

Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes in-person and via Zoom
December 15, 2022

Present in person: Mother Sarah Ginolfi, Priest in Charge, Fern Fryer, Sr. Warden, Elizabeth Bushey, Lisa Frankel Boerner, Kathy Hall, Rich Jones, and Dave Thurmer.

Present via zoom: Jay Slenker, Jr. Warden, Melissa Alarie, and Holly Webb

I. Call to Order: Mother Sarah called the meeting to order at 5:00PM with a prayer.

II. November minutes: Fern made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave. After brief discussion, a vote on the motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

III. Treasurer's November Reports: Kathy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Fern. Holly raised a question regarding pledges. Sarah reported that donations and pledged money received for 2022 will exceed the figure budgeted for this year. After further discussion, a vote on the motion was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

IV. Priest-in-Charge Report:

1. The newcomer event hosted by Sarah at the Rectory was a success. Twenty people were there; nine were newcomers and eleven were either active members of Trinity or former members of the congregation. Sarah thanked Kathy for her help hosting. Sarah would like to do a similar event in the spring.

2. The mission plan developed by Sarah and the Vestry last year has been followed except for having a Ministry Fair. New people are needed in several of the Church ministries. Sarah and the Vestry should discern which new members could be invited to join certain ministries. Then invite them to the fair. Sarah would like to schedule the fair during Lent.

3. Sarah's salary is awaiting final approval from the Diocese. Dana and Linda have been very supportive with calculating her salary in accordance with Diocesan guidelines and adjusting it in relation to her housing allowance, COLA, and merit raise. She will advise the Vestry as soon as her salary for 2023 has final approval.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA:

1. Sarah is not a signatory for the Discretionary Fund account and needs on occasion to write checks on that account. Lisa made a **MOTION:** that effective this date, Mother Sarah be named as a signatory on the Discretionary Fund account; seconded by Dave. After further discussion a vote on the motion was called and **approved** unanimously, no abstentions. Sarah will notify Linda of the vote.

2. Executive Team: Sarah noted that the Executive Team is currently only the Senior and Junior Warden. There should be a third member of the team who is also a member of the Vestry and is elected by a majority of the Vestry. Kathy made a **MOTION:** that Rich be elected as the third member of the Executive Team; seconded by Jay. A vote on the motion was called and **approved** unanimously, no abstentions.

V. New Business

A. Clergy Housing Resolution: Sarah submitted the Clergy Housing Resolution for next year to the Vestry. Sarah's exact salary awaits Diocesan approval. The figures in the present Resolution can, if necessary, be adjusted by Vestry Vote but the current Resolution needs Vestry approval first and then returned to the Finance Committee this month. Fern made a **MOTION:** to approve the Clergy Housing

Resolution as written, seconded by Dave. After discussion regarding why the housing allowance in the budget does not match the housing allowance documented in the Resolution; a vote on the motion was called and unanimously **approved**, no abstentions.

B. Fuel Fund: Requests for separate donations to the Fuel Fund will start in January. Those donating will be given either a magnet depicting Trinity Church for their kitchen or a car magnet as they may wish.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Stewardship Campaign: Sarah will send the Vestry a detailed e-mail when she gets the numbers from the Finance Committee. But she can report that this year the number of pledging units has increased. Trinity will have a surplus this year due in part to not having a Sexton for several months but also due to the increase in donations and pledges.

B. Buildings and Grounds:

1. Rich has been working in the library for the last few days. The ceiling is done. The walls are primed and should have two coats of paint soon. The Vestry thanks Rich for working on this important project.
2. The organ project is delayed. Rich reported that an outlet will be repaired but that is not the reason for the delay.
3. Security: Rich will contact Jim regarding the installation of more lights and possibly cameras.
4. Rich will check the daylight savings timers for the lights and re-set them to reflect the time change.

C. BUDGET REVIEW:

1. Sarah noted that fuel is a significant item this year. Next year fuel is budgeted for \$47,000.00 almost double what was budgeted for this year.
2. All of the thermostats in Nourse Hall can be replaced with digital thermostats at an estimated cost of \$1,200. Rich has told the contractor to schedule a time to install them.
3. Closing the front doors for the last service made the Church warmer. There were only two complaints about having to use the side doors. For the Christmas Eve service the front doors will be opened. Whether the Christmas Day service will be in the sanctuary or the chapel was to be determined by Sarah.
4. Staff salaries are down from last year due to not paying the Sexton salary for several months. Gil has been doing excellent work since he started even though he is also working for Castleton.
5. The surplus in the Holding Fund is due to PPE and Diocesan loan funds. Hospitality's budget decreased but Priest's Expenses was increased to better reflect where money for newcomer events is spent.

D. VESTRY DISCERNMENT: Several people were recommended by members of the Vestry. Two congregants will be contacted by a member of the Vestry. Sarah will help with contacting the possible new members.

VII. December Tasks:

1. Sarah is looking for cost estimates to upgrade Trinity's sound system. She would like some assistance in getting a technician to come to Trinity and make a proposal. This has been difficult despite her multiple efforts.
2. Kathy would like Trinity to consider have a new member Church Directory. An updated one would help new and old members of the congregation. It was agreed a picture directory would be the best but is not necessary. Concerns were expressed that the Directory should not be on the internet. It should be an internal phone book.
3. There are two remaining benches donated by the Siliski family in the Church. One idea is to put them

in the Rectory back yard. Holly and Sarah will contact a member of the family regarding the disposition of the benches.

4. This Spring and Summer Trinity should sponsor an "I love Rutland tour" with tea and cookies afterward.

5. Trinity should also begin scheduling special organ events for the public.

Motion to adjourn by Rich seconded by Dave at 6:30PM

Next Vestry meeting January 19th 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Brierre