

2025 Vestry Retreat Minutes

February 22nd 12:30pm-4pm

Present: Mother Sarah, David Rugger, Shannon Hill, Diane Novak, Judy Hall, Dave Thurmer, Lois Castonguay, Brandy Blosser, Melissa Alarie, Cassi Whitcomb

BUSINESS SESSION

- I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer
Mother Sarah called the meeting to order at 12:35pm and opened with a prayer.
- II. Intros/Bible Study - 1 Corinthians 12: 4-26
The Vestry engaged in a reflection exercise based on St. Paul's letter about the Body of Christ. Common themes were the importance of functioning with Oneness while also raising up the unique gifts of each individual, the expansive diversity of God's creation, and the value of focus in ministry.
- III. Vestry Role Overview and Episcopal Structure
Using references to the role of the Vestry found in the Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Vermont, and Trinity's local policies and procedures manual, the Vestry discussed how this body functions in the larger structure of the parish.
- IV. Approval of January Vestry/Annual Meeting/Org. Meeting Minutes
 - Judy motioned to approve the January 16th Vestry minutes. Dave T. seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - Melissa motioned to approve the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting and the January 26th Vestry Organizational Meeting minutes. Dave T. seconded. Unanimous approval.
- V. Treasurer's Reports for January (Motions and voting took place after the financials Presentation)
 - Diane motioned to approve the treasurer's reports for January. David R. seconded. Unanimous approval.

EDUCATION SESSION

- I. Overview of Trinity Financials with Jim Harder
Sallie Gill and Steve Singiser joined the Vestry to hear a presentation from Jim Harder on the unique structure of Trinity's finances. Special attention was given to our income sourcing, non-operating account descriptions, and the basics of understanding the monthly treasurer's reports.

- II. Ideas for Structuring and Organizing our Vestry
 - Sarah reminded everyone of our Mission Statement: Following Jesus. Building Community. Love through Service
 - The Vestry discussed a model for delegation of ministry oversight roles: (SWEEPS) Stewardship, Worship (oversight area added in conversation), Evangelism, Education, Pastoral, Property, Service & Outreach
 - The Vestry organized all existing ministries into oversight categories and then brainstormed “gap areas” in ministries where populations and projects were being un-served or under-served.
- III. Critical Projects for 2025 (this check-in tabled to subgroups and March meeting)
- IV. “Homework” – Mother Sarah reminded everyone who isn’t current with Safe Church training to be in touch with Margaret Schotto at the diocese to complete it within six months of election. Margaret uses they/them pronouns. Their email is: mschotto@diovermont.org
- V. Adjournment at 4:09pm.

The Next Vestry Meeting will be on March 20th, 2025.

REPORT OF EMAIL VOTING

I. In a series of emails on March 12th, 2025, Dave T motioned and Melissa A seconded to approve the Sculpture Project. (The scope of the project was approved in the fall, but this approval also approved the final agreement with the City and Carving Studio.) A unanimous vote occurred via emails sent March 13th-15th.