

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
Vestry Minutes in-person and via Zoom  
March 16, 2023

Present in Person: Mother Sarah Ginolfi, Priest in charge, Melissa Alarie, Judy Hall, Dave Thurmer

Present via zoom: Lisa Frankel Boerner, Cassi Whitcomb, Elizabeth Bushey, Holly Webb, Sr. Warden

Not Present: Jay Slenker and Rich Jones

**I. Call to Order:** Mother Sarah called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm with a prayer.

**II. January minutes.** Melissa made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave, unanimous approval, no abstentions.

**III. Treasure's Report:** Dave made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January and February, Holly seconded and the motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

**IV. Priest's Report:** Sarah reported on recent Lenten Trinity gatherings, outings and activities: Salt Caves, Art Exhibit in Middlebury, including Sacred Stories and as part of the Lenten Formation Program book study zoom session of Mark Yaconelli's book, Between the Listening and the Telling. A discussion from those who had read the book highlighted what moved and inspired them. The author will preach at Trinity on Palm Sunday, and lead a workshop on Sacred Stories immediately following worship.

Mother Sarah noted her 2nd year anniversary at Trinity and shared her celebrations and challenges. She stated she was happy to be here and thanked the vestry for all they do. She expressed creating space for new life and felt good about the library progress with new carpet, paint and furniture coming.

**V. New Business:**

A. Motion to approve the 2020 Minutes of the Organization meeting of the Vestry. A motion was made by Melissa to accept the minutes, Holly seconded and the motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

B. Mother Sarah requested a change in her 2023 Housing Allowance designation from \$2,500 to \$3,300 to cover an unplanned furniture purchase. Appendix A: submitted for signatures. Dave made the motion to accept, increase of the Housing Allowance from \$2,500 to \$3,300 and it was seconded Holly. The motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

C. New Vestry Orientation: Discussion focused on "What does the Vestry do?" Holly commented that they were the eyes and ears of the church. Sarah added: they are church leaders and quick advisors and help with the mission and vision of the church. Seasoned vestry members shared tips that they considered important also. Sarah shared how she reads the budget and financial statements and gave examples of things to look for when reviewing them. She thanked and commented on the great work of the Trinity Finance Committee and how grateful she is to have that team. Overall, the church is in a healthy financial position (though there's always room to grow).

D. Group Share on our hopes and dreams for the next year. Common themes included continuing to expand and focus our invite/welcome/connect efforts, continuing to reach out into the community, exploring other ministry partnerships, and investing in youth/family ministry.

## **VI. Old Business**

A. Organ Project Update: progress is being made and pipes are ready to be raised to their appropriate locations. Pipes not needed for the Trinity organ remain on stage and will be removed. The final product of the Organ Pipe Project will produce a hybrid organ, with better blending ability. Sarah is committed to completing the organ project.

B. Discussion on a sound system was held. Sarah expressed concern that she hasn't had any follow through on the three bid requests she made in town. Many in the congregation and the choir complain of an inability to hear what is going on. The system also malfunctions during worship and it's a significant distraction. Elizabeth noted that inclusion incorporated many types of disabilities and we need to become aware of how we can better serve those with physical disabilities also.

## **VII. April Tasks:**

A. Continue to support the Sacred Stories, Sacred Spaces Lenten program

B. Continue an inventory of our building and campus to ensure we are maximizing our space potential.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm