

Trinity Parish Vestry Meeting, March 17, 2022

Attendees: Warren Blessing, Garth Myers, Rebecca Scruton, Tom Furrer, Don Ghostlaw, Melanie Hepburn, Sarah Butters, Carol Jones, Charles Melchreit, and Rob Heath.

Guests: Leslie Jones and Clark Tomlinson.

Absent: Peter Dewberry, Susanna Brown.

6:35 meeting called to order

1. Opening prayer. R. Scruton.
2. Dwelling in the Word. R. Scruton. Psalm 51 was read through. Members responded personally and as parish leaders. Rebecca closed this segment with a prayer from Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
3. Approval of minutes. Motion to approve by Carol, second by Rebecca. Minutes accepted unanimously. Motion approved.
4. February Financial Report. Rob Heath. Motion to accept Finance Report of February by Rebecca, second by Garth. Report accepted unanimously. Report approved.
5. Old Business.
  - a. Outreach. Ginger's soup sale to benefit Copprome orphanage in Honduras. The magazine highlighting Trinity's outreach activities has been produced and is available. Collections for Bags to Fill for Wethersfield food bank are located at the back of the church. Donations for the Lenten series also contribute to the local food bank via the Bags to Fill. Church by Pond is coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup> (a ministry shared by several churches in the area.)
  - b. Citizens of the World. Leslie Jones updated the vestry on progress for the IRIS refugee project.
    - i. A 3-bedroom apartment has been secured for 1 year. Apartment is affordable and convenient. Furniture has been collected and installed.
    - ii. Officials and neighbors have been contacted.
    - iii. IRIS reports that refugee family could be from Afghanistan, Congo, Sudan, Syria or Eretria. Swahili and Arabic translators are being secured. Hopefully, we will receive a family in March or April.
    - iv. We met with a writer who will publish our story in Wethersfield Life, Newington Life, Cromwell Life and Rocky Hill Life.
    - v. Our committees are continuing to prepare for a family in the areas of apartment setup, health care, and education.
    - vi. Twenty-one of our volunteers have gone through background checks and we'll do the same for new translators.
  - c. Covid Update. R. Scruton. New protocol has been shared with the vestry. Members were asked to read the new protocol carefully and respond as quickly as possible. Please direct responses to Rebecca so that she can communicate changes to our policy to our larger community. Different methods of distributing the information were discussed. (Masks will not be required as of Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and the next vestry meeting will be in person in the parish hall.)

- d. Livestreaming our service. Warren. The members were asked to respond to the notion of livestreaming services. Rob asked if we have to get parishioners permission for livestreaming. Different views were shared – like focusing the camera on the altar for the service to avoid conflict with parishioners. Carol asked if we are just talking about live streamed or also recording and archiving services. Don asked how recorded services would be used. The 3 audiences discussed were shut ins, members who are traveling and potential members who are “church shopping.” All members support the concept. Wardens and Don Ghostlaw discussed a call to the diocese to pursue legal and practical issues. Please forward comments and thoughts.
  - e. Beefing up volunteers. Warren. Pre-covid we had many more parishioners participating in the life of the church. For example, the Finance Committee – we need enough members for things like counting the money and abiding by our stated policies. Charles and Rob discussed the timing of the finance committee meeting prior to the monthly vestry meeting. Other committees/activities, such as morning prayer, prayer committee, pastoral care group. Rebecca asked for vestry members who might be interested in leading the monthly Dwelling in the Word to contact her directly. Prayer list, Jan Rouse is the convener.
  - f. ECCT Spring Training. Rebecca. This year the training is being offered via Zoom on several different dates and times. Warren has already sent out the link for members to review how one might want to explore, including Vestry 101 etc.
    - i. ECCT has been divided up into regions. We are part of the North Central/North Eastern Region. Our leader is Maggie Breen. A leadership team has been formed that includes 8 members representing 33 parishes in the region. The request is to have a contact for each parish. If you are interested, please review Maggie Breen’s newsletter and contact Rebecca for more information.
6. Motion to close moved by Garth, second by Don, all in favor.
7. Fr. Tom led us in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Hepburn, 3/17/2022.