

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 24 January 2019

Present: Rose Riley, Denise Paternostro, Fr. Tom Furrer, Warren Blessing, Donna Brown, Ray Colburn, Rob Heath, Carol Jones, Jerry Stavola and Judy Shaw.

Absent: Garth Myers

Vestry Chaplain: Rebecca Scruton

Guest: Linda Traue

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

I. Opening Worship was led Rebecca.

II. Mission and Ministry - Welcoming Congregations

Vestry used the article: *Ten Signs of a Welcoming Congregation* to inform a discussion about creating a more welcoming parish.

- Social media presence is critical in these times. The Trinity webpage is already good, but it is being improved still further by Joan Joseph and Leslie Jones. We also have a Facebook page although not many parishioners know this.
- Signage needs improvement; entrances to the sanctuary and accessibility access routes should be clearly identified.
- Visitor parking can be assigned on Christmas Eve and Easter with regular members asked to park further up the street.
- Greeters should not be overwhelmingly enthusiastic. A diverse group of greeters outside the church might help people feel they could belong here. An all-inclusive bulletin for Christmas Eve and Easter might be helpful. Visitors to receive a note from the pastor or wardens (our current practice) not phone calls or swag bags.
- Sidewalk activities to increase our presence in the community e.g. Sunday services, coffee hour
- Road race day: Hand out water bottles and greet runners. Reschedule celebration of Holy Eucharist during the afternoon.
- Prayer table at Westfarms mall – offer to pray for anyone who asked.

III. The following items were added to the consent agenda:

- Minutes for December 20, 2018 vestry meeting
- Approval of overage expenditure of \$175 in Substitute Organists account (\$150 paid to Bruce Henley on June 20 to cover for Dorothy LaBelle's absence and \$25 to Dorothy LaBelle for an extra rehearsal in July 2018).
- Approval of Voter's List for Annual meeting.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda (Donna/Warren)
Motion was carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report for December 2018. (Ray/Rose)

Motion was carried.

Notes: December income was \$4,000 higher than expected, \$13,400 over budget for the year. Pledge income for 2018 was \$10,400 higher than budgeted and non-pledge income was \$55 over budget. Expenses for December were over budget by \$1,000 but under by \$2,500 for the year. Expenses for utilities were over budget by \$2,006 but costs of snow removal and maintenance were under budget. Monies were transferred into the Physical Improvement Account in the endowment to cover the costs of the parish hall renovations as follows: \$20,839 from Special Gifts and \$15,292 from Memorial Fund-designated.

V. Upcoming Events

ECCT North Central Region Ministry Network Meeting, Tuesday, Jan 29th
Feed and Read Bible Study beginning Wednesday, Jan 30th at 6.00 pm
Annual Meeting, Sunday, Feb 10th

VI. Old Business

i. Property Committee Report

- Parish Hall: basic electrical work done and grids for ceiling tiles installed. Volunteers needed to paint the walls on Feb 1 and 2.
- Heating: Warren will solicit an independent evaluation of our system to help us understand what changes are needed to maintain a consistent temperature in the sanctuary and offices.

ii. Nominating Committee Report

Donna presented the slate of 2019 officers: Denise Paternostro and Rose Riley (wardens); Carol Jones (parish clerk); Robert Heath (treasurer); Leslie Jones, Tina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis and Linda Traue (incoming vestry members); Rose Riley and Ray Colburn (convention delegates); Lynda Blessing and Kathy Cole (convention alternates); Donna Brown, Marilyn Ford, Connie Harasymiw, Rebecca Scruton (2020 nominating committee).

iii. Trinity By-Laws Committee Report

The by-laws have been amended as follows:

- integration of changes approved in prior Annual Meetings but maintained as amendments rather than being incorporated in the body of the document
- removal of the Assistant Treasurer position
- clarification of filling the term of Warden in Article 3: Section 4, paragraph 2
- addition of text regarding filling vacancies of Treasure, Clerk or general Vestry member in Article 3: Section 4, paragraph 3
- addition of allowance for extra terms for positions requiring special skills
- removal of clause in Article IV: section 2 pertaining to delegates to the Deanery
- removal of the Nominating Committee as a standing committee
- addition of the Worship Committee as a standing committee

One friendly correction was made: Page 1 section 1: "a Clerk, a Treasurers" was changed to "a Clerk, a Treasurer"

Motion: To maintain consistency with Diocesan-recommended procedures for filling unexpected vacancies, the following changes are proposed to page 2, section 4 of the amended by-laws:

Old language: Any vacancy occurring by death or otherwise in the office of Warden during the course of the year may be filled for the unexpired balance of the term at a special Parish meeting duly called for that purpose or may be filled until the next Annual Meeting by the Vestry, as the Vestry in its discretion may determine. Any vacancy of Treasurer, Clerk or general Vestry member may be filled by the Vestry until the next Annual Meeting.

New Language: Any vacancy occurring by death or otherwise in the office of Warden during the course of the year may be filled for the unexpired balance of the term at a special Parish meeting duly called for that purpose.

Any vacancy of Treasurer, Clerk or general Vestry member may be filled at the next Annual Meeting or may be filled until the next Annual Meeting by the Vestry or at a special Parish meeting duly called for that purpose as the Vestry in its discretion may determine.

Motion was carried.

Motion: To present the amended Trinity by-laws at the 2019 Annual Meeting for approval by the parish members. (Denise/Carol)

Motion was carried.

VII. New Business

i. Extension of terms for Treasurer and Clerk

Motion: To extend the term of office for an additional year (in accordance with our Bylaws amendment passed at the February 7, 2015 Annual Meeting) of the Parish Clerk and Treasurer because of the specialized skills required for their positions (Denise/Donna)
Motion was carried.

ii. Report on Trinity's 150th Celebration Plans

Theme selected: *Do, Love, Walk* from Micah 6:8: "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God"

- Dates of 150th Anniversary Celebration: July 2019 to June 2020
- Events in planning stages:
 - Commemorative Service for formation of Trinity with festive luncheon - Oct 6, 2019
 - Organ and Harpsichord Concert – early November
 - St. Nicholas Children’s Craft Day – early Dec 2019
 - Walk for a Cause - April 2020
 - Tour and Tea - May or June 2020
 - Commemorative Service for formal incorporation of Trinity into the Diocese of CT, followed by a Parish Picnic - June 14, 2020
- Other activities:
 - Banner for front of Church
 - Investigating possible inclusion in Wethersfield's Heritage Walk
 - Updated History of Trinity
- Budget for Trinity150: A worksheet with events and activities and their estimated costs

along with fundraisers and estimated income will be presented to Vestry at the February or March meeting.

- Planning committee members are: Shirley Davies, Marilyn Ford, Connie Harasymiw, Leslie Jones, Michael Kucka, Denise Paternostro, JR Stanko, Rose Riley, and Fr. Tom Furrer.

iii. Approval to allocate funds raised by Sal's 4/27/19 concert to the Trinity150 project

Motion: To allocate the net profits from Sal's 4/27/19 concert to the Trinity150 celebration. (Use of the funds will be in accordance with the budget for Trinity150 as approved by the Vestry.) (Denise/Warren)

Motion was carried.

iv. New Outreach Initiative

Warren reported that St. Andrews in Rocky Hill has invited us to join them in launching a food-distribution program throughout CT called *The Outreach Program: Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives.* (www.theoutreachprogram.org). Warren will attend a preliminary information meeting at St. Andrews. Others are invited to join him.

VIII. Closing

Meeting was closed in prayer at 9:00 pm

The next meeting will be Thursday February 28, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Jones
Parish Clerk