

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
May 18, 2015

A meeting of the 2016 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on May 18, 2015.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Rowena Kemp; Jack Tebes, Senior Warden; Lisa Omark, Junior Warden; David Soper, Treasurer; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; David Assis; Duo Dickinson; Barbara Hedberg; Ellen Freiler; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Richard Mammana; Robert Orr; Charlotte Rea; Glen Segger; Cris Sigovitch.

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of April 28, 2015, Electronic Vote re: Spandrels**
- **Approved Minutes of May 3, 2015, Meeting**

Tasks identified:

- **Invite representatives of Outreach Committee to next Vestry meeting**
- **Promote Livingston Taylor Concert**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35.

Lisa Omark offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2015, and May 3, 2015, Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Electronic Vote re: Spandrels and the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on May 3, 2015, be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Report: The Rector proposed leading a discussion of where Trinity is as a parish and where we are going. He pointed out that there now exists clear agreement about the existence of a budget deficit, a clear understanding of what the music program requires from the parish, and clarification of staffing needs and duties. The Vestry is working together as a team, but there is a need for new approaches going forward, so that the Vestry stands together as one group to build up Trinity constructively. The Rector issued a call for everyone to stop gossip which may not be accurate. There was a roundtable discussion of how to incorporate and implement these ideas in a positive way going forward. The Rector expressed appreciation for the openness of the Vestry's remarks and emphasized the need to benefit from the momentum now guiding Trinity toward the future. He announced that there are 4 or 5

candidates scheduled for interviews for the position of Executive Administrative Assistant. There was discussion of the break-in at the office. The Rector circulated copies of "Connecticut Congregations Overview: Findings from the 2014 Survey of Episcopal Congregations", a congregational research report from the Mission Department, The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church (attached).

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer's Report: David Soper reviewed the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" (attached) through April, which was also presented at the Forum on Sunday, May 17. He reported that the funds in the Trinity endowment have now been transferred to Vanguard; there will be two withdrawals from the endowment made in May since none was made during the transfer month. Pledges are up to date as of the end of April. The figures reflect a \$25,000 gift from the estate of David Howell for choir recruitment. Outreach proposals are now being solicited from organizations. The choir payrolls include Easter expenses paid in April. Spending for Christian Education is at 70.5% through April. The figure for capital improvements includes \$7,000 for the sound system and \$3,500 for the spandrels; a total of \$7,000 will be spent on the spandrels, of which \$3,500 will be reimbursed from the New Haven Preservation Trust grant. The Treasurer reported that fund-raising for the music program has resulted in \$22,000 in cash received to date, with \$33,000 pledged.

There was discussion concerning the custom of using a seven-year rolling average value to determine the current amount of withdrawal from the endowment. The Investment Committee has considered several possibilities, including five- or seven-year averages.

There was a question about Outreach grants for programs outside Trinity. In the past, Trinity had given grants to outside groups, but in recent years, Trinity members have donated money, time and hands-on work for Outreach programs. There was discussion of a need to talk about amounts and recipients of grants, with the suggestion that members of the Outreach Committee attend the next Vestry meeting.

Executive Administrative Assistant Search: Interviewing for the office position of Executive Administrative Assistant will begin on May 19. The Wardens expect that the search will take several weeks. A temporary office assistant will start May 19 to work five days a week from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the office.

Diocesan Pledge: Connecticut has the third highest pledge level in the country. Dioceses throughout the United States may be asked to give less to the national church so that individual churches may be allowed to give less to each Diocese.

Livingston Taylor Concert: All Vestry members were asked to promote and distribute five posters for the Livingston Taylor concert on May 29.

Ministry Teams:

Pastoral Care: The Associate Rector's Report was postponed until the next Vestry meeting, which will begin with that report.

Education and Youth: The search for a Church School Director continues. Perichoresis received a \$5,000 grant from the Episcopal Evangelical society so that the service can continue. People participating in Perichoresis will be asked to contribute to its funding.

Properties and History: The Senior Warden has signed the Signing Memo for the Grant contract with the State Historic Preservation Office for restoration of the front steps.

Continuing Business and New Business:

An additional document was circulated for Vestry signatures in support of Tuesday Rupp as a candidate for ordination.

The Rector led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

June 15, 2015: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, Mary Ellen Savage

Snacks, Mary Ellen Savage, Glen Segger, Ellen Freiler

Vestry Meetings: July (?); August 17, September 21, October 19

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of April 28, 2015, Electronic Vote re: Spandrels

Minutes of May 3, 2015, Meeting

Connecticut Congregations Overview: Findings from the 2014 Survey of Episcopal Congregations

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review

Signing Memo for SHPO Grant Contract