

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RUTLAND, VT  
August 15 Vestry Meeting Minutes

5:01-7:05

Dana Peterson, Dave Thurmer, Cassi Whitcomb, Judy Hall, Holly Webb, Jay Slenker, Melissa Alarie, Brandy Blosser, and David Rugger

I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer [5:05pm]

II. Approval of June Minutes

Motion to Approve by Dave Thurmer, Judy Seconds. Unanimous Pass

III. Treasurer's Reports for June

Mother Sarah observed that the pledge amount seemed lower than usual. Dana Peterson notes that amount reflects the timing of a vacation, which caused part of the month's pledges not to be recorded. The balance will be reflected in the July report. Mother Sarah also notes the growth of the Jubilee Fund via interest.

Motion to approve by Brandy, Dave Thurmer Seconds; Unanimous Pass.

IV. Priest-in-Charge's Report

Mother Sarah met with Bishop Shannon and discussed many things. The September 15 installation counts as her official church visit. There will be a virtual bishop-vestry meeting Tuesday September 10 at 6:30-7:30pm.

She also mentioned the September 5th Active Shooter Scenario Training Seminar. Several members have expressed interest. There is an in-person option available.

There was a brief discussion about the section of Mother Sarah's LOA regarding time off. About two weeks of her vacation has had the added stress of managing contractors for the rectory renovation. Vestry unanimously expressed support for using some of the time allotted for continuing education for restoration and rest.

Mother Sarah asked the vestry to remind people that if they need to speak, they should set an appointment.

The Vestry discussed Trinity's continuing relationship with Cato's Kids and the complications that have been encountered recently.

V. New Business

A. 2023 Audit Report

The Finance Committee completed a full audit. A few things are of particular note:

1. Trinity needs to put forward an updated investment policy to be adopted at the next annual meeting. It should have been on the 1/24 annual meeting agenda.

2. There needs to be a current inventory for the church's property and equipment.

Dana Peterson suggests a separate list for the rectory and for the church. The

Sexton, Junior Warden, Altar Guild, Administrative Assistant, Music Director, and Rector should be called upon to compile this list. Peterson also suggests that we should keep this process as an ongoing agenda item.

Motion to accept the Audit Report by Brandy Blosser, Dave Thurmer 2nds;  
Unanimous approval.

B. Stewardship 2025

Mother Sarah opens the discussion asking: *What are the most important things our 2025 campaign might benefit from considering?*

The Stewardship Team currently consists of Judy Hall, Cassie Whitcomb, Tom Heubner, Katja Cook, and Mother Sarah.

Some highlights from the past year worth celebrating:

The Youth Program has now served 13 youths.

Trinity Presents looks forward to a complete and exciting season.

The Trinity contingent at Companions in Wholeness continues to grow

Trinity continues to be a good steward of its financial resources..

The Vestry asks the Stewardship Team to consider: *What is our (Trinity's) role in dismantling unjust structures and building community? OR How are we (Trinity) practicing service.*

C. Vestry Roles Discernment –

There was discussion about how individual members of the Vestry might oversee particular areas pertaining to the parish. These include: Buildings, Grounds, Worship, Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism, Finance, Christian Formation, Children and Families, and Pastoral Care

Holly Webb mentioned the importance of having music and the arts as a distinct area.

Mother Sarah noted how Deacon Liz will be bringing some order to the pastoral care practice.

VI. Old Business

A. Rectory Update

Significant progress is being made on the house. Delays have been inevitable, but the work continues. In particular, the kitchen, electrical needs, floors, and the guest bathroom are in progress.

B. Organ Project Update. - An update on the Organ Project was provided by David Rugger. Progress continues to be made.

C. Memorial Garden Update - JoAnne, Holly, and Jay did a great deal of work moving stone, soil, and other materials. There will likely be a Myrtle planting event. Holly is investigating pavers. Holly wonders whether it would be possible to do larger pieces of granite with names and dates rather than individual pavers. Holly also noted that the walkway from Church St to the Memorial Garden presents challenges to those who have mobility issues. There was a discussion about the possibility of using crushed stone.

D. Trinity Presents concert on Sept 29th -

The upcoming concert will be exciting. There was discussion about the need for volunteers, a mechanism for donating, and how contracts will be sent out soon. Various means of publicizing the event were discussed.

VII. Report of Email Voting

A. In a series of emails on July 12, 2024, the Executive Team approved up to \$2,500 for the purchase of a new refrigerator for the Rectory. This was on the recommendation of Jim Cruise who discovered that the wheels for the existing fridge were broken and would damage the impending new kitchen floor. Maria Cruise reported a final cost of \$2,280 which includes a 3-year warranty on the fridge, delivery of the new fridge/take away of the old fridge.

Adjournment: 7:02

Next Vestry Meeting is September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Respectfully submitted by David Rugger