

Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

September 15, 2022

Present: Mother Sarah Ginolfi, Priest in Charge, Fern Fryer, Sr. Warden, Jay Slenker, Jr. Warden, Rich Jones,

Present via zoom: Elizabeth Bushey, Kathy Hall and Holly Webb.

Absent: Melissa Alarie, Lisa Frankel-Boerner, and Dave Thurmer

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

II. July minutes: Jay made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rich. There was no discussion; vote called on the motion with unanimous approval no abstentions.

III. Treasurer's Reports July and August: A motion was made by Fern to accept the Treasurer's Reports for July and August, seconded by Jay. A vote on the motion was called with unanimous approval no abstentions.

IV. Priest-in-Charge Report: Trinity's Sexton in training, Gill has been working hard. He will not start full time until he has completed his contract with Castleton. He has started cleaning up in the loft and trimming trees outside.

1. The Finance Committee through Jim and Linda, have made a request to improved lighting on the fire escape stairs on the west side of the church due to evidence of substance abuse in that area. Sarah would like to see the trees trimmed in that area as well and possibly a camera installed.

2. Sarah would like the gate/fence between Norse Hall and the back of the choir room on the east side of the Church upgraded to more effectively keep people out. The area behind the fence is currently overgrown. The fence/gate needs to be improved and the overgrown area needs to be cleaned up. Sarah will ask Wendy to contact Pratico's Landscaping and Fence Co. or Middlebury Fence for an estimate to clean up the overgrown area and increase the height of the gate/fence.

Items to be added to the agenda: There are two items: 1- Request from AA. 2- Adding a post or ramp to the lectern

1. AA has made a request to use Trinity for alco-thons for holidays, so this Thanksgiving, for example, starting Wednesday night 6-12:00mid-night and on Christmas as well. Holly noted this has been done before and it would continue for 24 hours during certain holidays. The Vestry supports allowing AA to have alco-thons over designated holidays. Sarah will confer with Holly over how this was done before Covid.

2. The Vestry agreed at least a post should be placed in a position to aid persons getting to and from the lectern. No decision was made on installing a ramp.

V. New Business:

1. Rutland Missionary Alliance, a 501C3 now comprised of 6 Churches including Trinity, is planning to sell the Sunset Home on North Main St. as it is no longer in active use. Bill Meub has reviewed the documents and proposal for sale. He recommends Trinity sign off on the sale proposal. Sarah noted that Four of the Missionary Alliance Churches have already agreed to the sale. Trinity will have to appoint three Trustees to sign for Trinity. Rich made a **MOTION** that Trinity sign off on the sale of the Sunset

Home by the Rutland Missionary Alliance; second by Fern. A vote was called with unanimous acceptance of the motion, no abstentions.

2. RSVP: Has requested additional space. It is not clear if they want one or more rooms and what the additional room or rooms would be used for. RSVP already has use of the Dolls room and one other room. The Vestry agreed (1) that the large room upstairs should be reserved for use by Trinity. (2) Whether any more rooms other than the ones RSVP already uses, should be approved for use by RSVP should not be decided until Bill Meub has been consulted and details such as repair, up-keep, type and amount of donation from RSVP, if any; and access to the building have been clarified. Sarah will meet with Bill to follow up.

3. Stewardship: Has had two meetings. Sarah is looking for "sustaining hope"; more new-comers, and an increase in pledge amounts, and donations to the fuel fund. The 30th of October will kick off the campaign and it will run through the 20th of November. There should be another "sock drive". Last years was successful. Tom Donahue should help support publicity.

4. Community Luncheon Account: Rich reported that the funds in this account are \$1,187.00. He recommends that Trinity donate a portion to "Companions in Wholeness" (CW) as the Trinity Community Luncheon is no longer in operation. CW operates out of the Methodist Church. The donation would be for food. Rich made a **MOTION** that Jim Harder cut a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be issued to "Companions in Wholeness" for the purchase of food; seconded by Jay. A vote was called with unanimous approval, no abstentions.

5. Fall Events Calendar: The Parish pic-nick will be at the Young's home in Proctor. The Young's will provide the grill and chicken, hot dogs, and burgers. The Church needs to bring tables and chairs. Marc and Rich have trucks to bring them to the Youngs. Jay has a truck to help with the return. Parishioners need to bring side salads and desserts. The Hospitality Fund will provide drinks and condiments. This is a generous and kind invitation from the Youngs.

Sarah expects about 40 members of Trinity will attend.

Sarah would like to have a new-comer social at the Rectory this Fall and Winter as a way to develop a relationship with people that are returning or are new. She will keep the Vestry informed of future plans.

Sock drive already discussed.

VI. Old Business

1. Organ Project: The organ pipes and materials need to be cleared before the blood drive in Norse Hall on November 3rd. Sarah will be talking to Peter about this. The executor for the Severance estate is in contact with Sarah. The bequest to the Organ Fund is on track.

2. Sexton Position Update: Gill should be starting officially in October. It looks like he will be working 8 to 10 hours per week.

3. Buildings and Grounds: Discussion around the bid to clean and improve the Memorial Garden submitted by From the Ground Up Landscape Construction and Maintenance on 8/22/2022. Fern made a **MOTION** to go into executive session; seconded by Jay. Vote called with unanimous approval. In Executive session from 6:25PM to 6:48PM. Upon return Jay made a **MOTION** to approve page one of the bid minus the yews and pending investigation of the size of the trays of creeping myrtle; and also contingent upon Sarah negotiating further with From the Ground Up and getting back to the Vestry by email. A vote was called with unanimous approval no abstentions.

4. Library Project: **Motion** by Jay to expend up to \$4,000.00 from the unrestricted memorial fund to carpet and paint the Library. This motion replaces the previous motion authorizing expenditures of up to \$3,000.00 for the library. There was no second or vote on the motion.

5. Heating and Furnace cleaning: Aaron has retired. Rich will try to make contact with the person Aaron designated to replace him and schedule an appointment to clean and tune up the furnace. Sarah would like revise heat procedures and control of the thermostat. We should set up a walk through with Jim and try to have Gill present for that as well.

6. Security: Sarah is awaiting a report from Jim Cruise. Jay will email Jim for an update. The Vestry is interested in additional lighting towards the back of the church.

VII. September Tasks:

1. Bark for life is this Sunday

2. Sarah will be working on getting the Organ Project back on track.

Adjourn: 7:10pm

Nest Vestry meeting October 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Brierre