

Trinity Parish Vestry Meeting

June 15, 2023

Attendees: Carol Jones, Connie Harasymiw, Garth Myers, Rob Heath, Melanie Hepburn, Charles Melchreit, Kathy Cole, Cheryl Chadsey, Susanna Brown, Don Ghostlaw.

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm.

1. Opening Prayer. Connie Harasymiw. Members were asked to look over the meeting schedule through February and consider selecting a meeting to lead opening prayer so that this is a shared experience.
2. Monthly reports.
 - a. Approval of minutes. Motion to accept the minutes made by Kathy Cole, second by Charles Melchreit. No discussion. Minutes approved unanimously.
 - b. Monthly financial report. Rob Heath. Income is slightly above anticipated, and expenses are below anticipated. Report (probably) reflects the final distribution of the Nielsen gift of \$14,000, bringing the total gift to more than \$400,000. Motion to file the Treasurer's report made by Garth Myers, second by Bruce Duncan. Discussion centered on what Nielsen was concerned about when he was an active in the parish. Nothing specific was noted in the will regarding how the gift might be used or recognized. Motion approved unanimously.
 - c. Financial concerns. Charles Melchreit. Discussion of financial stability and recommendations of the diocese to have 4-6 months expenses available in checking account (our current practice is 2-3 months). Recommendation is to keep some funds in a money market/interest bearing account, and other funds in checking account. Part of the reason for doing this is the difficulty of getting funds out of the endowment account, which can take weeks to months. Paperwork has been forwarded to Treasurer, Rob Heath. Issue of who should be an additional signatory on a new Vanguard account was considered. Charles Melchreit moved that the vestry approve establishing a money market account with \$20,000 in concordance with diocese guidelines, second by Garth Myers. Vote to approve unanimous, motion passes.
 - d. Office copier lease. Rob Heath. Copier lease expired a few months ago. Choice is either to continue to lease on a month to month arrangement for \$99 per month, sign a new lease for 39 months for app. \$75 per month, or shop for a new lease that would likely be higher than \$100 per month. (Maintenance on copier is on a yearly renewal.) Rob Heath moved that we lease the current copier for 39 months with Canon Financial for an estimated \$75 per month, second by Kathy Cole. Vote to approve unanimous, motion passes.
 - e. Mission and Outreach. Susanna Brown. Motion that a check from account #5246000 in the amount of \$500 be made out to Wethersfield Social Services in support of their backpack program. Motion presented by Susanna Brown, seconded by Don Ghostlaw. Vote to approve unanimous, motion passes. Move that that a check from account #5246000 in the amount of \$2000 be made to Kateri Medical Mission to be presented to Father Tom Furrer at Tapestry Singers concert on June 25th. Motion made by Susanna Brown, second by Bruce Duncan. Vote to approve unanimous, motion passes.

3. Additional items for agenda. None.
4. New business.
 - a. Stewardship realty update. Connie Harasymiw. Report on presentation by Stewardship Realty for maximizing the facility/property, one option was development of affordable housing in back parking lot and additional strip. Next meeting has been set for June 21st with all three wardens for further presentation. Further conversation re how Parish Realty could assist us in finding new partners in sharing expenses with the ground floor space. Will report back at the July vestry meeting.
 - b. Concert. Carol Jones. Tapestry Singers for benefit of Kateri Medical Clinic. Father Tom Furrer will also make a presentation. St. Andrews is also advertising this event.
 - c. Organist. Garth Myers. A substitute organist is coming to play the organ the next two Sundays. She is a native of Wethersfield, has been a music director of a Lutheran church, she is familiar with Episcopal services. The use of cantors during Morning Prayer was well received and we will continue this practice during Morning Prayer through July.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Update on Priest in Charge. Garth Myers. The wardens have experienced that the diocesan office has not been terrifically responsive. The wardens have decided to reach out and initiate conversations with a few clergy.
 - b. Live streaming update. Don Ghostlaw. The letter to the parish explaining the project will be going out to the congregation shortly. Still waiting on Go Net Speed to confirm installation and some technical issues to be resolved. Still several weeks out.
6. Committee reports.
 - a. Outreach and Mission. No updates.
 - b. Issa family. Carol Jones. Update on car fund and schooling for the younger children. The younger children will be coming to Wethersfield High School for next academic year. The older one should receive his high school diploma May 2024. The family is interested in moving to Wethersfield in 2024.
 - c. Property. Connie Harasymiw. As per Warren – the furnace has been turned off, if anyone will be working in the church and needs temperature adjusted, please be in touch with Warren or Clark. Much of the basement was cleared out last weekend.
 - d. Worship Committee. Garth Myers. Report on status of the parish customaries for worship services, including a calendar of canticles. Committee is also considering a date for return to common cup for Communion, as supported by the diocese. In a few weeks, we will start bringing the elements up during the offertory. The worship committee will be working on a statement to provide to parishioners and visiting celebrants.
7. Action items.
 - a. Copier lease renewal.
 - b. Establishment of Vanguard account.
 - c. Wardens to consider appropriate recognition of Nielsen gift.
 - d. Wardens will start reaching out to potential candidates.
8. Closing prayer. Connie Harasymiw.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melanie Hepburn

6/15/2023