

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 22 August 2019

Present: Rose Riley, Denise Paternostro, Fr. Tom Furrer, Warren Blessing, Rob Heath,
Carol Jones, Leslie Jones, Tina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis, Judy Shaw

Absent: Linda Traue

Guest: Connie Harasymiw

Vestry Chaplain: Rebecca Scruton

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

I. Opening Worship was led by Rebecca.

II. Mission and Ministry Discussion: Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation
Ministry.

Leslie, Judy, Rose and Sue Rafala attended a meeting at St Paul's church in Southington last Spring in response to an initiative from the North and South Central Episcopal Networks to promote dialogue on race-related issues including our mostly unconscious complicity in perpetuating racial inequalities. At a further meeting in Wallingford, Leslie, Judy watched films and videos and discussed ways to promote meaningful conversation around these issues in our parishes.

III. Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda: Minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting

Financial Reports for June and July 2019

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda (Denise/Tina)

Motion was carried.

IV. Deacon Darryl Burke

Deacon Burke will be ordained as a minister at the end of the year. He is joining us on Sept 1 as a missional curate, learning how to pastor a small church that can only afford part-time leadership. Deacon Burke will be with us for one year and is supported by the Diocese.

V. Wardens' Report

i. Upcoming Events

- Season of Creation - Sundays, September 1st - September 29th
- Sal's Concert for Trinity – September 7th
- Community Meal, Christ Church Cathedral - September 30rd
- Blessing of the Animals - September 29th, 4 pm
- Trinity 150th Anniversary Service and Confirmation and Reception – October 6th, 4 pm
- Chili + Rice & Beans Cook-off - October 20th, 5pm
- Annual Convention - October 26th and 27th
- Sal's Concert for Outreach - November 9th, 7 pm
- Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors - November 17, 1 pm
- Community Meal, Christ Church Cathedral – November 25th
- Sugarplum Fair - Saturday, November 23rd, 9 am -2 pm

- Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service - Trinity, Tuesday, Nov 26th, 7 pm
- Lessons and Carols - Sunday December 22nd, 9 am

VI. Old Business

i. Sean's Closet

Motion: To allocate a maximum of \$500 to complete the setting up Sean's Closet. (Connie/Leslie). Motion was carried.

Rationale: Four rooms in the basement have been cleaned and finished by Sean Lawrence as his Eagle Scout Project, to store clothing for male and female adults, children, and babies, and for household goods. Clothing racks and tables are required for each room for display and work purposes at an estimated cost of \$400 - 500. This expense will be charged to a restricted account set up for the development of a Trinity community services program in Jan 2018. The current balance is \$923.37.

ii. Trinity 150th Anniversary Service and Reception

The hors d'oeuvres reception will be catered by the nonprofit Hands on Hartford at an estimated cost of \$2,600 for approximately 125 guests. We will purchase table linens, dishes, some additional food items and flowers at an estimated cost of \$1,000. The cost of mailing invitations to parish members and invited guests was approximately \$50. Choir members from local churches have been invited to join the Trinity choir for this event; Missy Cheney from Saint Paul's will be our organist. Estimated costs for music, including the organist fees and printed music is approximately \$500. Thus, the total costs will be significantly less than the \$5,500 working budget approved by vestry.

iii. Church Directory Project

Approx. 80% of parish members have verified or updated their information in the parish Directory which is being incorporated into the Power Church database by Kathy Cole and Joan Joseph. New photos are being incorporated by Donna Brown. It is estimated that a draft of the directory will be available for review early in Sept. The finalized directory will be distributed via email to all parish members except those who not receive electronic mail; they will receive paper copies. It is too costly to provide color copies of the directory to all members.

VII. New Business

i. Repair of Roof Leak near Old Sacristy

Motion: To repair the roof where leaks are occurring in the old sacristy area at a maximum cost not to exceed \$6,500. (Warren/Rose)
Motion was carried.

Rationale: The Property Committee recommends that we contract with Phillip M. Rouquie LLC to repair the roof where leaks are occurring. The work will involve removal of concrete coping on the parapet wall, installation of lead flashing on top of the parapet wall and new granite slabs with a drip edge. All deteriorated brick will be replaced and the brick walls repointed as needed. The estimated proposal is \$6,250 with a maximum cost (which would allow for unexpected contingencies) not to exceed \$6,500.00.

ii. Repair and repaint exterior wood finish in selected areas

Motion: To approve up to \$6,500 to contract with Driscoll Painting LLC to repair and repaint exterior wood finish in selected areas.

Rationale: The following areas require repair and repainting: office entry, front and south side overhangs and windows, parish hall entry. These repairs and the repainting will help reduce additional deterioration of our wooden trim. This work will be done at a proposed cost of \$6,275 in total including supplies, with a maximum cost (with would allow for unexpected contingencies) not to exceed \$6,500.

iii Painting of the of the sanctuary and installation of A/C in the Seabury Room are currently on hold.

iv. Sanctuary Heat and A/C. The property committee is working with a heating and air-conditioning contractor to determine appropriate next steps. The A/C system is broken; it is an old system and needs to be replaced. The current heating capacity of the furnace is insufficient for the sanctuary during the winter months. The estimate cost to repair the A/C and heating systems is \$24,000.

vi. Suspension of transfer of funds from checking account to Merrill Lynch account.

A motion was approved at the June vestry meeting to transfer \$20,000 from our checking account to our Merrill Lynch investment account. Due to unexpected property costs we have retained the funds in our checking account for the time being.

v. Alcohol Use Policy

Motion: To approve the following alcohol policy for Trinity: *Trinity Episcopal is an alcohol-free community in its parish and public activities and only at very special events and in compliance with the canons of the national and ECCT church, will alcohol be permitted.* (Ad-hoc Vestry Committee on Alcohol-use policy)
Motion was carried.

Rationale: The ad hoc committee (Warren Blessing, Carol Jones and Rose Riley) worked with Fr. Tom and Denise Paternostro to draft the motion above for the use of alcohol at Trinity Parish. We decided that it was important to comply with national and ECCT canons regarding the use of alcohol at parish events. A motion has already been approved to prohibit use of alcohol at events for which church property is rented (June vestry minutes). We recommend extending the ECCT canons by prohibiting use of alcohol at parish-sponsored public events (e.g., Sal's concerts, a reception following Bruce's concert). Events which are by invitation only (e.g., a wedding reception for parish members following a wedding at Trinity, baptism reception following a baptism at Trinity) can serve alcohol as long as they remain in compliance with the canons listed above.

vi. New ECCT Investment Policy

Basically, this policy states that only people with extensive portfolio management expertise can manage parish investments and, failing this, funds must be placed into a diocese entity (Donations and Bequests). This policy is to be implemented throughout the diocese. Father Tom, the wardens and the finance committee met Wednesday, August 21 to discuss the impact of this policy upon Trinity's investment management procedures and the possibility of pursuing a waiver from the policy. We do not have appropriately qualified people to manage our investments but our returns have been better than those of diocesan investments. Our goal is to be into compliance with ECCT.

vii. Neilsen Estate

Motion: To approve the following statement to be included in our response to the executor of the Nielsen estate (per their requirements). *The Vestry (governing body) of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main St, Wethersfield CT, at our meeting on 8/22/2019 authorized Rose Riley (Warden) and/or Robert Heath (Treasurer) to sign any documents related to our interest in the Estate of Geoffrey Nielsen, #21602230.* (Denise/Cheryl)

Motion was carried.

Rationale: Trinity was recently informed that we are among the beneficiaries of the Nielsen Estate. The above motion is a requirement of the executor. The Finance committee, Fr. Tom, and the Wardens are meeting with the Reverend Don Hamer, retired rector from Trinity Parish Hartford and retired probate judge, to discuss managing the Nielsen estate.

viii. Convening member of the nominating committee

Motion: In compliance with our parish bylaws, the out-going member, Judy Shaw, shall be appointed to convene and serve on the nominating committee. (Denise/Rose)

Rationale: Our bylaws state that each year Trinity will select one of the outgoing vestry members to convene and serve on (but not necessarily chair) the Nominating Committee. The two vestry members who are completing their terms are Warren Blessing and Judy Shaw. The elected members of the Nominating Committee are Rebecca Scruton, Connie Harasymiw, Marilyn Ford and Donna Brown.

ix. Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service

Trinity is partnering with Saint Paul Lutheran, Wethersfield Methodist, Temple Beth Torah, First Church congregational church, and one of the Roman Catholic parishes in Wethersfield to offer an interfaith Thanksgiving service. The service will take place at 7 pm on Nov 26th at Trinity.

VIII. Closing

Closing prayer was given by Rebecca.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Jones

Parish Clerk