

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
March 16, 2015

A meeting of the 2016 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on March 16, 2015.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Rowena Kemp; Lisa Omark, Junior Warden; David Soper, Treasurer; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; David Assis; Duo Dickinson; Marge Eichler; Barbara Hedberg; Ellen Freiler; Karen Isaacs; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Robert Orr; Mary Ellen Savage; Glen Segger; Cris Sigovitch.

Guest: Peg Chambers

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of January 19, 2015, meeting**
- **Approved Minutes of January 25, 2015, Annual Parish Meeting**

Tasks identified:

- **Review Trinity Vision and Strategic Plan for discussion at the May Vestry meeting**
- **Investigate current demographics of the congregation**
- **Vestry members Segger, Eichler and Assis to assist with search for Church School Director**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35.

Chuck Kaywood offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2015, Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on January 19, 2015, be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2015, Annual Parish Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 25, 2015, be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Report:

Strategic Plan: The Rector reviewed the "Trinity Vision and Strategic Plan" dated March 15, 2015 (see attached), which includes a quick overview of programs that have been thought about for the future at Trinity. Also included is summary and response to

the national Episcopal Church survey entitled “New Facts on Episcopal Growth and Decline (2014)”, highlighting areas of that survey in which Trinity can broaden our scope and look for opportunities. Some of the survey conclusions were that churches can grow when they have a clear purpose, a spiritual component, openness to change, healthy conflict management, a regional draw, priority for communication, youth ministry and full-time clergy. The plans for Trinity’s future are confirmed by the “New Facts” document. The Strategic Plan consists of four general program areas: Spirituality; Worship and Music; Care; and Outreach.

The Plan will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting. There was general discussion of potential efforts to diversify; it was noted that copies of “Life Every Voice and Sing” will be returned to the pews and additional copies are on order. Assessment of criteria for future initiatives will center on the “Motors of Ministry”: Money, Members, Mission, and Motivation. The Lenten series this year has brought in more members. It was suggested that the Vestry look into the current demographics of the congregation.

Vestry Team’s Responses to our Communication Discussion (see attached): Lisa Omark reviewed the summary of the Vestry’s discussions concerning communication held at the Vestry Retreat on February 20. The Rector pointed out that communication is a part of the Strategic Plan, but there is a need for staff to accomplish this and further discussion will require thought about the support structure needed.

Overview of Committees and Vestry Members (see attached): This document summarizes Vestry and Parish members who have undertaken responsibilities in the areas of Liturgy/Spirituality; Music and the Arts; Care; Outreach; Education; Building; Administration; Communication; and Finance. The charts will be revised based on the Vestry members’ review.

Search for Position of Church School Director: The Rector announced that he is ready to post a request for candidates to fill the position of Church School Director following Linda Sheehan’s departure. Glen Segger, Marge Eichler, and David Assis will assist in this process.

Ministry Teams:

Properties and History:

Stencil Project Report: Peg Chambers presented a report entitled “Outcomes of the Historic Stenciling Project” (see attached). She stated that final reports have been submitted on the grants for the stenciling project from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. There will be a permanent exhibit explaining the project to be placed in the sanctuary. Mon May 3,

there will be a Forum regarding the stenciling project and the ministry of The Rev. Harwood at Trinity. Peg noted that the stencil grants have provided impetus for additional grants requests, including the successful application to the State Historic Preservation Office for a matching grant for restoration of the church steps. There will be an art exhibit presented by Tom Edwards at Trinity from June 11 through July 31, of which there will be a tour as part of the International Festival of Arts and Ideas on the third Saturday in June.

Properties: Duo Dickinson reported that there were 3 bids received for the tower roof stabilization and repair: Armani at \$48,000; Buckman at \$16,475; and the successful bidder, Tarantino Roofing, at about \$12,000. Sam Sigg has been helpful in arranging 5 scheduled workdays on the church building. The full amount of \$117,000 from the State Historic Preservation Office matching grant for the steps will be received in full, although Trinity will be required to use a very expensive brownstone product and limited the scope of the work. However, there will be an additional application filed for a \$3,500 matching grant towards the \$7,000 necessary to replace degraded spandrel trim about the central front doors.

Music: Barb Hedberg reported on development of fund-raising for a Music Endowment which will have as a goal support of the music budget. The amount of \$19,000 was raised from the January plea to fill the budget gap. Duo Dickinson reported on two concerts planned for a concert series. Also, the committee is looking for ways to keep graduating choir members involved at Trinity.

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer's Report: David Soper reviewed the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" (see attached), which provides detail on the programmatic budget. Year to date activity will be presented starting in May. The expenses reflected in the "Financial Review" consist of items in 5 categories: Outreach; Music; Christian Education; Hospitality; Worship; and additional items, for total program expenses in the 2015 budget of \$373,960.

Continuing Business and New Business:

Calendar Planning: Sam Sigg, Head Sexton, will now coordinate calendar planning and use of the church property.

Bicentennial Celebration in 2016: Barbara Lamb will lead the efforts toward celebration of Trinity's Bicentennial in 2016.

Perichoresis 2015-2016 Grant Application (see attached): Zach Nein has submitted an application for \$5,000 for funding the continuation of Perichoresis in 2015 to 2016. Leisl Spitz will be Zach's successor as Intern for the project. It is suggested that funding

in the amount of \$3,000 from Trinity would be sufficient to continue the program another year, assuming that the grant application is successful.

Cups to Share: This project was developed by The Rev. Kyle Pedersen to assist in funding Abraham's Tent. Cups are to be turned in on Sunday, March 29.

Tree Planting on the Green: Trinity will be donating a tree to a project to plant 6 additional trees on the New Haven Green.

Survey of Episcopal Congregations 2014: The Wardens will lead a work group studying "New Facts on Episcopal Church Growth and Decline".

The following Vestry members will assist with the coffee hours on Sunday, March 19: Duo Dickinson; Robert Orr; Charlotte Rea.

By consensus, the group agreed to donate the contents of the basket for Vestry meeting snacks to Cups to Share.

The Rector led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

April 19 and May 17: Vision and Budget Conversation at Sunday Forum

April 25: Parish Retreat

May 18, 2015: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Snacks, Chuck Kaywood, Richard Mammana, Robert Orr

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of January 19, 2015, Vestry Meeting

Minutes of January 25, 2015, Annual Parish Meeting

Trinity Vision and Strategic Plan

Vestry Team's Responses to Our Communication Discussion

Overview of Committees and Vestry Members

Outcomes of the Historic Stenciling Project

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review

Perichoresis Grant Application