

Trinity Parish Wethersfield

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025

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

Guest: Warren Blessing

6:37pm meeting called to order.

1. Opening Prayer. Carol Jones. John, chapter 14.
2. Monthly reports. Don Ghostlaw.
 - a. Minutes from August 21st. Motion to accept made by Greg Joseph, seconded by Connie Harasymiw. No discussion. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Financial Report for August 2025. Rob Heath. Income remains over budget. Griffith Academy has sent its first check for use of facilities. \$475 was sent to Coprome Orphanage. \$3K is reserved for Haitian project. Property expenses are over by \$1700, partly due to electric bill. That cost is expected to go down once weather cools. \$985 came in for the flower fund. Checking account at \$48K and Vanguard at \$21K. Motion to accept financial report made by Greg Joseph, seconded by Aversa Sheldon. Vote to accept financial report unanimous. Motion passed unanimously.
 - i. Audit. Rob Heath. Audit has been signed off by treasurer. Final copy is in the mail and will be forwarded to the diocese.
3. Additional Agenda Items
 - a. Mission & Outreach updates
 - b. Forum series updates
4. New Business
 - a. Alarm system update. Warren Blessing. New system has been installed and activated. You will notice there is a new keypad, siren, and box in the office. Fire and smoke detectors have been hard-wired. The new company is from East Hartford. So far system seems to be a huge improvement. New code word if alarm is set off accidentally is "Belfry".
 - b. Key policy update. Kathy Cole. Draft of new policy and form were reviewed and suggestions made. Revisions to be presented at next Vestry meeting.

- c. Grace Church. Carol Jones. Grace Church in Newington will be closing. The last service has been scheduled for September 28th. A letter from Bishop Scruton was read aloud. No date for final closing has been set.
- d. Stewardship Campaign. Connie Harasymiw. Connie and Donna Brown have agreed to manage the campaign again. The 1st mailing will be Saturday, September 20th, which will include a draft budget. There are 2 subsequent mailings scheduled for October and November. The draft budget includes some “positive ideas” that the dance studio will continue to need space. The line for clergy remains the same as last year. Expenses such as software license renewals etc are expected to increase.
- e. Blessing of the Animals. Carol Jones. Bishop Scruton will conduct the service on October 5th. An ad has been placed in the Rare Reminder.
- f. Mission & Outreach. Don Ghostlaw. Request from Mission & Outreach as follows:
 - i. The following requests have been submitted for donations to be made from the Mission & Outreach Fund, account #5246000:
 - Vickie Crafa has submitted a request for a donation of \$1500 to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank to help those in Wethersfield struggling to pay their heating bills in the coming winter. *\$1500 was approved in 2023. M&O Committee recommends **\$1500.***
 - Donna Brown has submitted a request for a donation of \$500 to support the Keane Foundation *Keane On Kids After School Enrichment Programs* currently being held at 5 Elementary Schools and the Middle School in Wethersfield. *The M&O Committee recommends **\$500.***
 - The Mission & Outreach committee has submitted a request for a donation of \$500 to The Detective Robert “Bobby” Garten Memorial Fund, which has been established to support causes that were important to Bobby. As a young man, Bobby attended Trinity where he served as an acolyte and was involved in the youth group. *M&O Committee recommends **\$500.***
 - Vickie Crafa has submitted a request for a donation of \$500 to be made to the Malta House of Care, *At Malta House of Care, we provide free, high-quality primary healthcare to uninsured adults in Greater Hartford. Our dedicated team of medical professionals, volunteers, and donors work together to serve as a trusted medical home—offering compassionate, comprehensive care to those who need it most...Today, the big, white, iconic Malta van and its passionate corps of medical volunteers visits two neighborhoods in Hartford – Asylum Hill and the South End – as well as the Burnside Avenue neighborhood in East Hartford and serves about 1,800 uninsured adults. M&O Committee recommends **\$500.***
 - Rebecca Scruton has submitted a request for a donation of \$750 to support the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Warrenville Illinois (working through Action

International Ministries) to open a school on the northern border of Egypt for refugee children of Gaza. The authorities have given them the use of a building if they are able to furnish it by October 15th. They need \$9500 by the end of September to purchase the needed items. *The M&O committee recommends \$750.*

More Information on this project from their website:

(<https://www.actioninternational.org/project/school-of-peace>)

Bring Peace to the Children of Gaza

In the midst of displacement and suffering, children in Gaza long for stability, safety, and hope. The School of Peace is a place where they can experience God's love, study in a clean and safe environment, and have their spirits nurtured as well as their minds.

With your support, 120 children will have desks to sit at, teachers to guide them, and the resources they need to learn and grow in peace. For just \$9,500 total, we can transform an empty space into a refuge of learning and joy.

Every gift—large or small—helps provide classrooms, whiteboards, cupboards, and the essential tools that will bless these children in the hardest of times.

We hereby move that \$3,750 from account #5246000 be approved to be distributed to the groups listed above for the recommended amount in each request. Motion to approve made by Carol Jones, seconded by Kathy Cole. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

- a. Memorial Garden. Carol Jones presented the plan, including design, plantings, and quote.
- b. Sustainability Grant. Connie Harasymiw. \$12K from diocese and \$3K from Trinity Wethersfield for Haitian well. Updates on the proposal have been requested. Connie will keep us updated.
- c. Christian Formation Committee. Don Ghostlaw. The committee will now be called the Faith Formation Team. Book study and other activities will start soon.

6. Closing prayer. Carol Jones.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted

By Melanie Hepburn 9/18/2025