

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield

Vestry Meeting – June 17, 2021

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

Absent: JR. Stanko, Rebecca Scruton.

C. Harasymiw opened the Zoom meeting with prayer at 6:33pm.

1. Dwelling in the Word. C. Harasymiw.

Colossians 3:12-17. Phrases that struck members were: “focus on one another”, “with gratitude in your hearts”, “forgive”, “All things through God”, “let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”, “and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” “The all-purpose garment”, we should never be without it. “With compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, and discipline”, without regard to station, ethnicity, etc. “Let the Word of Christ have the run of the house.” “And sing, sing your hearts out to God!” We may be chosen by God, but all the other messages in the statement are our choices. It sounds good, but it is tough.

2. Monthly reports.

a. Motion to accept the minutes – Carol moved, Greg seconded. Minutes accepted.

b. May financial report. Motion to accept Greg, seconded by Carol. Report accepted. R. Heath reviewed report. Father Tom made comment regarding our attendance and financial situation by way of encouragement – we are doing remarkably well at a time when many other churches are struggling with both attendance and financial support.

3. Old Business – W. Blessing. update on building update.

a. Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> regarding opening up the church building for non-worship activities. AA, Alanon, NA etc. are all covered under our insurance. All of their meetings are being posted on the calendar in the office. Our request was that all meetings take place in the largest rooms of the parish that have windows for ventilation. Implementation of changes will be incremental. The kitchen is not open yet. At present we are not considering additional rentals. The groups who will be back to using the facilities received a lengthy letter regarding safety measures and information about Safe Church. Meetings will start this month. W. Blessing has also gone back to our cleaning service to increase attention to areas in the church that are being used regularly, starting the first week of July on Saturdays. Father Tom asked for schedule and contact information for unexpected event scheduling purposes. Other parish-related groups, such as the book group and the knitting group, are welcome to meet in the building.

b. The heritage signage project. W. Blessing reported on the progress of the project. The project has gone to the Wethersfield Historical Society and Greg Farr, the archivist of the ECCT, for fact checking. Then it will go to the graphic designer for photos and text. When there is a mock up, Tina and her group will share it with the committee. The final design will be signed off on August

15 and the installation is expected b-November y mid-November. The cost to the parish is \$1000, previously approved by the Vestry.

c. Safe Church. W. Blessing shared that Greg Joseph has offered to be serve as the overseer to make sure that everyone who needs to complete the training, does so.

#### 4. New Business.

a. Vestry meetings going forward. Connie. Discussion with the vestry re meeting in person. And the schedule of summer meetings. Some are in favor of meeting in person, either in the Seabury room or the church hall. Several appreciated the convenience of attending remotely. A quick poll was taken of who will not be able to attend July or August meetings. The consensus was to hold the July meeting and at that time decide whether or not have a meeting in August.

b. The vestry members were asked if there are topics we would like to be addressed. Suggestions made included: an open forum; Peter asked if there are particular plans or actions to take to facilitate the “rebirth” of the parish; several members shared ideas regarding possible actions including a possible community-wide vigil to recognize and honor the loss and challenges we have experienced the last 18 months, as well as celebration. The wardens will consider different ideas.

c. W. Blessing will send out the links to Safe Church, and members are asked to let Connie know about attendance at July meeting.

#### 5. Closing prayer. Led by Connie.

Motion to close at 7:58pm made by Greg and seconded by Carol.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Hepburn on 7/6/2021