024. As they look to 2025, the church is excited to continue its mission work and is grateful for the congregation's ongoing support.

**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. Questions regarding the budget process and staffing were presented and addressed.

**Closing Prayer** | Closing prayer was offered by Dave Melvin.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Anetsberger  
Secretary of Christ Church

# Trustee Report

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We are blessed to be members of a church that places a strong emphasis on teaching the Word of God and living to follow Jesus in our daily lives. As we gather as a community of faith at the beginning of 2026, we have an opportunity both to reflect on the past year and to look ahead with anticipation, remaining mindful of God's calling for us to be disciples for His purposes.

## 2025 | A Year of Transition and Encouragement

The Trustees are entrusted with key strategic, financial and administrative responsibilities for Christ Church. I am grateful to serve alongside colleagues who carry out these responsibilities with dedication, humility and faithfulness.

Highlights from 2025 included:

- A time of celebration and appreciation for Rev. Dr. Dan Meyer's leadership of Christ Church and his thoughtful preparation to welcome and smoothly transition the Lead Pastor role to Rev. Steve Carter.
- The successful completion of the LIFT initiative, the opening of the LIFT Center at Butterfield and the reopening of our renovated student and family centers.
- A comprehensive review and updating of our governing Constitution.
- A revamped oversight and performance review model for our Lead Pastor.
- A re-envisioned strategic operating model for prioritizing our church's most important initiatives in collaboration with Intentional Churches. This has thus far included re-evaluating our worship times, rethinking our engagement pathway and equipping our leaders on how to engage and embrace our congregation on their discipleship journey.
- A renewed focus on Stewardship and Development, including adopting the "straight-line" method for tracking our operating budget that Steve reviewed with us quarterly, as well as engaging with a strategic consulting firm to help us map out our future strategy and approach to cultivating generosity within our congregation.

## Lead Pastor Transition

- One year ago, we looked ahead with excitement and anticipation as Steve Carter assumed the role of Lead Pastor, the third in Christ Church's 60-year history. While change naturally brings some fear of the unknown, Steve's transition has been marked by clarity, unity and faithfulness.
- As Steve enters his second year of leadership, we are reminded that this successful transition was the result of thoughtful planning, Dan Meyer's exemplary commitment to his successor, the diligent work of the Search Committee and most importantly the faithful prayers of the Christ Church community.
- As a Trustee Board, we are excited to partner with Steve and our dedicated staff to serve the Christ Church congregation in 2026 and beyond.

## Financial Overview

We continue to be encouraged by the generosity of our congregation. Budgeting in an ever-changing financial and societal environment is never simple. Doing so during a year of leadership transition added an additional layer of uncertainty. Our 2025 donation goal of \$12.5 million represented a significant step of faith, particularly following the successful completion of the two-year LIFT initiative at the end of 2024.

We also considered the financial implications of how best to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Christ Church. After reviewing several options, Rev. Steve Carter and the senior staff, in partnership with the Trustee Board, chose to take another step of faith. Rather than focusing inward, the Above + Beyond Initiative was launched to support 60 churches—locally, nationally and globally—with up to \$600,000 in total funding.

By God’s grace, our congregation’s generosity exceeded our expectations. Donations of slightly more than \$14 million in 2025 allow us to fully fund our operating budget and fulfill the Above + Beyond commitment to all 60 churches. The Trustees are reviewing options for the remaining surplus, including further debt reduction, essential capital maintenance projects, support for the 2026 operating budget and additional investment in our Missions efforts.

Over the past 12 months our outstanding mortgage debt has been reduced from \$6.9 million to \$4.8 million. Our Cash Reserves remain healthy at approximately \$6.3 million. The Trustee Board will continue to prioritize the prudent stewardship of these reserve funds, which serve both as a financial safety net during times of economic uncertainty and as a resource for occasional non-budgeted needs.

In collaboration with the Board’s Finance Committee and church staff, the Trustees are finalizing the 2026 budget, which will be presented for congregational approval at the March 12 Annual Meeting.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we move forward into 2026, key areas of the Trustee’s focus include:

- A thorough analysis of future growth opportunities and building needs, including multi-site discussions, updates to the Christ Church Facility Master Plan, and an assessment and prioritization of existing and future capital requirements.
- Strategic operating model development and implementation, including the establishment of major initiatives to set the foundation for the next 3–5 years of living into the Great Commission together.
- Refocused stewardship and development strategy to create a structured and sustainable model for cultivating generosity and legacy giving.
- Ongoing Lead Pastor oversight and performance assessments, including the continuation of quarterly reviews to maintain a regular forum for communication on progress, challenges and opportunities. Support for the Lead Pastor as he invests in the development and the fulfillment of staff potential.

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

Giving God the glory for all blessings,



Tim MacKenzie  
Chairman of the Board

# Trustee Nominations

For the Office of Trustee 2026–2028

Trustees are to be respected disciples with a record of effective service to Christ Church. Normally, they will also be experienced 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

**Kevin Anetsberger** | Member since 1999 | Kevin is an active member of Christ Church. He has served on the Board of Trustees for three years. As an officer of the church, he serves as Secretary of the church and of the board. Kevin participates on the Governance Committee. He formerly served as Vice-Chair of the Elder Board and was Chairman of the Elder Council. He was a Confirmation mentor for eight years and served on the Parent Team, the Strategic Planning Team and the Take Root Campaign Steering Committee. Kevin was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and raised in Elmhurst. Kevin owns and manages two industrial manufacturing companies. He and his wife Nancy live in Burr Ridge, have three adult children and five grandchildren.



## NOMINATED FOR A THIRD TERM



**Peter Hart** | Member since 2006 | Dr. Hart is the System Chairman of the Department of Medicine for Cook County Health. His experience as a physician and medical leader at Stroger Hospital acquaints him not only with a vast variety of human and healthcare needs, but also the workings of a large complex and diverse organization. Peter has served as a Trustee for eight years with wisdom and prayerful discernment. Peter was a member of the Bridge CommUNITY and is involved in Nigerian Christian and cultural organizations and enjoys English football (soccer) and comedies. Peter and his wife Mina reside in Oak Brook and enjoy spending time with three adult daughters, Ibie, Sotonye, Belema and grandson, Noah.

**Courtney Shuster** | Member since 1991 | Courtney was baptized and married at Christ Church. Following in her parents' footsteps, who held various leadership roles at Christ Church, Courtney is an officer of the church serving as Vice-Chair. Courtney has served as an Elder, on the Elder Council and for the past six years as a Trustee. She is Vice-Chair of the board and participates on the Governance Committee. She was also previously involved in the Children's Ministry and started a monthly fellowship group for professional women. Courtney is a tech entrepreneur and consultant who advises clients on product innovation and strategy at a digital consulting firm in Chicago. Her husband, Mark, is an Elder and active volunteer in the high school ministry with their kids, Sydney and Tyler.



# Treasurer Report

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The Church's Chief Financial Officer, in conjunction with the Trustees 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 2025 activity, which demonstrates a strong commitment from the congregation in a time of significant church transition.

## 2025 One Fund Results

One Fund Donation Income	\$	13,463,731
Above + Beyond Initiative		600,000
Fee Income		849,253
Total Income	\$	14,912,984
Operating Expenses	\$	(12,791,910)
Mission Expense		(1,279,025)
Capital   Debt—Normal principal and interest payments		(393,087)
Capital   Normal Capex		(296,773)
Capital   LIFT   Incremental Debt Paydown		(1,993,652)
Capital   LIFT   Capex		(685,987)
Total Expenses	\$	(17,440,434)
Total Receipts less Disbursements	\$	(2,527,450)
Planned use of Prior Year Surplus		3,730,684
Net Surplus	\$	1,203,234

We praise God for the faithfulness of our congregation for their continued financial support of Christ Church along with the call to support 60 other churches as part of the Above + Beyond initiative. Operating expenses related to staff and programming costs were slightly higher than budget during the year, which is attributed to the growth of the congregation and the costs to support that growth. During 2025, we completed several projects that were funded by the LIFT campaign donations. Most notable amongst these were the incremental debt principal pay down and completion of the LIFT Center, which officially opened last spring.

## 2025 Debt Outstanding

Mortgage as of January 1, 2025	\$	6,936,660
Incremental Debt Paydown January 2025		(1,993,652)
Other Debt Paydown		(128,656)
Mortgage as of December 31, 2025	\$	<u>4,814,352</u>

For 2026, the CFO, Finance Committee and the Trustees have been working in conjunction with the staff to develop a recommended budget informed by our recent giving patterns. The significant components include funding of Ministry Operating expenditures of \$13.6 million, Missions expenditures of \$1.4 million and Capital expenditures of \$900,000. For 2026, the allocation to Missions is approximately \$200,000 higher than previous years, reflecting an increased commitment to our mission partners as supported by increased congregational giving. The Capital expenditures budget has been increased by a similar amount, reflecting a need to continue to invest in our facilities for the future. The Capital Budget has been approved by the Trustee Board, and the Missions Budget has been approved by the Elder Board.

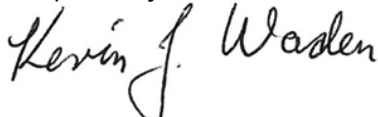
Over the years, Christ Church has accumulated, invested and utilized, as appropriate, cash reserves. As a Trustee Board, we are committed to maintaining these reserves so that they are available for strategic initiatives as well as a backstop, when necessary, against shortfalls in donations.

### Cash Reserves (excluding designated accounts)

Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$	6,477,584
Funds used to Paydown Debt		(1,284,808)
Net Other Contributions and Withdrawals		501,218
Net Return on Investments		585,107
Balance as of December 31, 2025	\$	<u>6,279,101</u>

The Trustees are excited and energized by this past year, 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 2025. We pray that you will continue to invest and grow with those ministries for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Waden  
Treasurer, Christ Church

# One Fund

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u> <b>A</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Income			
1 Donations	\$ 12,540,000	\$ 13,463,731	\$ 14,000,000
2 Above & Beyond	-	600,000	-
3 TOTAL DONATION INCOME	<u>\$ 12,540,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,063,731</u>	<u>\$ 14,000,000</u>
4 Fees	831,000	849,253	1,163,907
5 TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 13,371,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,912,984</u>	<u>\$ 15,163,907</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
Operating Fund			
6 Operating Fund	\$ 12,401,050	\$ 12,791,910	\$ 13,640,920
Mission Fund			
7 Mission Fund	1,302,950	1,279,025	1,445,750
Capital Fund			
8 Building and Equipment	300,000	296,773	545,000
9 Mortgage Principal & Interest	327,000	393,087	366,372
10 Recurring Capital Subtotal	<u>627,000</u>	<u>689,860</u>	<u>911,372</u>
11 Lift Expenditures: Incremental Debt Paydown	1,993,652	1,993,652	-
12 Lift Expenditures: Capex	803,906	685,987	-
13 Lift Expenditures Subtotal	<u>2,797,558</u>	<u>2,679,639</u>	<u>-</u>
14 Capital Fund Subtotal	<u>3,424,558</u>	<u>3,369,499</u>	<u>911,372</u>
15 Total Disbursements	<u>17,128,558</u>	<u>17,440,434</u>	<u>15,998,042</u>
16 Total Receipts less Disbursements	(3,757,558)	(2,527,450)	(834,135)
17 Planned use of prior year reserves	3,757,558	3,730,684	834,135
18 SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL) to Budget	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,203,234</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**A** The 2026 Budget excludes \$600,000 of Above & Beyond Donations that were collected in 2025 and will be contributed to the 60 churches and ministries during 2026.

**B** In 2025 the LIFT Expenditures Capex Budget \$439,362 to build out the LIFT Center and \$246,625 to complete various campus quality projects.

**C** In 2025, the planned use of prior year surplus was used to complete the Lift projects, to make a \$2 million debt paydown and to cover the additional costs in the operating budget. In 2026, the planned use of prior year reserves will be used to cover increased capex and additional operating expenditures that support the mission of Christ Church.

# Operating Budget

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	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET
EXPENSES			
<i>STAFF LEADERSHIP</i>			
1	\$ 7,350,000	\$ 7,333,952	\$ 7,491,881
2	465,000	434,145	492,196
3	1,193,000	1,266,509	1,603,672
4	<u>\$ 9,008,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,034,606</u>	<u>\$ 9,587,749</u>
 <i>MINISTRY PROGRAM</i>			
5	\$ 294,000	\$ 407,414	\$ 366,050
6	770,000	959,070	1,069,948
7	289,050	290,595	303,363
8	<u>\$ 1,353,050</u>	<u>\$ 1,657,079</u>	<u>\$ 1,739,361</u>
 <i>MINISTRY SERVICES</i>			
9	\$ 616,000	\$ 634,074	\$ 696,479
10	746,000	755,223	852,863
11	540,000	522,777	577,468
12	138,000	188,151	187,000
13	<u>\$ 2,040,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,100,225</u>	<u>\$ 2,313,810</u>
14	<u>\$ 12,401,050</u>	<u>\$ 12,791,910</u>	<u>\$ 13,640,920</u>

# Mission Report

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2025 was an exciting year for our Missions ministries at Christ Church. Through the generosity and service of this congregation we were able to join God's work in 70+ ministries both here in the Chicagoland area and around the world. Many of our partners share more than a decade of ministry with us and often note the joy of our long-standing friendship. For 60 years the people of Christ Church have faithfully prayed and connected with God's heart to lift vulnerable communities and share the love of Jesus.

Our LIFT Center officially opened on June 14 with a wonderful open house and celebration. In just seven months we've had the opportunity to welcome more than 400 guests with dignity, kindness and respect and more than 260 ongoing volunteers help make this ministry possible. Beyond sourcing food, the LIFT Center is home to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, legal services, benevolence support and opportunities for clients to receive care and learn more about essential wrap-around services to help families thrive. 100 people pray weekly for our guests, and a beautiful community of care and love takes shape there every week. We are tremendously grateful for God's provision through the LIFT Center.

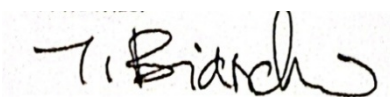
Global Outreach teams traveled to visit partners and deepen friendships in Kenya, Romania, Burundi, the Dominican Republic, and 29 college students traveled to Tijuana, Mexico.

We were grateful to provide more than \$860,000 to support our ongoing partners (local and global). Through our missions' committees, we disbursed an additional \$295,000 in grants. Grant monies were awarded to provide disaster relief in places such as Texas, Sudan, Pasadena, Myanmar, Iran and Kenya. We also had the joy of supporting new initiatives and projects like a baseball field for Kids Alive in the Dominican Republic and Bibles for inmates in Cook County Department of Corrections. Through our FOR Christmas initiative, we disbursed an additional \$48,000 to partners to help provide essential items like food, Bibles, hygiene kits for people living on the streets and materials for education in under-resourced communities.

In December we celebrated the retirement of our long-time friend and administrative partner, Eileen Hoban. We also welcomed a new Domestic Missions Director and fully staffed the LIFT Center with a team of four dynamic leaders. We are grateful for incredible ministry that the people of Christ Church enthusiastically support every single week, and we look forward to how God will lead us onward together into 2026. As the words of Jesus remind us in John 20:21, we are a sent people, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

Thank you for living out that call and for your faithfulness to the ministry of our Lord.

With great joy,



Rev. Dr. Tracey Bianchi  
Pastor for Adult Discipleship & Missions

# Mission Budget

	2024	2025		2026
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
Mission Fund Donations	\$ 53,775	\$ 38,565	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Mission Fund Fees	-	-	-	-
Christmas Mission Giving <sup>1</sup>	71,512	60,052	75,000	75,000
Donor Directed Funds <sup>2</sup>	327,175	72,347	-	-
GO Team - volunteer raised <sup>3</sup>	13,805	22,770	-	-
Benevolence Gifts <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL MISSION RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 466,267</b>	<b>\$ 193,734</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>
American Missionaries Overseas	\$ 194,000	\$ 218,000	\$ 218,000	\$ 214,500
Nationals Overseas	\$ 182,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000
U.S. Based Ministries	\$ 115,000	\$ 102,500	\$ 102,500	\$ 111,500
Global Discretionary Disbursements	\$ 155,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 137,500
<b>Total Global Missions Support</b>	<b>\$ 646,000</b>	<b>\$ 653,500</b>	<b>\$ 653,500</b>	<b>\$ 653,500</b>
<b>Seminary Support</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
Domestic Outreach Programs	\$ 285,100	\$ 302,500	\$ 302,500	\$ 308,500
Domestic Discretionary Disbursements	\$ 139,000	\$ 152,000	\$ 152,000	\$ 146,000
<b>Total Domestic Missions Support</b>	<b>\$ 424,100</b>	<b>\$ 454,500</b>	<b>\$ 454,500</b>	<b>\$ 454,500</b>
<b>Christ Church Mission Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 90,120</b>	<b>\$ 92,982</b>	<b>\$ 118,000</b>	<b>\$ 208,750</b>
<b>MISSION FUND Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 1,210,220</b>	<b>\$ 1,250,982</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,366,750</b>
Transfers Out - Benevolence <sup>4</sup>	\$ 27,120	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
Transfers In - Other	\$ (4,120)			
Transfers (ONE FUND)	\$ (1,179,445)	\$ (1,222,417)	\$ (1,236,000)	\$ (1,341,750)
<b>MISSION FUND Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>MISSION DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>				
<sup>1</sup> Christmas Mission Fund	\$ 80,292	\$ 81,027	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
<sup>2</sup> Donor Directed Fund	\$ 358,297	\$ 80,875	\$ -	\$ -
<sup>3</sup> GO Team Fund	\$ 17,589	\$ 22,770	\$ -	\$ -
<sup>4</sup> Benevolence Fund	\$ 5,921	\$ 13,581	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
<b>TOTAL MISSION DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,672,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,449,235</b>	<b>\$ 1,361,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,466,750</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,487)	(33,084)	\$ -	\$ -

# Elder Report

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As we celebrate the completion of our inaugural year with Rev. Steve Carter as Lead Pastor, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the unmistakable grace and guidance that God has bestowed upon us during this period of transition. The achievement of a robust budget, the successful realization of the Above + Beyond initiative, and the emphasis on discipleship stand as powerful testaments to God's enduring goodness and faithfulness to the Christ Church family.

The Board of Elders plays a vital role in guiding Christ Church by offering thoughtful counsel to the Lead Pastor and professional staff regarding the spiritual direction and well-being of our congregation. In addition to advising, the board collaborates closely with church leadership to oversee and cultivate the mission, ensuring our core values and vision are upheld in every initiative. One of the board's key responsibilities is to review and approve the annual support and expense plan, as prepared by the Mission Leadership Team, providing strategic stewardship over church resources. This past year, we have witnessed continued growth and revitalization across each Major Ministry Area (MMA). At each of the three Elder Board meetings annually, a different ministry is spotlighted, allowing us to transparently share our ongoing challenges, emerging opportunities and noteworthy accomplishments, fostering clear communication and a spirit of unity throughout the church family.

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

The Elder Council gathers each month, faithfully beginning every meeting with a dedicated 30-minute time of prayer for the church and its needs. This sacred practice has become a cornerstone, fostering unity among us as we collectively seek to advance God's Kingdom through Christ Church's ministry. Our Council is composed of members actively engaged in various MMAs, with most participating directly in their respective committees. To maintain a clear understanding of the church's ongoing initiatives, we regularly receive updates from our members on ministry activities and welcome presentations from staff, keeping us informed and connected to the life of the congregation.

Additionally, teams continue to meet virtually on Sunday mornings and throughout the week for prayer, seeking God's grace and guidance. This practice, which emerged during the COVID season, remains a vibrant and growing part of our church life. We encourage all Elders and members of the Christ Church community to pray steadfastly for wisdom, discernment and direction as we look forward to a future filled with opportunities for a meaningful impact in advancing God's Kingdom both locally and globally.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Lacine  
Vice-Chair, Board of Elders

# Celebration of Service

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## Retiring from Service on the Board of Elders

Britt Dudgeon  
Mary Haggard  
Kimberly Leigh  
Sharon Marinier  
Allie Noble  
Susie Purser  
Susan Rairigh  
Bob Schukies  
Bob Stephansen  
Linda Van Horn

## Retiring from Service on the Diaconate

Griselda de Alba  
Mary Lou Lapsos  
Precious Schultz  
Lana Ferren  
Kelly Frantz  
Pam Slosson  
Joan Smrha  
Gail Weerts

# Elder Committee Appointments

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Appointed by the Board of Elders on January 17, 2026

## Diaconate First Term

Linda Brannigan  
Jan Derald  
Linnie Francois  
Jenny Kemmerling  
Carole Liberti  
Carol Ann Smith  
Karen Sugay

## Diaconate Second Term

Arye Dethmers  
Cindy Kleidon  
Jim Rohr  
Holly Stammers

## Stephen Ministers

Olga Collier  
Diana Fox  
Melissa Hanke  
Katie Keller  
Jonathan King  
Rosalie King  
Alex Kirk  
Melissa Sandy  
Ed Sugay

# Elder Nominations

For the Office of Elder 2026–2028

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

**Children’s Ministry | Erin Brighty |** Member since 2025 | Erin has served in children’s ministry in many capacities, third grade Bible class, 4-year-olds Sunday morning class, small group coach for Kids Club and as a leader for COW mission trips. She also served on the steering committee for the launch of Wednesday Kids Club. Erin loves working with children and is passionate about pointing them towards Jesus. She lives in Bensenville with her husband, Jami, and two sons, Aidan and Jackson.



**Diaconal | Julie Bianchin |** Member since 2016 | Julie finds great joy in serving in small groups or one-on-one. She has served as a deaconess, a small group leader, a Stephen Minister, a prayer minister and has helped serve at the food pantry. In her free time she enjoys swimming, watercolor painting, gardening, reading and being with family and friends. She and her husband, Dave, have three grown children and three grandchildren.

**Diaconal | Deborah Hoalt |** Member since 1988 | Debbie is a retired elementary school teacher who has served as deaconess for six years (three of these as co-chair). She is also on the First Impressions team and participates in Women of Hope. Debbie lives in Darien and enjoys traveling, reading, attending opera and theater, and spending time with friends and family.



**First Impressions | Donald Eizenga |** Member since 2006 | Don has served on the First Impressions team as a Classic Worship usher since 2013. He has been a part of Team World Vision and has run the Chicago Marathon since 2015. Don is also involved in our men’s and mission’s ministries and has helped at For Chicagoland. Don is married to Susan, and they live in Elk Grove Village with their children, Evan, Nick and Chloe.

**First Impressions | Christine Waden |** Member since 2015 | Chris serves on our First Impressions team as a member of CAST (Oak Brook medical lead). She is also the medical advisor for student and elementary Ministries trips and camps and a volunteer for KidCo. Chris and her husband, Kevin, live in Downers Grove, and have three children, Rebecca, Allison and Jared.





**First Impressions | Sue Williams |** Member since 2015 | Sue serves on the First Impressions team as a Contemporary worship usher. She is also a small group leader for Women of Hope, a deaconess and a member of a couples' small group. She loves traveling, playing with her dogs and reading. Sue and her husband, Dave, live in Elmhurst and have three grown children, Christopher, Noelle and Michelle.

**Group Life | Kathryn Scanland |** Member since 2025 | Kathryn has served as a Rooted group facilitator, a new member journey partner and is a spiritual director. She has a passion for coming alongside others to navigate the intersection of leadership and spiritual formation. She was an elder, confirmation mentor and served on several ministry boards at her previous church. Kathryn lives in Westchester and enjoys reading, exploring art galleries and hiking in the forest preserves near her home.



**Global Missions | Stacy McGowan |** Member since 2016 | Stacy has served on two GO teams, led both middle and high school mission trips, is currently involved in women's ministry and family ministry and co-leads an amazing group of high schoolers. Stacy was previously on staff but stepped away to focus on her baking business. When she's not rolling out cookie dough or hanging with her family, she can be found looking for a great cup of coffee, dreaming of her next vacation or *still* trying to improve her paddle game. Stacy and her husband, John, live in Hinsdale with their three children.

**Global Missions | Chelsey Pjesky |** Member since 2025 | Chelsey and her family have been involved at Christ Church for more than 20 years, and she currently serves on the Global Mission committee. She has led mission trips to the Dominican Republic for the past three years and is traveling there again later this year. She is also very involved with Women of Hope. Chelsey is a technology transformation consultant. She lives in Hinsdale with her husband, Scott, and their three daughters, Sydney, Hannah and Macey.



**Worship | Anne McClary |** Member since 1974 | Anne grew up at Christ Church with her brother Mark, and parents Henry and Dorothy Bronson and became a member through Confirmation. She is currently in the Chancel Choir and previously was in handbell choir and brass ensemble. She has served as a mentor mom for MOPS, a confirmation mentor and a deaconess. She was on staff part-time in the database department. She enjoys reading, skiing, gardening, quilting and, most of all, playing with her grandchildren. Anne and her husband Steve live in Willowbrook and have four adult daughters and three grandchildren.



## NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM



**Domestic Missions | Rick Blauw** | Member since 2019 | Rick currently serves in the LIFT Market as the Inventory Coach and is a member of the Elder Council. Rick previously served as the lead inventory volunteer for the food pantry. Rick and his wife, Dianne, were members of Fountain of Life Church from 1977 to 2019, where Rick served as an elder for almost 13 years and as board secretary for 11 years. They live in Woodridge and enjoy spending time with their four adult children and two grandchildren.

**Global Missions | Robin Carlson** | Member since 2022 | Robin currently serves on the Global Missions team. She has been involved in small groups and since 2012 has run numerous marathons as part of Team World Vision. Recently, after sensing God's calling, she earned a master's degree in Missions from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Robin lives in Chicago and is a physical therapist specializing in wound management.



**Group Life | Thomas Ferguson** | Member since 2015 | Tommy has served as a middle school volunteer with COW and a high school leader with Koinonia. Tommy is also on the Elder Council and was on the Lead Pastor Search Committee. He values small group life and is an active member of multiple groups across the young families and men's ministries. Tommy and his wife, Alli, have three children, Sam, Lauren and Elise. He resides in La Grange and works in data science in the commercial insurance industry.

**Group Life | Kris Stevenson** | Member since 2016 | Kris serves our high school students at Koinonia and Mosaic, facilitates a small group at Women of Hope and helps with childcare for MomCo. Kris has been involved in a variety of ministries over the years including VBS groups, volunteered at the food pantry and went on three high school mission trips to Baja, Mexico. Kris has had the joy of recording several episodes of the Deeper Still podcast with Suanne Camfield. Kris and her husband Todd live in Downers Grove and have three children, Jake, Grace and Maggie.



**Worship | Dan Coffey** | Member since 1978 | Dan will continue in his third term as an elder, serving in the worship area. Previously, he served on the Elder Council, worship committee, family pastor search committee and unemployment ministry. Most recently he enjoyed being part of Take Root and two different Rooted groups, both as a participant and co-leader. Early, he was involved in the college ministry serving as a volunteer; he also taught classes at the church. Dan and his wife, Dina were married at Christ Church, they live in West Chicago and have two adult sons.



CHRIST CHURCH 

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Butterfield | LIFT Center | 25361 Glen Park Rd., Lombard

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