

Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes in-person and via Zoom
December 19, 2023

Present in Person: Mother Sarah Ginolfi, Priest-in-Charge, Judy Hall, and Dave Thurmer, and Elizabeth Bushey

Present via zoom: Holly Webb, Sr. Warden, Jay Slenker and Melissa Alaire and Rich Jones, Jr. Warden

Note Taker: Judy Hall

I. Call to Order: Mother Sarah called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm with a prayer.

II. November Minutes: The November minutes were previously approved unanimously via email to get the notes to the diocese so the Rutland Missionary Association bequest funds could be deposited to our investment accounts by the end of the year. Moved by Holly, seconded by Cassi and approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report: Dave made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Elizabeth and the motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

IV. Priest's Report: Mother Sarah provided a positive big picture stewardship status update and noted an average pledge increase of 33% since 2021's campaign. Discretionary Needs have come up and the Christmas Eve collection will go back to the Discretionary funds. Starting January 2024 Mother Sarah take Friday as her Sabbath. To honor her part time agreement, she will flex a half day off when it fits in the week.

V. Old Business

A. Mother Sarah gave a Positive Stewardship Update. We will meet if not exceed our goal to increase pledge and plate income by 7%.

B. Organ Project Update: Phase One appears to be almost done. Urgent attention is needed to address the "choir division" where water damage has caused significant deterioration of the leathers. Despite the urgency, the next critical step will be to engage Larry Nevin, for organ consultation after Phase I is completed and before the start of any further work.

C. Sarah's FTE and Letter of Agreement (LOA) Holly made the motion to begin Sarah's new appointment in January 2024, and not in March. The motion was seconded by Dave. The motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

A. 2024 Draft Budget Review

i. We need to give more attention to fundraising, though we determined that this work at this time is too much for the Vestry to engage with all our other commitments. Mother Sarah proposed that Outreach and Evangelism Team take over fundraising initiatives and proposed a goal to raise \$500 in 2024. The Vestry also discussed a hope to see more funds from the operating budget directed toward mission outreach projects. We wondered: what if we offered a tithe (10%) of our operating budget to the community? This kind of plan could grow over time e.g. beginning with 1% toward mission in 2025, 2% in 2026, etc.

2. Fence completed: on the northern church border which adds to the security for parishioners and bank customers. For security reasons, better lighting is needed on the the east side of the church property also.

VI. New Business:

A. Clerk Position: discussion was held on the need for a note taker at Vestry meetings when Marc is not available. Judy encouraged the use of a simple template to make note taking easier so all Vestry members could assume the duties with some ease.

B. Lenten Formation: Mother Sarah proposed a Biblical study group and reading together the book of James.

VII. NEXT MONTH Tasks:

A. Advertise Socks for Souls Drive: collection will begin Christmas Eve and run thru January. Discussion followed on selecting two Sundays after church to conduct a sock drive.

B. January 18 next Vestry Meeting

C. January 28 Annual Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm