

Trinity Parish Wethersfield
July 20, 2023

Vestry Meeting, July 20, 2023

Attendees: Connie Harasymiw, Carol Jones, Cheryl Chadsey, Rob Heath, Charles Melchreit, Melanie Hepburn, Garth Myers, Don Ghostlaw.

Absent: Kathy Cole, Bruce Duncan, Susanna Brown.

6:40 pm

1. Meeting called to order and opening prayer. Cheryl Chadsey.
2. Monthly Reports
 - a. Approval of minutes from 6/15/2023. Motion to approve made by Charles Melchreit, second by Connie Harasymiw. Motion approved unanimously.
 - b. Financial Report. Rob Heath. Review of June financials. Expenses are currently under budget; pledges are under budget for the month, but still on track for the year. As a category, staff expenses have been under budget, with exception of supply clergy. (Gap in administrative staff coverage, and estimated date we would have priest in charge both contributed to savings in respective categories.) Cleaning service was double paid for July, which should be applied towards August. Only real activity was for Outreach and Mission – for the Issa family vehicle, Nigerian scholarships, and Kateri Medical Mission from the Tapestry Singers concert. Investment account has improved by about \$45K. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Don Ghostlaw, second by Charles Melchreit. Motion approved unanimously.

Copier maintenance contract has been renewed for \$80/mo. Nielson account contributed an additional \$28, which should be the final amount.

3. Additional Agenda Items

- a. Carol Jones would like to give update on Issa family.

4. New Business

- a. Historic District Commission-approval of small building in back of rectory. Connie Harasymiw. The residents of the former rectory have presented a request to erect a garage or oversized garage shed, 20 feet long and 12 feet wide, to be located on the 12 parking spots allocated to the rectory. Historic District approved the request. The request now goes to the planning and zoning.
- b. Post-CoVid Protocols. Carol Jones. A notice has been distributed from the diocese to encourage all parishes to return to normal eucharistic practices, meaning the use of the communal cup by the start of the new liturgical year. We have returned to bringing the offering up to the altar, and more changes will be made slowly over the next few months.
- c. How Aging Congregations Thrive. Connie Harasymiw. Bishop Scruton forwarded this document to the wardens for their consideration. Vestry members were encouraged to review the handout and consider how we might address our current community and its strengths.

- d. Bishop Mello portrait. Connie Harasymiw. Different versions of the official portrait of Bishop Mello were passed around for vestry members to review and vote for preferred version, a location has been identified. We are to notify the diocese by July 31st.

5. Old Business

- a. Report on Stewardship Realty Initiative. Connie Harasymiw. The wardens had met with representatives of the town and Stewardship Realty. The 2 questions to be considered both what the town needs and what Trinity can contribute. (Anything being discussed is purely in fact finding phase.) One of the needs the town identified is a preK facility for 66 kids who will not qualify for kindergarten, and this would be funded by a state grant. The fire marshal and another town representative, and stewardship realty will conduct a walk through. The grant funding would cover capital improvements, implementation would not be for a couple of years. Wardens will keep vestry updated.
- b. Live streaming update. Don Ghostlaw. Go Net Speed is expected to run cable this coming week.

6. Committee Report

- a. Outreach and Mission. Connie Harasymiw. Joan Joseph and Ann Marie Stavola will be distributing a new 3-fold brochure detailing activities and opportunities for members. There was some discussion of hosting future concerts for the benefit of Africa Education Program.
- b. Issa family update. Carol Jones. The children are now registered with Wethersfield High School, though Rafi will stay in Hartford to ensure that he graduates. Very grateful for Linda Blessing for her connections to make this happen. The family continues to have challenges, and while Khadija is making progress towards a CNA degree.

7. Closing

a. Action items

- i. Connie Harasymiw will report back to diocese regarding portrait of Bishop Mello.

b. Closing prayer. Connie Harasymiw.

- c. Motion to adjourn made by Cheryl Chadsey, second by Melanie Hepburn. Meeting adjourned.

8:10pm meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Melanie Hepburn, 7/20/2023