

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
March 17, 2014

A meeting of the 2015 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on March 17, 2014, at 5:35 PM.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Vicki Davis; Lisa Omark, Junior Warden; Allan Atherton, Treasurer; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; Caren Carpenter; Duo Dickinson; Marge Eichler; Barbara Hedberg; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Richard Mammana; Charlotte Rea; Mary Ellen Savage; Cris Sigovitch; Patricia Thurston; Fred Tyrell; Robert Windom

Guests: Peg Chambers (for the Stencil Project); Jeff Freeman (for photography to post on the website)

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of January 20, 2014, meeting**
- **Approved Minutes of February 8, 2014, meeting**
- **Approved Parochial Report with additions to list of clergy**

Tasks identified:

- **Identify Chair of Stewardship Committee**
- **Read Chapters 6 through 10 of Holy Currencies for next Vestry meeting**
- **Set date of next Vestry meeting**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35.

Richard Mammana offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2014, Meeting (see attached):

The minutes of the Vestry meeting held on January 20, 2014, were approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2014, Meeting (see attached):

The minutes of the Vestry meeting held on February 8, 2014, were approved as submitted.

Rector's Report: The Rector has been working with Lisa Omark as she undertakes her duties as Junior Warden. He has also been helping to build on enthusiasm in New Haven churches for joining together to form a New Haven Youth Group and has contacted the Youth Ministry Program at Yale Divinity School to assist. There is an interfaith project underway on the topic of kindness as a counter to violence in New Haven under the leadership of Cheever Tyler. The Rector and Walden Moore have met with Tom Brand and Rebecca Rosenbaum on the subject of girls' choirs. The Lenten program compiled by the Associate Rector is underway, with parish collaboration and church to church mission ministry a topic for the coming Sunday. The Rector proposed an art exhibition at Trinity of the work of Susan Kleinert, whose artwork has a meditative and spiritual theme, as part of an effort to open the church to the community.

Parish Teams

A sign-up chart for parish teams was circulated, and new Vestry members were encouraged to sign up for Committees. The Stewardship Committee, which meets in August through the end of the year, needs a new Chair. Heather Tookes Alexopoulos will be the new Chair of the Investment Committee. The Development Committee will have its first meeting on March 31.

Continuing Business and New Business

Vestry Approval of 2013 Parochial Report (see attached): The Rector reviewed the draft Parochial Report for 2013. It was noted that Kyle Pedersen should be added as Deacon and Ellen Tillotson as Priest Associate. The Treasurer reviewed the financial information on which the Diocesan pledge is based; operating revenue in 2013 was down from the previous year, leading to a slight decrease in the Diocesan pledge. The Rector pointed out that the average attendance is high, particularly in view of inclusion of the summer months. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Parochial Report, with the noted changes to the list of clergy, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Stencil Project: Two grant applications submitted by Peg Chambers have been approved, one from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the other from the State of Connecticut (funded from a portion of the real estate conveyance tax). Funds have already been received from the National Trust; Peg has met with representatives of the High School for the Arts about involving students, and there will be an opportunity to involve middle school students from the Shubert Theater summer program. Funds from the State of Connecticut will be matched upon completion; Canning Studios has visited Trinity to begin to examine the layers of paint. A full repeat has been located in the Southwest corner, of which digital images will be posted on the website. The next step is to take a core sample of paint (stratigraphic analysis), which will be sent to a lab,

and paint colors will be matched. The stencil pattern proved to be geometric, with horizontal and vertical lines and a scallop at the top.

Youth Group Project: Marge Eichler reported on the meeting of many church representatives interested in forming a city-wide youth group. There will be another meeting again on April 5, and Mary Barnett is following up to get further information.

Book Reading: Vestry members discussed Chapters 1 through 5 of Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries, by The Rev. Eric Law. Chapter 1, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow", introduces the concept of six currencies which capture a sense of movement, recirculating and replenishing, with both internal and external flows necessary. Trinity has all of the currencies, and the question is, how are we going to make them flow, where are we static and where are the opportunities. As part of the broad concept of "wellness", it was suggested that holding a blood pressure screening would reach out to the broader community. Chapter 2, "Do More With Less", suggests using outreach grants as a means of community building, also exemplified by this year's Lenten series. Chapter 3, "Currency of Relationship", speaks of both internal and external relationship, which includes membership and welcoming newcomers; the social networks formed magnify whatever they are seeded with. It was pointed out that different people like different kinds of welcome. Chapter 4, "Boundless Compassion", makes the case for a compassionate approach, taking the long view with patience and perseverance. Chapter 5, "Currency of Truth", points out that it is difficult to listen to the truth and accept it without being confrontational and that truth is a product of our own perspectives. For the next meeting, the Vestry will do an exercise relating to becoming a truth-seeking community and finding potential growth areas and will read Chapters 6 through 10 of Holy Currencies.

Still Small Voice: The next issues will tell stories about what goes on at Trinity: The May issue will focus on educational and formation programs planned for the future, with contact information. Subsequent issues will be on Music and Stewardship, and there is a need for someone to work with the Rector on Outreach.

Water and Drainage Issue on North Wall: Duo Dickinson reported that Tim Buckman is working on resolving the problems. There is a plan for 2 hard-wired sump pumps, at a cost of \$2,950.

Christian Science Reading Room Basement Cleanout: On Saturday, March 22, there will be moving and clearing out the basement of the Christian Science building, with future plans for shelving in the space.

New Haven Green Cleanup: Charlotte Rea announced that Trinity is sponsoring a cleanup of the New Haven Green on April 19 (the day before Easter) at 10 and 11 AM. The New Haven Preservation Trust is doing a cleanup on May 17.

Upcoming Dates:

03/22/14	Christian Science Reading Room Basement Cleanout
04/01/14	Concert with Guildford, England, choir
04/06/14	Bishop Ahrens to speak; Frank Warner plaque unveiling with Liturgy of Thanksgiving
04/06/14	Walden Moore's 30 th Anniversary Celebration (wine and cheese after Evensong)
04/13/14 – 04/20/14	Holy Week
04/19/14	New Haven Green Cleanup
04/26/14	Safe Church Training at Trinity
04/27/14	Motorcycle Blessing
05/03/14	Cornerstone Event
05/04/14	Capital Campaign Recognition
05/??/14	Vestry Meeting

Robert Mammana led closing prayers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda
Minutes of January 20, 2014, Meeting
Minutes of February 8, 2014, Meeting
Draft Parochial Report