

Trinity Parish Wethersfield

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2025

Attendees: Connie Harasymiw, Cheryl Chadsey, Greg Joseph, Carol Jones, Don Ghostlaw, Kathy Cole, Melissa Pavick, Melanie Hepburn, Rob Heath, Bruce Duncan, Aversa Sheldon.

6:32pm Meeting called to order.

1. Opening prayer. Kathy Cole.
2. Motion for Executive Session. Approved unanimously.
3. Minutes from 9/18/25. Motion to accept made by Aversa Sheldon, seconded by Greg Joseph. No discussion. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passes.
4. Financial report. Rob Heath. Finances for the month – income and pledges are under budget due to lateness of counting receipts. Expenses were over budget for the month mainly because of church maintenance, supply clergy, etc. Mission & Outreach payments issued. Designated and restricted accounts - \$1200 under rector's discretionary fund. \$10,000 came in for accessibility project (balance at \$32,700). Outreach special allotment for school in Egypt was made - \$950 was sent. Investment fund \$1,322,584 currently, with \$20K transferred out to Vanguard. Motion to accept report made by Greg Joseph, seconded by Don Ghostlaw. Vote to accept unanimous. Motion passes.
5. Draft budget FY 2026. Rob Heath. Model assumes that Griffith Studio and 2 NA groups will renew for next calendar year. Under clergy section the draft includes expenses for part-time priest. Costs for the new organist was included. Outreach & Mission will be 10% of whatever our projected income turns out to be. Adjusted draft will be presented at November meeting.
6. No new agenda items
7. New business
 - a. Nominating committee. Connie Harasymiw. Connie, Carol, Bruce, and Cheryl will be rotating off. The new group will need 2 for three years and 1 for one year. Shelia and Peter Dewberry, Cheryl Chadsey, and Barbara Cosgrove are the Nominating Committee for this year. Will need a proposed slate, and treasurer and clerk will need to be asked to serve another year.
 - b. Organist update. Carol Jones. Kevin the organist will be leaving us at the end of October. He has accepted a new position that will provide better compensation and is shorter commute. November 2nd there will be an organist, Bryan Chuan, who has served at the cathedral in Reno, Nevada.

Mei-Tsen Chen, who has been the organist at Grace in Newington will be starting as the regular organist the following Sunday. At Grace, she also chose the hymns and ran the choir.

8. Old business

- a. Key policy. Kathy Cole. No progress. Moved to November.
- b. Sustainable grant project update. Connie Harasymiw. The updated proposal has been turned into the diocese. As soon as the treasurer receives the go-ahead from the diocese, the funds will be issued.
- c. Stewardship. Connie Harasymiw. The 2nd mailing has gone out. Please complete the pledge cards and return them by October 26nd to submit with the offertory.
- d. Mission & Outreach. Carol Jones. Additional requests for funding as follows:
 - i. Jo-Ann Formica has submitted a request for a donation to support the St. Paul's Lutheran Church food pantry. The M&O committee recommends \$250.
 - ii. Corinne Helfant has submitted a request for a donation to support Camp Washington's summer camp opportunities for children. The M&O committee recommends **\$500**.
 - iii. Carol Jones has submitted a request for a donation from the Mission & Outreach Fund to support the Issa family. *Khadija has not yet received her green card and it has been said that no more green cards will be issued until further notice. Because of the nervousness in the country at this time, no company wants to hire immigrant workers without green cards. Khadija was even rejected by Stop & Shop! Their family expenses have increased because Rafi is taking automotive courses in North Haven and has his own car so he can attend classes. There are tuition expenses to cover. He is working as a mechanic which contributes to the family income but the combined pay of Rafi and Omar barely covers their expenses. They would love to afford a place out of Hartford. It would be good if we can show our continued love and support for them by giving them some money at this time. It might help pay any outstanding bills or be a cushion against the next emergency or, I hope, a savings investment for them.* I suggest \$500 but any amount would be helpful. The M&O committee recommends **\$500**.
 - iv. We hereby move that \$1,250 from account #5246000 be approved to be distributed to the groups listed above for the recommended amount in each request. Motion made by Greg Joseph, second by Kathy Cole. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passes.

9. Committee reports

- a. Family outreach. Melissa Pavick. Carols and Cocoa. Trinity can be a warming station and can provide bathroom access (approved by town Chamber of Commerce). Historic tours will be offered. Issues of lighting, location, and activities were discussed. Dan and Don will handle lights and amplification.
- b. Memorial garden. Connie Harasymiw. Plants are being purchased and work will begin soon.

10. Closing prayer. Kathy Cole.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully

By Melanie Hepburn 10/16/2025