

(Subject to Vestry Approval)
TRINITY CHURCH ON THE GREEN
MINUTES
VESTRY MEETING
JUNE 15, 2015

Present:

Vestry Members: Rev. Luk De Volder, Rowena Kemp, Ellen Freiler, Karen Isaacs, Marge Eichler, Charles Kaywood, Chris Sigovitch, Jack Tebes, Duo Dickinson, Lisa Omark, Richard Mammana, Glenn Segger, Dave Jenkins, David Asis

Guests: Leigh Cromey, Bob Windom, Liz Dickinson, David Rivera, Carol Davidson

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of May 18, 2015, meeting**
- **Approved Boys' and Girls' Choir trip to England for twenty singers and eight chaperones**
- **Approved date for Annual Parish Meeting of January 31, 2016**

Tasks identified:

- **Form group to make suggestions for communication about expectations and education about coffee hours.**

Opening Prayer: Charles Kaywood

Minutes: The minutes of May 18 were approved, with these corrections: No meeting will be held in July and Richard Mammana was present at May 18 meeting.

Report from Assistant Rector: Rowena expressed gratitude for the many opportunities to learn and to be guided by the community. Rowena has sought training in mental health care and has completed the training program held by the Diocese for recently ordained clergy. While staying involved in Diocesan-wide activities, she has also been present in as

many Trinity gatherings as possible: a Ministry of Presence. She worked on *The Still Small Voice* that was published several months ago and she will speak at a meeting of an organization that cares for elders. She will also serve on the Board of the Episcopal Church at Yale to look for opportunities for collaboration while she works with parishioners from the Unitarian Universalist Church in Hamden, with the goal of joining forces to strengthen activities and connections among congregations. She has worked with the Home Board on a discussion of the book, *Being Mortal*, tentatively set for October 17.

Her challenges are navigating the various committees and finding her own space as a member of the community.

Glenn Seeger thanked Rowena for her time and leadership with various groups, especially meeting with Choir parents. Jack thanked her for the breadth of her work in the parish. She has understood quickly the various liturgical styles of the parish.

Warden's Report:

1. Search for open positions: The search for a new Church School Director has four candidates, and the Executive Administrative Assistant post has been filled. Erika Lindgren, who is not currently a member of the congregation, has accepted the position. The Search Committee interviewed nineteen individuals, most by phone and five in person. Two were invited to work in the office, then to have a second interview. Erika will begin on Thursday, June 23.
2. Visitors at Coffee Hour: Questions have arisen about managing the coffee hours so that parishioners feel comfortable. Discussion ensued around the aggressiveness of some people asking for money and eating much of the food. The Sextons have learned to work well with these visitors, and the Church has a Sexton at the side door and in the Undercroft monitoring the room at all times. Jack will organize a group to help make suggestions for

communication about expectations as well as education for Vestry and Parish members so that everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

Ministry Teams:

1. Outreach and Grants: Bob Windom reported on the history of the Outreach and Grants Committees. They have distributed about \$95,000 and now try to address issues that affect children, shelter, and food. They use endowed funds with a focus on groups or issues that have a connection to Trinity. The Committee does not require reports on how money is used although they conduct site visits.

2. Community Works: Leigh reminded the Vestry members that the Church can play a role but cannot move too far outside mission. Everyone is invited to help with the two soup kitchens.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund, which includes \$85/month plus \$3000/year for good-will contributions to community, is implemented according to the criteria of the Grants Committee.

The mind of the meeting was that we will not change our outreach activities. Luk reported that many churches are shifting from giving money or food to eating and working together to build relationships with needy groups.

3. Music Program: The trip to England has been well planned with both boys and girls included. Karen Isaacs moved that we approve the England trip for twenty singers and eight chaperones. The trip will be financed by \$28,000 from the activity fund. Parents will be asked to pay \$2000; for families that cannot afford the cost, scholarships will be provided. Motion was seconded and approved.

4. Stewardship: David Phelps reported that the Committee is drafting a stewardship letter and will have a signing evening; they are working on

pledge cards. This year's request will include the possibility of designated donations. The goal is \$500,000.

5. Finance Committee will meet with Team Leaders on July 7 to have an open, well-informed budget process with the understanding that the deficit must be addressed.

6. Charles Lemert has been working with homeless, as have Marge Eichler and James Thomas.

7. A motion was offered to move the Annual Meeting to Sunday, January 31, 2016, because of the Bicentennial on January 17. The motion was seconded and approved.

8. The Chapel on the Green Barbecue will be held July 5.

Closing Prayer: Charles Kaywood

Upcoming Dates:

August 17, 2015: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers: Duo Dickinson

Snacks: Duo Dickinson, Charlotte Rea, Lisa Omark

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Rea

Attachments:

Minutes of May 18, 2015 Vestry Meeting