

Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes in-person and via Zoom
November 17, 2022

Present in person: Mother Sarah Ginolfi, Priest in Charge, Jay Slenker, Jr. Warden,
Melissa Alarie, Lisa Frankel Boerner, Kathy Hall, and Dave Thurmer
Present via zoom: Fern Fryer, Sr. Warden, Elizabeth Bushey, and Holly Webb
Absent: Rich Jones

I. Call to Order: Mother Sarah called the meeting to order at 5:00PM with a prayer.

II. Approval of October minutes: Jay made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathy. After brief discussion, a vote was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

III. Treasurer's October Reports: Dave made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Melissa. Sarah reported that 21 pledges are in so far. Last year there was a total of 50 pledging units. After discussion, a vote was called with unanimous acceptance, no abstentions.

IV. Priest-in-Charge Report:

1. Sarah is hosting an informal social at the rectory December 1st from 5:30-7:00. Kathy is a co-planner with her. They will be helped by Melissa. The social is to reach-out-to and grow a relationship with newcomers and persons returning to Trinity. Invitations went out to all newcomers during Sarah's tenure (as best as we could track them down). The Vestry is invited as are the members of the Outreach and Evangelical Team. Sarah is looking for recommendations for others to invite.

2. Sarah has accepted the offer of a grant from the Knights Templar through Bruce Howard to take a pilgrimage to Israel in February. The trip is paid for by the Knights Templar and includes round trip air fare from Newark, rooms, and meals. It is a ten-day tour. Sarah will be out from Trinity for two weeks. She will debit time allocated to her for continuing education to time for the pilgrimage. She has scheduled back up supply, Nanci and Rev. Diane Nancekivell, for the two Sundays she will miss. The Vestry views the grant as an extraordinary opportunity for Sarah. Sarah thanked the Vestry especially Fern and Jay for their support. It was noted that Father Liam was also able to visit Israel through the same program.

3. The most functional railing to the lectern is being evaluated. Jay will be contacting Mac Steel to see if they can fabricate a railing that will support persons climbing the stairs without restricting that area around the altar more than necessary.

4. Benches formerly in the Siliski Garden are now in storage. Sarah is not sure what to do with them. Possibly selling them to members of Trinity was suggested, as they are still functional. Between \$75.00 to \$100.00 was recommended by several members of the Vestry.

a. Kathy thinks the memorial plaques or at least a plaque from one of the benches should be displayed somewhere in the church as a visible sign of appreciation for the Siliski family's generous donation.

b. Wendy will contact the Siliski family remaining in Rutland to see if they may be interested in one or more of the benches.

c. Neither Sarah or Wendy is aware of any restrictions regarding the donation by the Siliski family.

V. New Business

A. Preliminary Budget Review:

1. Dana and Linda are working with the diocese to ensure Sarah's salary is calculated correctly. The diocesan canons changed the way part time salaries could be compensated back to the IRS required use of no more than 30% to calculate housing. At last year's convention that percentage was changed for part time clerics.

2. Heating Expectations: Sarah would like to have the current thermostats replaced with secure programable thermostats. Secondly, the church thermostat should be consistently set at 63 deg F. She wants to keep the church hospitable and economical.

3. Lisa noted that heat could be saved by having the church front doors closed during the winter months. There was discussion regarding when to start closing the front doors during church services.

4. Jay made a **MOTION** to: close the front doors of the Church during services beginning December 4th, 2022, for the remainder of this winter and next spring except for special holidays such as Christmas Eve and big events like a wedding. Otherwise, the Chapel and side doors would be used for entry; seconded by Melissa. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously, no abstentions.

5. Dave made a **MOTION** to: lower church thermostats to 63 deg F and to follow the Finance Committee's recommendation to retain an energy consultant to explore options to purchase uniform programable and secure thermostats and replace all of the thermostats now used in the church, church offices, Norse Hall, and the library. The motion was seconded by Jay. The Vestry believes responsible heating will save energy costs in the future. A vote was called; and the motion passed unanimously, no abstentions.

6. Sarah will get in touch with Rich to see who to contact. The Vestry recommended considering Efficiency Vermont.

B. Greening of the Church: Wendy will handle the greening of the church for the start of Advent. The Christmas Greens will be delivered the Friday before Christmas. In years when the timing allows (to ensure the greens are still healthy by Christmas), Sarah would like to have everyone join in greening the church after the service the last Sunday of Advent.

C. Term limits for ministry teams: The elder members of these teams need to pass on their leadership and knowledge to younger members. Dana has recommended term limits of three years for Finance Committee members. The Vestry believes Finance should determine their committee's term limits. Three years is consistent with Vestry member terms. Melissa recommended Logos list all the ministry teams and their members because many people do not know how many ministries there are. The teams could also be posted on the bulletin board in Norse Hall.

D. Advent Welcome and Hospitality: Two programs are being offered by the Diocese for Lent: one hosted by Mission Farm on Wednesdays: "The Brilliance of the Star-The Birth of Something New" and another on Thursdays: "Wrestling with Revelation". Details for these programs will be in the church bulletin. Sarah suggested that our "Advent Program" could be to complete the many open projects around the building like the library and the upstairs rooms) so we can better welcome the community into our spaces. She also suggested the placement of gender-neutral signs for the 7 single toilet restrooms throughout the campus. The multi-toilet restrooms off the parish hall will keep designations for "Men" and "Women." She also would like to participate with many business in the city by putting up the "I <3 Rutland" signs in front of the church.

VI. Old Business:

A. Vestry Discernment: tabled to next meeting.

B. Nov 20 Thanksgiving and sock drive: Kathy will be picking up Betty Clark for the service on the 20th. Food for that Sunday can be dropped off that morning after 9:00. Kathy will be directing the sock drive with Jay assisting.

C. RSVP: is not renting any space from Trinity.

D. Parking Lot Update: The bank has resurfaced the sections of the lot they are responsible for. They have also filled the potholes where a person fell earlier this year. Repair of the portions of the lot owned by the church will need to be resurfaced in the future.

E. Stewardship Campaign update: already discussed.

F. Buildings and Grounds:

a. Memorial Garden: Cleanup has started. Trees have been trimmed; a dead tree has been removed. Leaves still need to be raked so the grass can be cut. Jay has a leaf blower.

b. Library Project: We could use a slip cover for a couch in the library. The carpet for the library has been ordered and will be installed in January.

c. Heating Expectations: already covered with motion for planned purchase of thermostats.

d. Security: Sarah talked with Jim. He recommends that a system called Arlo (sp) be looked into. The crash bar in the Chapel was not functioning. Royal Lock and Glass has fixed it at least temporarily. Sarah believes the entire bar will have to be replaced. Jay will check with Rich how to best repair the door for the long term.

Adjournment at 7:00PM

Next Vestry meeting December 15th 2022.

Respectfully Submitted, Marc Brierre