

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield
Vestry Meeting
August 27, 2020

Present: The Rev. Tom Furrer (missional priest), the Rev. Darryl Burke (curate), Rebecca Scruton (co-warden), Warren Blessing (co-warden), Leslie Jones (clerk), Robert Heath (treasurer), Greg Joseph, Tina LaMorte, Linda Traue, Ann Marie Stavola, J.R. Stanko, Cheryl Lewis

Absent: Connie Harasymiw (co-warden)

R. Scruton opened the ZOOM meeting with prayer at 6:35 pm.

Dwelling in the Word

G. Joseph led a guided meditation on Matthew 5:1-12 and how The Beatitudes resonate with each of us and how we may use them in our lives.

Monthly Reports

- *A motion was made to accept the July 23, 2020 minutes (attached). Moved by C. Lewis and seconded by G. Joseph. Unanimously approved.*
- *R. Heath presented the Budget Report for the period ending July 31, 2020 (attached). A motion was made by J.R. Stanko to receive the May budget report. Seconded by G. Joseph. Unanimously received.*

Vestry Housekeeping

- D. Burke lead a discussion of Chapter 4, Mission, of the *Vestry Resource Guide* with respect to Trinity's mission statement. The statement posted in our Parish Hall states, "Trinity Episcopal Church is an ever-evolving Christian community committed to deepening our relationship with God by: offering worship and education for all ages, caring for and serving one another and those beyond our community, and being open and welcoming." Our current "motto" on a banner outside the church is: "Love God, Love Others, Change the World." The group discussed the possibility of an alternate/possible mission statement for our church.
- Bishop Scruton will fill in while T. Furrer is recuperating and after Darryl's leaving September 1.

Old Business

- COVID-19 Re-opening and Updates
 - No change in diocesan guidelines as we're still in Phase 2. The House of Bishops may offer new guidelines. In the meantime R. Scruton, C. Harasymiw, J.R. Stanko and G. Joseph will meet to review diocesan guidelines and decide on the logistics for ensuring a safe way to do in-house worship.
 - T. Furrer presented a proposal for service changes. He proposed:
 1. a Saturday 4 pm in-church service which will be restricted to 25 attendees and recorded for posting on the website on Sunday morning for people who wish to continue online worship, and
 2. an outdoor Sunday morning service limited to 25 attendees which may move into the Parish Hall when the weather

gets cold dependent upon COVID numbers staying stable. Both services will be a Holy Eucharist. Services will begin when T. Furrer returns, probably mid-September. The consensus was that we should move in this direction.

- Parish Discernment Project
Vestry members were invited to volunteer for an area of interest.
- Technology Committee Update
W. Blessing reported that the committee is currently developing a technology budget for 2021 and establishing a PayPal account for people to make donations online.
- Heritage Trail Plaque
The total cost will be approximately \$3,000. A motion will be considered at the next meeting.

New Business

- W. Blessing presented the attached Outreach & Mission Report. The Outreach & Mission Committee has recommended how to distribute budgeted 2020 outreach funds. No objections were voiced.
- Nominating Committee
The Nominating Committee is made up of Joan Joseph, Rose Riley, Lynda Blessing and Cheryl Chadsey. L. Traue, C. Lewis, and T. LaMorte will leave the vestry at the end of the year. R. Scruton invited one of the three to convene the committee and then may participate if desired.
- **Property Committee Update**
- In discussing Capital Improvement suggestions, W. Blessing reported that most people are interested in accessibility improvements.
- W. Blessing presented an update on the Y Camp which ended August 19 and all went well.
- The school that usually holds classes onsite will be “all internet” beginning in September so classes will not be held onsite until at least December.
- The Y would like to use the downstairs classrooms for a learning program in September and October.
- Our AA and Al-Anon groups would like to meet inside again but will continue meeting outside for now.

Closing

D. Burke closed the meeting with prayer at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Jones
Parish Clerk