

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RUTLAND, VT**  
**VESTRY AGENDA MINUTES**  
**April 18th, 2024**

5:03 pm

**I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer**

Thanks were expressed for the help with the rummage sale, spring flowers, conscientious decluttering, a custody victory, being back in a house, a supporting family and Trinity, and finding positives.

**II. Approval of March Minutes**

Marc has not yet had a chance to send the minutes because of jury duty.

Judy inquired if it could be turned into a paid position.

Fern suggests that it be put in the bulletin

**III. Treasurer's Reports for March**

Finance committee did not meet, but they look good.

Fern asked about the building fund was well supplied.

Judy mentioned a past initiative/push to split out the building fund and maintenance expenses.

SG said that these will be split out and that it is vital that more be budgeted for ongoing building and grounds care for both the church and the rectory.

Fern moved to approve; Dave T. second; Passed unanimously

**IV. Priest-in-Charge's Report**

SG: S+C plan to have a little Trinity reception event. Brunch will be adjacent to a sit down component and real china. Then there will be a little bit of a break and then a general reception-type-thing. Some of the duties for clean up can be transferred to the friend group for the general public / friend reception. This will take place Sunday June 9. This division is meant to be merciful on the hospitality team.

Painting is coming along really well. Still going because of some planned vacations. Only some dining room and some touch ups are still needed. Big furniture stuff is moving in shortly. The painters have revealed a lot of poorly done and hastily done improvements. They are doing a good job and it feels like a bigger, nicer space. The kitchen stuff has been ordered but a date has not been set. The bathroom work will be done around the time of the kitchen re-do. Mold is expected to be an issue when the floors come up. SG notes that the kitty is doing well. Ventilation is being managed.

**V. New Business**

A. Intentional Growth Report Action Steps Review (Appendix A)

Fern and SG met and said we don't really need to add anything more to what was presented. SG opens up to vestry comment.

Judy wants to move the audience physically closer. SG suggests we could use the screen and move it closer, or move the table.

Holly did attempt to move closer but the piano was blocking the screen. SG asks if there is someone who is interested in word-smithing.

SG proposal: put it on facebook that we are doing this.

Judy: If it is a priority, perhaps we should hire professionals.

For re-doing a mission statement.

Jay relays his experience doing a mission statement. There was an effort to pair up and eliminate redundant concepts and to create a mission statement with about 9-10 words. They also came up with a vision statement that will be revealed. He started with a large group and winnowed it down. In the end, there was a good sense of consensus. The words seem like a good start. It is easy to get hung up on specific words. Jay offers to provide the slides and process.

SG: Perhaps at a small table and a small group?

Fern suggests that we break into small groups and give specific tasks.

Holly: proposes "To serve, welcome, engage, be current, and honor all."

Dave T: wonders if some parishioners would rebel if we don't explicitly mention tradition.

SG says Tom Huebner might suggest we should plan for things that go directly for Gabriel (via Cassie) says we should make the space more explicitly inclusive for those with disabilities.

What would it mean also to be welcoming to families? What would that look like in practice? This is a good thing for two Sundays from now.

## **B. Deacon Placement Opportunity/Letter of Agreement- The Rev. Liz Skaleski**

SG - Liz we have met frequently in the context of the service. The role of the deacon in worship is bidding the prayers of the people, set the table, read the gospel, and do the dismissal. Often the job is elsewhere and they have an outward focus. SG identifies with the mission of deacons. It is an ordained position with local training. Her mom is a deacon. Liz would also help with pastoral care, including some of the day-to-day things. She is interested in training others to do pastoral care in addition to the devoted members who already minister. Having someone come along and invest in new and expanded pastoral partnerships. She could also lead morning prayer and so could take some of the load off of Nancy in light of her health challenges.

We pay Liz the supply priest rate when she preaches. The \$25/month allows the deacon to participate in the pension plan.

DR moves to recommend acceptance of the letter; Melissa 2nd - Unanimous approval

## **C. Sound System Update**

Coming May 6 for install (yay). Thanks to Holly and Wyatt, there will be a laptop provided. It will likely take four days to completely install. We might need to make decisions about how to live stream. We currently do it in a group that requires buy-in and

joining. It is also explicitly on facebook. Doing it on YouTube would be better. We will need some help and might need to make some decisions about how to do this.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Organ Project Update**

Letter just came from Peter. Letter is consistently confusing. Larry will be coming in to do the evaluation but as of yet has not. Dana will show Larry the list of things that will be done. It is hard to come in and do a full evaluation. Part of the challenge is how many times Peter comes in. This makes our fuel bill much, much higher. If this kind of work needs to be done during winter, there needs to be boundaries on the project work.

### **B. Memorial Garden Update**

JoAnn is still reaching out in conversation with possible folks about what needs to be done to manage the water. There might need to be some excavation work done. We might need to do some stump removal. 8" down would be sufficient. When we were talking about a new row of stones, there was some disagreement. Now there is more openness about having the stones inside, making it a smaller circle. They will just be digging up grass rather than stones. We don't have an estimate to hand out at this time. We are working with folks from "From The Ground Up". The son got an incorrect count and it was a pain. There was also a suggestion for lawn and maintenance cost. Having pros come in and take care of the leaves promptly is essential.

Judy says we need to be mindful that when pros come in, they need to come in more than once because it comes in over an extended period. Probably three.

SG - maybe we as volunteers could come in and take care of the memorial garden.

Chris and Gabriel came in and did a lot of leaf removal today and that the grass doesn't look so good. But pride was expressed in Gabe's hard work.

Judy brings up the topic that we need a budget for the landscaping. We know that these environmental things shall happen so that we can make more informed decisions.

SG - the proposed new blacktop would be where the stone path is. We also don't shovel right now. We didn't take the pathway project far enough. We could see if anyone wants to purchase a giant statue and put it on our property.

### **C. Trinity Presents- Music series reimagining (David R).**

David describes the projects in the works through next Fall. -

Fern moves to approve, Jay 2nds, approves. All in favor. Passed. Woot.

Adjournment at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Rugger, vestry member and substitute scrivener.