

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield

Vestry Meeting – April 15, 2021

Present: The Rev. Tom Furrer (mission priest), Warren Blessing (co-warden), Rebecca Scruton (co-warden), Connie Harasymiw (co-warden), Melanie Hepburn (clerk), Robert Heath, Greg Joseph, Sarah Butters, JR Stanko, Peter Dewberry, Carol Jones, Ann Marie Stavola, guest Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp (Canon for Mission Collaboration joined at 7pm).

R. Scruton opened the Zoom meeting with prayer at 6:37

Monthly reports

1. Vestry minutes – R. Heath made a motion to accept minutes from March meeting, motion seconded by G. Joseph. JR Stanko noted a correction regarding his absence in March meeting. Minutes accepted unanimously.
2. Financial report – R. Heath reviewed Budget report for period ending March, 2021. Motion to accept report made by G. Joseph seconded by R. Scruton. Report accepted unanimously.
3. Agenda for 4/15/2021 accepted without additions.
4. Old Business
 - a. Mission and outreach update – W. Blessing.
 - i. A request for proposal to fund our FM unit for outdoor service. Up to \$250 will be needed to pay for that. Motion to purchase outdoor FM receiver made by G. Joseph. Motion passes.
 - ii. Sharing of spring training. This year's vestry trainings were held remotely. Vestry members shared sessions attended and impact. W. Blessing attended the following: Morning Prayer; Finance; Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Directions. S. Butters attended: Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Directions; Vestry 101. C. Jones attended: Morning Prayer; Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Directions. C. Harasymiw attended: Effective Leadership. A. M. Stavola attended: Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Directions. Some take-aways were - People pray to an absent God. Let go of the editor in the head – send him to the attic. Members were invited to attend the remaining sessions, including the final wrap up event on Saturday, April 17th.
5. New Business.
 - a. Guest Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp
 - i. Dwelling in the Word – reading from Ezra 3:1-13. Vestry members were invited to respond. Members shared their gifts as pertains to role as vestry for Trinity.
 - b. Missio Die – the Mission of God or God Sending
 - i. Trinity is built for the mission of God
 - ii. Reclaim our identity; rethink our invitation to community; restore relationship; relate to each other in community.
 - iii. Video of what it means to be the missional church in the world. The church is not a building, it is the people who go out from the church into the community. Trinity's statement - love God, love your neighbor, change the world – is in keeping with the missional focus.

- iv. Vestry – to work with the clergy and help the parish explore who we are, where are we going and who God is inviting to help us move forward together to help God restore and reconcile our neighborhood.
- v. Called to be servant leaders.
 - 1. Agents and legal representatives of parish all matters concerning corporate properties.
 - 2. Serve relationship between parish and clergy.
 - 3. Serve the parish in transition in all areas, including worship and call new rector.
 - 4. Nominate persons for holy orders.
 - 5. Role of the rector – responsible for worship, use and control of building; stewardship, participate in councils of the church. Rectors must understand the canons of the Episcopal Church, canons of the diocese, by-laws of the parish, relevant state incorporation laws, parish mission statements, parish history and culture; communicate about the church at large, communicate with the larger community, assess shared ministry.
 - 6. Vestry articulate mission, ensure effective congregational planning, ensures adequate resources and effective stewardship, establish and monitor programs and services, communicate with congregation, community.
 - 7. Guidelines for mutuality – try on, it’s okay to disagree; it is not okay to blame, shame or attack, self or other; practice self-focus; 100% responsibility for own learning; practice both/and thinking; notice both process and content; be aware of intent and impact; maintain confidentiality.
 - 8. Managing assets – permanent, depreciable, current.
 - 9. Adaptive leaders – new missional age and challenges.
 - 10. Leading rather than managing
 - 11. We are all missionaries or we are nothing, quote from Desmond Tutu.
 - 12. Closing statement from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.
 - 13. A vestry’s prayer.
- vi. Sharing.
- vii. Clarification of official starting time of Vestry meetings is 6:30pm.
- viii. C. Harasymiw moved to adjourn, T. Furrer seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:38.

Minutes respectfully submitted, 4/25/2021

M. Hepburn, clerk