

Trinity Episcopal Church
Minutes for the Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025

1. Opening Prayer and Call to Order

The meeting was held in Nourse Hall after the Sunday service and a potluck brunch. The meeting was called to order at 11:35 AM by the Rector, Mother Sarah Ginolfi. Mother Sarah opened the meeting, at which fifty members were in attendance, with a prayer.

2. Election of Clerk

David Rugger was nominated to serve as clerk. Thanks were expressed to Marc Brierre. John Riddle moves to elect. Marc Brierre 2nds. Unanimous approval.

3. Approval of Minutes January 28, 2024 Meeting

Dana Peterson moves. Melissa Alarie 2nd. Unanimous approval.

4. Rector's Report

Mother Sarah shares again a three-word strategy to frame our parish ministry: *Invite-Welcome-Connect*.

Invite and Welcome: We should know what we are inviting folks to join in. Episcopal worship is complex and we could be more fluent in how we translate *how* we do, *what* we do, and *why*.

Connect: How do we raise people into new ministries, especially as folks thoughtfully retire and transition into new roles? Church is specific to its time, place, and people. If we are vague about who we are and what we believe, we will fail.

Mother Sarah offers thanks...

-to Holly, Fern, and Jay who are finishing their terms.

-to Dana and Maria who are cycling off the finance team. Thank you especially to Dana for his chairship.

-to Jim and Maria for their labor and project management of the Rectory renovation. Their work has been tireless. Also, thanks to Rich Jones for his assistance.

-in grateful thanksgiving for the addition of Deacon Liz.

-for the faithful dedication of the staff and all who serve in positions of leadership who help breathe so much life into our community.

-to David Rugger for his efforts reviving Trinity Presents

-to Katya, Melissa, and Cassi for their efforts with the Youth Group. There is a need for 1-2 more leaders for this ministry.

5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of 2025 Budget

Linda Fay notes broadly that, even though our income was not quite on target, our expenses came in under projections. Our biggest savings was in the cost of heating oil. We had a warm winter and so needed to heat less.

For 2025, our expenses have gone up, in part because of health insurance premiums.

Our non-operating fund had a lot of activity. We had a large bequest from Ralph Severance. We used that money, beyond the \$20,000 earmarked for the building fund, to establish the Jubilee Fund. It was also used to fund the renovation of the Rectory and to pay for the concert series.

Dana notes: We have a balanced budget for 2025 and we achieved this through community action and not through a hefty withdrawal from the investments. As a result of the wonderful outpouring of love and support, we achieved an increase of \$11,000 in pledges plus a few additional 2024 pledges. The vestry finance team and Linda worked hard to reduce expenses and create a balanced, sustainable budget going forward.

Larry motions to accept the Treasurer's Report. Tom 2nds.

Discussion: Mother Sarah notes that the O&E budget will now be funded through the Jubilee Fund. Dana notes that Linda Fay works exceptionally hard and diligently to manage the church's finances. Thanks was expressed by all.

Unanimous Approval.

6. Recommended Changes to Investment Policy

Mother Sarah calls us to make the following changes to our investment policy. This language change will allow us to more carefully plan for and manage unexpected, undesignated bequests.

Present Wording in Policy Manual:

Bequests. Undesignated bequests will be placed into Vestry-designated endowment funds (Trinity Vestry October 13, 2005).

Suggested Wording for Policy Manual:

Bequests. Undesignated financial bequests to Trinity from a decedent's will or trust shall be placed in the Diocesan Unit Fund in the following proportions: fifty percent to the Trinity General account (principal available to Trinity) and fifty percent to the Smith and Benson account (principal available for Trinity building, capital, and major expenses).

Motion to approve by Tom. 2nd by Joanne. Unanimous approval

7. Further Amendments to By-Laws

Mother Sarah notes that the work to amend the by-laws turned out to be a more complex task than originally thought. Our policy manual is quite out of date and doesn't accurately reflect our current ministries and structure. It is proposed that we form a 4-5 person task force to do this work. It is a substantial task and requires us to ask what needs to be clearly defined, and what needs to be given flexibility.

Joanne, Sarah, Marc, and Ernie offer to join the committee.

Larry moves to form the Task Force. Marc 2nds. Unanimous Approval

8. Elections

Nominees for Vestry: Diane Novak, Lois Castonguay, Shannon Hill

Tom moves to approve. Larry 2nds. Unanimous Approval

Nominees for Diocesan Convention: Daisy Chew, David Rugger, Melissa Alarie as delegates; Nanci Gordon as alternate.

Larry moves to accept. Linda 2nds. Unanimous Approval

9. Acknowledgement of 2024 Year-in-Review

Mother Sarah expressed heartfelt thanks to Wendy for writing up the year in review narrative and to all the parish for our activity.

10. Commendations and Trinity Cross Award

Mother Sarah writes:

Cobbling together this year's Trinity Cross Award recipient preamble took a little bit of digging. A curious adventure, perhaps, since the recipient is such a well-known community leader.

Some common themes arose:

Compassionate.

Willing and engaging.

Admirable.

Generous.

Humble.

Within the parish, they have occupied roles on strategic planning, capital campaign, and stewardship teams. They are a founding member of the men's bible study, which has been going strong since 1998.

Yet, to many, their most remarkable contribution has been their faithful modeling of what it looks, feels, and sounds like to take things as they come, and to cope with them in the best way that they can: faithfully and thoughtfully...with a faith not contingent on only good things happening.

Perhaps this prayer captures it:

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. -BCP p. 832 For Quiet Confidence

Leadership takes on many forms. Our role as followers of Jesus isn't to take control of all the fruits of the seeds we plant. Quite the opposite: we set them free.

And, while this year's recipient may not be the individual with the most longstanding, out-in-front, titled leadership positions in the parish, I suspect they have been an inspiration, encouragement, and counsel to most if not all of you who have.

Tom Huebner, I offer deep thanks for all the leaders you have nurtured in this community through the sheer accumulation of loving consistency, honest reliability, and Christian encouragement.

11. Other

Thanks were given for Katherine Keniston for all her efforts in the area of hospitality.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Adjournment at 12:13 PM

The next Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 25, 2026