

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wethersfield
Vestry Meeting
October 22, 2020

Present: The Rev. Tom Furrer (missional priest), Rebecca Scruton (co-warden), Connie Harasymiw (co-warden), Warren Blessing (co-warden), Leslie Jones (clerk), Robert Heath (treasurer), Greg Joseph, Tina LaMorte, Cheryl Lewis, Ann Marie Stavola

Absent: JR Stanko, Linda Traue

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

Dwelling in the Word

C. Harasymiw led a guided meditation on Romans 12:1-8 and vestry members shared what word or phrase jumped out and what each of us hears Jesus asking us to do in the vestry, in this parish, and in our neighborhoods.

Monthly Reports

- *A motion was made by C. Harasymiw to accept the September 24, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Robert Heath. T. LaMorte requested a change in wording regarding the heritage plaque: "Heritage Trail Plaque/Interpretive Sign — T. LaMorte has been in touch with Connecticut Humanities who may consider awarding a partial grant. The Town of Wethersfield will be applying for the grant on behalf of Trinity and others. If they succeed, Trinity will pay \$1000 for the plaque/interpretive sign which could cost up to \$3,000 if the grant is not successful." Unanimously approved. (Final minutes attached)*
- *R. Heath presented the Budget Report for the period ending September 30, 2020 (attached) indicating that while both income and expense lines are under-budget, the expenses are considerably more under-budget than income. A motion was made by G. Joseph to receive the September budget report. Seconded by T. Furrer. Unanimously received.*

Old Business

- COVID-19 Update and Status of Indoor Services — R. Scruton reported that virus numbers are ticking up and the wardens will continue to track the numbers. For now, indoor services will continue with safety precautions in place. Numbers for the Sunday morning service attendance by week was 32, 21 and 21 for the first three weeks of October. The afternoon service attendance was 6, 6, and 9. Average weekly attendance before COVID-19 was 54 (in-person); average weekly attendance during COVID-19 (in-person and virtual) is 66. No parishioners are known to have tested positive for COVID-19. C. Harasymiw reported that a protocol has been developed in the event that a parishioner or other church visitor tests positive or if the numbers deem it necessary to close the building (see attached). The document will be updated as conditions change.
- Outreach & Mission Update — Trinity sent a donation of \$1000 to South Park Inn for their work with people experiencing homelessness in Hartford and \$500 to the Keane Foundation for their work with children in Wethersfield. The final 2020 Community Meal in Hartford will be held on November 23. Clothing rooms in the basement are being used; groups/families provide lists of needs and we fill as

we're able. Lunch in the Park will be on November 7 where we'll provide bagged lunches for 50 people in Bushnell Park, Hartford; Father Tom will officiate at the service.

- Nominating Committee — The committee has been convened.
- Signage — T. LaMorte presented her recommendations to the Property Committee and touched base with the town regarding zoning as it relates to signage. She'll continue to work with the Property Committee regarding internal and external signs.
- PayPal — A donation button now appears on the website.
- Outdoor Nativity Update — The Nativity Scene is in-house and a stable is being designed and built. It will be placed on the front lawn after Thanksgiving.

New Business

2021 Budget Draft and Audit Review — R. Heath reported that the 2021 budget process has begun and there will be a detailed draft for discussion at our November meeting. The audit report of 2019 financials has been received and will be distributed to the vestry.

Additional Agenda Items

- Stewardship Plan — R. Scruton reported that a letter will be sent soon to parishioners with a pledge form and return envelope. Various parishioners will be asked to write/present their thoughts about giving and stewardship. A video presentation may be included in upcoming online services. Ingathering will be November 22.
- Vestry Conversation — A meeting is scheduled for October 27 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM with Robin Hammael-Urban, Mission Integrity & Training, ECCT.

Closing

T. Furrer closed the meeting with prayer at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Jones
Parish Clerk