

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2020**

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

**Guests:** Marilyn Ford, Donna Brown

**Chaplain:** Rebecca Scruton

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

I. Opening Worship was led by Rebecca

II. Mission and Ministry Discussion:

Fr. Tom led discussion of an article by Thom S. Rainer entitled: The Ten Traits of the Healthiest Churches Ten Years from Now. In the discussion, it was noted that we need to better understand the demographics of our community and the various organizations that serve the disadvantaged in our community. We can strive to develop consistently outward focused ministries that help us to share our joy e.g. serving a free meal once a month for the community. Vestry members are encouraged to think about ways we can attract people to our church family.

III. Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of the Dec 19, 2019 meeting
- **Motion:** To extend Treasurer's term of office by one year because of the specialized skills required for this position (in accordance with Article III Section 3 of Trinity's Bylaws approved at the February 10, 2019 Annual Meeting).
- Approval of Voter's List for Annual meeting (attached)

**Motion:** To approve the Consent Agenda (Denise/ Warren)

Motion was carried.

IV. Upcoming Events

- Annual Meeting, February 2, 2020
- Baptism, Migdalia Vazquez, February 9, 2020.
- Ordination to the Priesthood of The Rev. Darryl Burke, Deacon, February 18, 7 pm
- Diocesan Mission Conference: Equipping the Saints for Mission with The Rev. Michael A. Walrond., Jr. as keynote speaker, March 7 at St. Paul's, Riverside, CT.
- Quiet Day at Trinity, March 14

V. Treasurer's Report

December 2019 financial reports including the balance sheet for the investment accounts was presented by Rob. In the Operating Budget, last year's income was around \$13,900 over budget but expenses were \$573 under budget for the year. The extra money will remain in checking. There was a gain of around \$80,000 in the investment (restricted) accounts and

\$25,000 of this was used to cover the parish hall renovation so the net gain was \$54,000.  
**Motion** to accept the End of Year Treasurer's Report (Cheryl/Denise)  
Motion was carried.

## VI. Old Business

### i. 2020 Annual Budget

A copy of the final budget, approved by the Vestry on December 19, 2019, was distributed to the vestry.

### ii. Update on ECCT Investment Compliance

Rob reported on the status of moving our investments from Merrill Lynch to Donations and Bequests. (D&B, the Episcopal churches investment vehicle) in order to be in compliance with the ECCT policy on Investment Management. The Finance Committee has started to review the information provided on ECCT website.

- It appears that there are two funds to choose from. These will be researched and a representative found at Bank of America for more details if needed.
- It is necessary to ensure the "old" paperwork is acceptable and verify what needs to be updated, and who can authorize any changes.
- The transfer of funds from Merrill Lynch to D&B will be documented. There are two funds in Merrill Lynch and the transfer process is unclear at this time.
- We want to make sure there aren't any big projects coming soon and that there is enough in our checking account, so we don't have to withdraw money right away.
- Peter Walbert has served as our Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor and done an excellent job over the past ten years.
- No changes will be made until the new Wardens are elected to authorize the transfers.

### iii. Update on Nielsen Estate Bequest

Rob Heath reported that the executor of the Nielson estate is working toward making a distribution of the income earned in the Trust during 2019 before the end of January. The principal in the Trust will not be distributed until the Nielson properties are sold.

### iv. Property Report

Warren reported the upgrade to the heating and A/C systems is done. The costs were paid in 2020 so we can apply for grant support towards this from the Diocese. No news at this time on last year's grant submitted to help with the parish hall renovations. On Jan 12, there was an emergency water leak in the basement and a new expansion tank had to be installed.

## VII. New Business

### i. Nomination Committee Report

a) **Motion:** We move that the Vestry support a request at the 2020 Annual Meeting for the trial of a shared position for two individuals for one Warden position for not more than three one year terms. This experiment is to be reviewed and evaluated on a yearly basis.

(Nominating Committee, Cheryl)

The motion was carried.

Note: Since Wardens are elected for terms of one year with a three-year term limit (Article III, Section 3 of Trinity Bylaws) this motion is intended to apply the all three terms of the specific Warden's position unless a motion is made in a subsequent year to terminate or

make permanent the change.

**Motion:** We move that the Vestry support a request at the 2020 Annual Meeting for a one time exception to Bylaws to waive the one-year interval in Vestry service (required by Article III Section 3 of Trinity's Bylaws) and thereby allow Warren Blessing to move directly from Vestry member to Warden. (Nominating Committee, Leslie)  
The motion was carried. Warren abstained.

b. 2020 Slate of Nominees

The following nominations will be presented at the annual meeting.

Wardens: Connie Harasymiw and Rebecca Scruton (1 position), Warren Blessing

Clerk: Leslie Jones

Treasurer: Robert Heath

Vestry: Greg Joseph, J.R. Stanko, Anne Marie Stavola

Convention Delegate: Kathy Cole (#2)

Convention Alternates: positions not filled

2021 Nominating Committee: Joan Joseph, Rose Riley, Lynda Blessing, Cheryl Chadsey

Continuing Positions:

Vestry: Christina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis, Linda Traue

Convention Delegate: Ray Colburn (#1)

ii. Stewardship Report

Rose reported that 52 pledges had been received as of Jan 15, 2020. There were 8 pledges not renewed that had totaled \$8,676 last year. A total of \$129,124 has been pledged compared to \$121,910 in 2019, an increase of 5.9%. Reminder letters will be sent to the eight parish members who have not returned their pledges. There are three new pledges this year.

iv. Ordination Expenses

**Motion:** We move that \$750 be made available from a restricted fund to pay for expenses associated with the ordination and reception on Feb 18. (Rose/Denise)

The motion was carried with one opposed to the choice of fund from which the expenses are to be withdrawn.

Note: This would cover costs for mailing invitations, new tablecloths (which could then be reused for other events), gifts, flowers, food purchases, etc. We are asking that this be taken from a restricted fund rather than part of the operating budget because it is not a normal operating expense.

Executive Session from 9:05 – 9:12 pm

VIII. Closing

The closing prayer was given by Fr. Tom

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Jones

Parish Clerk