

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 21 November 2019

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

I. Opening Worship was led by Fr. Tom and Deacon Darryl

II. Mission and Ministry Discussion: Kateri Medical Mission to Nigeria

Fr. Tom reported on the success of his recent two-week trip to Nigeria with a team of medical professionals. They worked at two clinics and treated a total of approximately 3,000 people. There were no security problems although a local Imam had warned people that if they attended, they would be given addictive drugs and turned away from Islam. The Bishop for that region gave a radio interview that successfully quelled these fears. In fact, ten Muslim doctors and nurses came to help at one of the clinics. Fr. Tom's health was good throughout the trip – a testament to the fact that when we are persistent and steadfast in doing what God calls us to do, He will bless us.

III. Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda: Minutes of the Oct 24, 2019 meeting
Financial Reports for October 2019

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

Motion was carried.

IV. Upcoming Events

- Ingathering Sunday - November 24th, 9 am
- Community Meal, Christ Church Cathedral - November 25th
- Sugarplum Fair - Saturday, November 23rd, 9 am - 2 pm
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Trinity, Tuesday, Nov 26th, 7 pm
- Lessons and Carols - Sunday December 22nd, 9 am
- Christmas Eve Service – December 24th, 4 pm
- Christmas Day Service – December 25th, 10 am

V. Annual Convention Report

Ray Colburn and Rose attended this year's convention. Parishes in the Diocese had been invited to submit questions/concerns; six topics were chosen for discussion in a series of workshops as follows:

- What do the people of ECCT need to understand the importance of building meaningful relationships across differences so we can live more fully not only into our Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation, but beyond?
- Given the urgency and impact of climate change, how can we educate and inspire the people of ECCT to protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

- How can our smaller congregations -- especially those with half-time clergy or less -- best grow in their capacity to make disciples?
- How can we get as good at addressing the causes of injustice as we are at responding to the effects of injustice?
- How do we as parishes and as witnesses at baptism support our children and youth as they grow in the full stature of Christ, when Sunday School is no longer a viable option?
- How can the church best respond to the growing trend for young adults to seek some other spiritual alternatives?

Rose attended the discussion on smaller congregations where the importance of outreach and interfaith activities were stressed. Ray attended the workshop on how to attract young adults; more research on the the needs and likes of this age group is necessary. Actively inclusive congregations with less structured liturgy and more contemporary music and who are engaged in social justice programs, have been successful in attracting younger people. The ECCT will establish a task force to continue this study.

For an update on the convention as a whole, please follow the link below:

<https://episcopalct.blog/2019/10/28/recapping-annual-convention-change-and-opportunities-in-ecct/>

VI. Old Business

i. Property Committee Projects

Work continues on the repair of the roof leak, exterior trim repair and painting and the sanctuary heating and cooling systems. The grant to the CT Diocese for \$8,000 to help with parish hall renovations will be submitted in December.

ii. Office Rental Update

Motion: To approve the lease of a single room to Tri-town YMCA for use as office space.
(Rose/Denise)

The motion was carried. This confirms the email vote from Nov 5, 2019.

Tri-town YMCA executive director, Josue Irizarry has received approval from his management to enter into this lease. The details follow:

- Tri-town YMCA will lease the office space on a six-month lease with cancellation by either party allowed with two months' notice.
- The monthly rental for the space will be \$250 a month.
- Proof of insurance providing the coverage specified in Trinity's rental policy will be provided by Tri-town YMCA. Use of the space will be in conformance with all of the requirements specified in Trinity's building rental policy.
- The lease will begin on December 1, 2019.
- The office will be occupied by the director of the Tri-town YMCA. Her work week is Monday through Friday. She will be provided with an external door key.
- The office will be located next to the large blue education room in the Family Learning Center area. This room is available.
- Tri-town YMCA will be provided with access to the same Wi-Fi system that the Family Learning Center uses. They will provide their own furniture.

VII. New Business

- i. Distribution of profits from the 2019 Sugar Plum Fair.

Motion: To transfer 25% of the net profits from the Sugarplum Fair to Outreach in accordance with our normal practice. (Warren/Linda)
The motion was carried.

ii. Redistribution of money from two restricted accounts.

Rob reported that \$400 remaining in an account for Church School was transferred to Outreach with the request that it be used to support a local education initiative. From a second account, called Special Gifts, \$23,000 was spent towards the parish hall renovations, \$400 for church improvement and \$500 for adult formation.

iii. 2020 Annual Budget

Rob presented the recommended 2020 budget as drafted by the Finance Committee using input from the various committees and activities in operation at Trinity Parish. This will be voted on at the December vestry meeting.

VIII. Closing

The closing prayer was given by Fr. Tom

The meeting was adjourned at 8.52 pm

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Jones

Parish Clerk