

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes via Zoom  
January 21, 2021

Present: Fern Fryer Sr. Warden, Jay Slenker, Jr. Warden, Brandy Blosser, Marc Brierre, Kathy Hall, Krey Kellington, Dave Thurmer, and Holly Webb; absent Rich Jones

Attending: Dana Peterson

**I. Call to Order:** Fern Fryer called the meeting to order at 5:03PM. Holly opened the meeting with a prayer of thanks.

**II. Approval of December minutes:**

Motion by Krey to accept the minutes seconded by Jay; minutes accepted by unanimous vote.

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

The Operating Account for January, Non Operating Fund for December, and 2021 Budget Proposal are all submitted. Motion to accept all reports made by Krey, seconded by Brandy. Dana reviewed the reports noting there was a carry-over from last year, but a recent audit recommends that budgets should not have a carry-over, therefore the 2021 budget has an end balance of \$2.00. Payments on the Diocesan loan have begun. After further discussion all reports were accepted by unanimous vote.

**Items to be added to agenda:** Holly would like to have a second person attend the upcoming Episcopal Network for Stewardship meeting scheduled for this Saturday. The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:00PM and may last up to three hours. After some discussion Jay agreed to join Holly for the meeting.

**IV New Business:**

A. Currently Logos is sent to members of Trinity only by e-mail. Members of Trinity that are not connected to the web are not able to receive important church news under this policy. Krey recommended that Logos should be mailed to these Parishioners. Jay recommended that the first mailing should be to all members of Trinity with a note to each household to contact Wendy if they only want e-mailed copies. This will ensure all members of Trinity are contacted and given a choice. Kathy volunteered to draft the introduction letter to be enclosed with the first Logos. She will send a copy to Fern who will deliver the letter to Wendy.

Holly asked if Father Liam had left a list of persons he had been contacting for pastoral care. Jay believed Father Liam gave the list of names to Rich. Fern will contact Rich.

Jay recommended that the introduction letter should also contain a reminder to members of Trinity as to how they may request pastoral care.

B. Fern noted that some of the Vestry have been contacted with questions regarding the reason Father Liam left Trinity. Krey and Fern presented a draft explanation that was reviewed by the Vestry and after one addition to the draft, was accepted by the Vestry. It was agreed that the draft as amended should be published in the next bulletin if possible and definitely in the bulletin before the annual meeting as well as in the Logos. The explanation would be titled "Update from the Vestry". Fern will send the draft and instructions to Wendy.

C. Several members of the Vestry noted that the role of the Vestry is not well understood by many members of the parish. To better involve everyone an introduction to a Vestry Resource Guide published by the Episcopal Church Foundation was attached to the agenda for the Vestry to consider

using. The complete guide cost \$25. Fern will buy a copy. Members of the Vestry will read a chapter and brief the full Vestry on the applicability of that chapter to Trinity's congregation. Chapter 1 is assigned to Jay; Chap 2 to Krey; Chap 3 to Dave; Chap 4 to Fern; Chap 5 to Rich; Chap 6 to Holly; and Chap 7 to Kathy. Chapters 1 and 7 will be discussed first.

**D. Rectory Update:** Rich has replaced the locks, painted and spackled some of the rooms, and repaired pet damage. Thank you, Rich for your hard work. The garage and basement still need to be cleaned out. The toilet needs to be replaced.

Jay has spoken with Jeff about the necessity of checking the Rectory twice weekly. He will be meeting the plumber regarding the toilet and the Rectory hot water heater. The trim on the outside of the house should be repaired in the spring. He will also check with A-1 plumbing regarding the hot water heater in the Church which is currently turned off and possibly should be turned back on.

Jay will speak to Jim Harder about drawing up a check list for Jeff for the maintenance of the Rectory and Church. Cleaning the Church in anticipation of it being used should also be started by Jeff. Jeff told Jay he is interested in more hours. Fern and Jay will discuss work hours with him by phone.

#### **V. Old Business**

1. Budget - Dana joined the meeting and gave a review of the budget for 2021. Trinity has secured the first PPP federal loan. There is a question whether Trinity will be eligible for a second PPP loan. Staff salaries include a cost of living increase. Per current guidelines the 2021 budget has no carry-over. All anticipated pledge money for 2020 has been received. The Finance Committee has been meeting twice per month for the last quarter of 2020. The Vestry thanks Linda Fay, Jim Harder, Richard Kaufman, and Maria Cruise for their extra work on the budget. Motion to approve the 2021 budget made by Krey seconded by Dave and unanimously accepted.

2. A suggestion was made and rejected that a request for pledge increase be put to the Parish because of the issuance of a second stimulus check.

3. Interim Plans - Fern spoke with Bishop Shannon about scheduling a zoom meeting with the interim Priest recommended by the Bishop at the last meeting. The replacement for Lynn Bates, Auburn will contact Fern next week regarding scheduling a meeting with the potential interim. The starting salary for the interim is budgeted at 80% of the base salary. Fern suggested an offer of 80% of Father Liam's salary should be considered as that would be higher. The vestry acknowledged that there will be costs associated with securing an interim and/or conducting a search for the permanent clergy. It was agreed that money would be debited from the Unit Fund or some other fund that is not part of the operating account.

4. Annual meeting and following organizational meeting - Jay and Fern will organize the zoom presentation for the annual meeting. The Vestry agreed there should be an organizational meeting immediately after the annual meeting on a separate zoom link which Fern will send.

5. New Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates - Kathy Hall will be the Delegate from the Vestry. Nanci Gordon has not confirmed her status. In the event she is unable to be a delegate, Wendy or Dana Peterson are available alternates. We have received a commitment from one parishioner for one of the three year Vestry seats needed to be filled. The Vestry is still looking for another three-year member. Krey is waiting to hear back from a second person. If that person declines, Fern will continue to look for an eligible replacement. In the event one cannot be found prior to annual meeting a request will be made at that time. Fern thanked Brandy and Marc for their service

on the Vestry.

6. Banner update - The banner has been delivered to Trinity and will be put up anytime now.

7. Energy Committee Update - Marc has not been able to speak to Jim C or Aaron about an estimate to insulate the bell tower. He will continue reaching out to them.

8. Supply Priests and Ash Wednesday - The Vestry agreed Father Berry should be contacted to conduct further services, Feb. 21 and 28, and that he should be paid starting the 31st of January. Kathy will contact the Diocese about the Ash Wednesday service.

9. The copier - The lease for the copier ends this March. After March the lease will become a month to month lease unless otherwise negotiated. Fern will ask Wendy to look into getting a discount with a longer lease if a longer one is possible and feasible for Trinity.

Motion by Krey to adjourn seconded by Jay unanimous vote

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Adjournment at 6:55PM

Organizational Vestry meeting to be immediately after the annual meeting.

Next full Vestry meeting to be scheduled in February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted, Marc Brierre