

Trinity Parish Wethersfield Vestry Meeting

Minutes

September 16, 2021

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

6:35pm meeting called to order

1. Opening prayer led by R. Scruton.
2. Dwelling in the Word. R. Scruton. Romans 12:3-21. Members shared the phrases that struck them especially, and personal impact. Be patient in trouble, and keep praying; to remember that we are uniquely gifted and yet we all belong to each other, importance of community to encourage, uphold, honor each other's gifts; take delight in honoring each other; don't pretend to love others – really love them; hate what is wrong; whatever gifts God has given me, how to use them as able; be honest in your evaluation in yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us; in his grace God has given us different gifts; do all that you can to live in peace with everyone; pray more and talk less; keep on praying.

On the third reading, Rebecca reads this as a mandate of what it means to be part of Christ's body and hopefully it will inform her role in moving forward; also reinforces the importance of prayer. God has given us different gifts and how to use those gifts in whatever way we can to serve.

3. Monthly reports.
 - a. Minutes from July 15 vestry meeting minutes. Rob Heath moved to accept and JR seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.
 - b. Financial report for July. Carol moved to accept and seconded by Greg. Report accepted unanimously.
 - c. Financial report for August. Greg moved to accept and seconded by Carol. Rob reported that we are no longer taking money out of investments. Rob hasn't received the official report for August so he kept the basic balance, it shows the addition of the \$20K going back to the investments. And the \$300,000 left from the Nielson gift was added in. Rob did expend the line showing a final balance and any change. Up on the designated structured account activity, he added a line from checking account to allow for things that come in and go out quickly and do not need to be deposited into investment. (Gift for Nativity set or contributions to Nigeria scholarships etc.) Report accepted unanimously.
4. Additions to the agenda – Audit, Budget, Nigeria, October Concert.
 - a. Audit. Rob Heath was able to acquire a draft of the audit for 2020. It is possible the outside auditors used the wrong report (final year report and not the final adjusted

report.) He will make sure that is corrected. though potentially the outside auditors may have been using the wrong report (final year report and not the final adjusted report.)

- b. Budget. Rob will be sending request for budget items to build the budget for 2022. The process will be a slightly different process this year with Consecration Sunday.
 - c. Nigeria. Rob mentioned the Nigeria project. He will be going to the bank to wire money \$6647 for scholarshis and \$8345 for sewing machines. The total wired was \$15,082. Tom related that total amount is more than 10% of our total pledges. Tom will need to let Bishop Marcus know to be on the look out for the wire transfer. (October concert discussed later in meeting.)
5. Old Business.
- a. Safe Church. Greg Joseph has met with wardens twice to review the requirements for background checks and training. He started a preface for the Trinity Guidelines as per the Safe Church stipulations. We will be following Appendix A as per Trinity's needs. Some issues to be sorted include access to keys, background checks for certain members (altar guild and plate counters.) Any members who are still outstanding to complete Safe Church need to complete or show certification.
 - b. Stewardship. Consecration Sunday. Connie Harasymiw. A one-month program with 4 Sundays that is part of an established program. The theme is what is God calling each member to give. The wardens met with a potential speaker, Ed Farrell. Donna Brown has agreed to be the parish's point person for this project. Ed has agreed to serve the outside speaker as required by the program. Consecration Sunday will be November 7th; the program will begin on Sunday, October 17th. Consecration Sunday will be a single service at 9:30am and members will be submitting their "pledge" card on that day. While the wardens are tabulating the gifts, the rest of the parish will gather for refreshments. Donna, Connie and Ed will be meeting shortly to arrange the mailing/communication. If members are interested in seeing more information, Connie has materials. She will forward materials to members.
 - c. Property update. Warren Blessing. Our school downstairs is returning, just not quite yet. We had some jobs we were going to do in preparation. However, their funding has not come through, placing several of those projects on hold. One project will be going forward – replacing the walkway from the backdoor to the garage. We have obtained 3 quotes to have the walkway replaced. The cost will be \$1750. There was a report of extensive water in the basement during the heavy rains. The drain was not able to handle the amount of rain received. A contact from our property team had a friend who was able to use a professional water extractor and removed at least 100 gallons. Service Master conducted a moisture and bacteria test and none was found. Service Master will be back to sanitize. It is unlikely that we will exceed our insurance deductible. Last 2 items still outstanding for quotes – belfry, alligator pit, removing the old furnace vent, and sanctuary wall and ceiling repairs. Ann Marie asked if a check valve could be installed.
 - i. Motion to have our deteriorating walkway going to the parking lot replaced by General Paving at an amount not to exceed \$2000. (Rob and second by Carol.) Motion passed unanimously.

6. Outreach/Mission update. Connie Harasymiw and Sarah Butters. Connie reminded the vestry that Warren and Linda had asked about stepping down from this role. Sarah and Connie have stepped up to take on this ministry. Sarah presented a proposal for capital improvements for St. Vincent's school and medical center in Haiti. They will be working on a grant for \$15,000 from the ECCT Sustainable Development Fund. The amount being asked for from the Vestry is \$1550. The projects include solar power on campus for outages, materials for the low vision center, and backpack electronic medical records. This parish has a long history of supporting St. Vincent's for many years.

1. Motion: That \$1550 from Trinity's Outreach and Mission account be designated as Trinity's contribution to the Capital Improvements grant from the Sustainable Development Fund for capital improvements at St. Vincent's School, Haiti. Moved by JR and seconded by Greg. Motion passes unanimously.

7. COVID policy update. Rebecca Scruton. The committee is reviewing our practices to be compatible with the state and CDC. Will be reported back.

8. New business. Fr. Tom Furrer thanked everyone who has helped with the COVID policies and procedures over the last 18 months, especially Rebecca, Connie, and Warren. Tom just received a letter from the suffragan bishop who will be visiting on October 3rd. We will have 1 service at 10am and afterwards she will be meeting with the vestry to discuss MLK jr's Letter from Birmingham Jail.

Howling Hound Dogs concert on October 23rd and a rain date of October 24th. Tom announced a benefit concert for Kateri medical mission. The event has been postponed due to COVID. The event has moved from our parshi hall to St. Andrew's front lawn. This will be joint activity with St. Andrew's. There will be soup and a concert. St. Andrew's has decided to have a matching gift of up to \$10,000 for all donations that day for Kateri Medical Center.

9. Fr. Tom led the closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn by JR, Warren seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

Minutes respectfully submitted on 9/26/2021

M. Hepburn