

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield

Vestry Meeting – May 20, 2021

Present: The Rev. Tom Furrer (mission priest), Warren Blessing (co-warden), Rebecca Scruton (co-warden), Connie Harasymiw (co-warden), Robert Heath, Greg Joseph, Sarah Butters, Melanie Hepburn, Peter Dewberry, Carol Jones, Ann Marie Stavola, JR. Stanko.

C. Harasymiw opened the Zoom meeting with prayer at 6:38pm.

1. Dwelling in the Word. C. Harasymiw.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8a and article “The Small Church as Icon.” Members shared their reflections on scripture. Greg and others spoke about the impact Trinity Wethersfield has had on the Syrian family we have sponsored for over 4 years. Tom spoke about the gratitude expressed by bishop in Nigeria for the scholarships from Trinity that have enabled students to continue to attend school during the economic fallout of pandemic. Connie spoke about the difference between giving and sharing and how that was felt by the Syrian family. Rebecca brought the conversation back to the gift of small churches to focus their mission/energies. Many repeated the phrase “love matters” and God’s economy. Sarah remarked on her impression of our community as composed of intentional Christians.

2. Monthly reports.

a. Motion to accept the minutes – moved by Greg and seconded by Connie. Corrections indicated for attendance at diocesan conference for vestry members for accuracy. Minutes accepted with corrections.

b. April financial report. Motion to accept report made by Carol, seconded by Greg. R. Heath reviewed report. Report accepted.

3. Old Business – W. Blessing. update on estate, building update. P. Dewberry asked if there was any way to improve the lighting in the church. Blessing responded that he has asked someone to look into the options. New bulbs have been purchased and will be swapped into the fixtures. Will also confirm that rheostats have been set appropriately.

a. Opening up the church building for non-worship activities. W. Blessing. There will be a meeting on May 25th at 1pm to discuss options, potential restrictions. Vestry members are invited to attend.

b. Building updates. W. Blessing. ESL program will be returning in the fall. They will be coming into clean and prepare for fall. Also Old Wethersfield is reevaluating the parking situation which will have an impact on the property – some angle-in parking will increase access for us, and a small portion will be dug out to allow for bus stop.

c. Neilson estate. R. Heath. The properties have been sold. The bank is considering making a partial distribution of funds prior to the receipt for final letter. Once the funds have been received, the vestry will be informed.

4. New business.

a. Trinity communications. C. Harasymiw. Connie reviewed the communications plan for the parish as outlined in attachment. Motion to approve the expenditure of \$175 to purchase Constant Contact app for media. (Shows new member discount for this year.) Connie made motion, JR seconded. Motion passed.

b. Safe church. R. Scruton. The diocese has now mandated training to protect children and vulnerable adults. The training is available online. <https://www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/General-Parish-Operations/Safe-Church-Resources/> The wardens will be evaluating who in our parish will need to complete trainings (there are different modules depending on role in parish.) The diocese has hired someone to monitor the licensing and registration of participants. Vestry members are encouraged to review options and register.

Closing prayer. P. Dewberry led us in a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Carol, seconded by Greg. Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted 5/15/2021

M. Hepburn