

Trinity Parish Wethersfield, Vestry Meeting

Minutes

December 16, 2021

Attendees: W. Blessing, R. Scruton, C. Harasymiw, R. Heath, S. Butters, G. Joseph, C. Jones, P. Dewberry, T. Furrer, M. Hepburn. (Absent JR Stanko, A. Stavola)

6:41pm meeting called to order.

1. Opening Prayer. Fr. Tom.
2. Dwelling in the Word. Fr. Tom. Philippians 4:4-13. Members read the passage over several times, reflecting on personal connections to the verses, as well as connections with the current life of our parish community. Comments were made about the power to choose to focus on positive items; “have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.”
3. Monthly Reports.
 - a. Minutes of November. Carol moved and Greg seconded the approval of minutes. Motion approved and November minutes.
 - b. Motion to accept the November financial report – Greg moved and Carol seconded. Rob reviewed the report. Motion approved and report accepted.
4. Call for any additional items to the agenda. None.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Report on Consecration Sunday. C. Harasymiw. Final pledges tallied \$153,852. This represents 55 units. 42 units increased their pledge. There are still a few people that we have not heard from, and a few members who do not pledge but who are reliable givers. In total we have seen an increase of 20% over last year. A very successful campaign.
 - b. Outreach and Mission. C. Harasymiw.
 - i. Afghan Initiative. Under Connie and Leslie’s leadership, the program is taking shape. Trinity’s point person is Donna Brown. After the program training, Connie explained that the IRIS program doesn’t “adopt” a family, instead the role is to “accompany” the family. Working with several other churches, the group is collecting information regarding affordable and convenient housing. Anyone interested in participating in this project should contact Donna.
 - ii. Outreach and Mission budget report. Connie reviewed the various commitments and made a few corrections to the materials presented on the distribution of the outreach funds as per the 2021 budget.
 1. The motion to accept the distribution of the funds as per the report submitted by the committee. Moved by Greg and Carol. Motion was approved.
 - c. COVID. R. Scruton. Things are changing yet again. We will be holding steady, following CDC, state and city guidelines. Members were advised to review the current policy, leaving the decision up to individuals. The goal is not to be reactive.
6. New business.

- a. 2022 Budget. The budget needs to be reviewed and approved to allow January bills to be paid. The leadership team – the wardens, Priest in Charge, and treasurer, have developed the proposed budget with three goals in mind - to increase our giving to outreach, improve the music program, and increase our planning for a future rector (hopefully to move from .25 FTE to .50 FTE).
 - i. The first goal is to increase our giving to Outreach. We increased the amount allocated from 7% to 8% of total income. Our goal is to reach 10%
 - ii. The second goal to improve the music program was made possible through a Memorial Gift. As of 1/1/22, arrangements have been made to allow Dorothy LaBelle to continue as accompanist and Philip Tummescheit will serve as organist.
 - iii. The third goal was to start strategically planning and put into motion a method to get to a place where we will be able to pay for a ½ time priest. To this end we:
 - Increased Fr. Tom’s salary by the Diocese proposed 3.65% which brings him above the max for a ¼ priest, and above the minimum for a ½ time priest.
 - Will pay him the applicable Social Security Allowance.
 - Will reimburse him up to \$1,850 for any continuing education expenses he incurs, and up to \$700 professional expenses (such as mileage). This money will only be if expenses are incurred and are not paid to him as part of a Salary, and any unused money will not be carried over into the next year.
 - In an effort to increase the budget to start reflecting the higher amount we will have to pay a ½ priest, we estimated what we would have to pay Father Tom for medical and housing **IF** we were going to do that, and which would be required for a ½ time priest. This was placed in the Rector Other Expense line, #5122. We will **NOT** be paying Fr. Tom this amount, but at the end of the year will transfer it to a new restricted account until the time we need it to help pay for a ½ time priest. We intend to increase this amount over the next 4 years to a point we can afford a ½ time priest.
- a. Motion to accept the proposed budget moved by Greg seconded by Carol. Motion approved and budget accepted.
- b. Motion to direct treasurer to move money from investments to operating budget and restricted account for 2022, not to exceed \$30,000. Moved by Greg seconded by Carol. Motion approved.
7. Annual meeting. Motion to set annual meeting for 2021 on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 at 7pm on Zoom. Motion moved by Greg and Carol seconded. Motion approved.
8. Extension of the treasurer position. Rebecca moved to extend Rob’s term as treasurer beyond the specified limits, Greg seconded. Motion approved.
9. Closing prayer. P. Dewberry led us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Hepburn

12/16/2021