

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
September 21, 2015

A meeting of the 2016 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on September 21, 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; Ellen Freiler; Barbara Hedberg; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Richard Mammana, Robert Orr; Mary Ellen Savage; Glen Segger.

Guest: Julia Johnson

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of August 17, 2015, meeting**
- **Adopted Clergy Housing Resolutions**

Tasks identified:

- **Discuss Church Welcome and Church Safety at the October Vestry meeting**
- **Review proposed Bylaws changes at the October Vestry meeting**
- **Review accordion door plans at the October Vestry meeting**
- **Consider gate proposal for 950 Chapel Street at the October Vestry meeting**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35.

Jack Tebes offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2015, Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on August 17, 2015, be approved as submitted. The motion passed (with 2 abstentions by members not present at the August meeting).

Rector's Report: Rector introduced Julia Johnson, the new Church School Director. Julia is a first-year student at the Yale Divinity School. She anticipates working with the children of the Church School and reaching out to the families and children. The Rector and Duo Dickinson summarized their visit with Louise Packard, Director of the Trinity Foundation in Boston. Her message was one of creating a mission of growing outside the church walls in order to raise funding to preserve and expand a valued program; leveraging seed money by collaborating with similar organizations; and doing focused and dynamic outreach. The message brought to Trinity by Kerry Robinson in her

forum presentation and sermon was that “development is ministry” by bringing God to people who need it and that “money is mission.” The Rector pointed out that money, mission and motivation are parameters suggested for evaluating Trinity programs while looking to the future, with the community making a common decision.

Clergy Housing Allowance Resolutions: In order to comply with tax regulations, clergy housing resolutions, providing for a housing allowance of \$48,822 for the Rector and \$26,390 for the Assistant Rector, were considered by the Vestry. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the resolutions be adopted; the motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer’s Report: David Soper circulated and reviewed the “Trinity Church on the Green 2016 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets” (see attached). To date, a budget surplus of about \$53,000 is shown, after budgeted withdrawals from the endowment, receipt of a \$25,000 bequest and an insurance refund. He noted that one-half of the cost of restoration of the front steps will be reimbursed in 2017 (\$117,000 from the State of Connecticut grant). The proposed budget assumes salary increased commensurate with the Diocesan guidelines. The Treasurer is investigating possible savings in health insurance costs. The 2016 draw from the endowment will be 8.8%, to cover the cost of the steps, but will be reduced to 7.6% after the reimbursement from the State grant. The Finance Committee continues to be concerned about the deficit; the outcome will depend upon the success of the stewardship campaign.

Stewardship: Mary Ellen Savage expressed thanks to the Rector for suggesting that Kerry Robinson speak at the Adult Forum and preach to launch the stewardship campaign and also thanks to David Jenkins for his assistance with the stewardship program.

Ministry Teams:

Church Welcome and Church Safety: Marge Eichler announced that there will be a Flu Clinic on October 29 at 2 PM at Chapel on the Green. The Rector stated that there were challenges this summer in the area of welcome and safety, providing increased security while showing care. Jack Tebes has a work group on this topic, which will be the subject of Vestry discussion at the October Vestry meeting.

Nominating Committee: The Committee consists of the Senior Warden and outgoing Vestry members (Barb Hedberg, Duo Dickinson, Peter Jongbloed, Chuck Kaywood and Cris Sigovich). The nominating process will be announced to the parish shortly.

Properties and History:

Properties: The Vestry considered a proposal to install an accordion door to add flexibility to the area next to the lounge in the undercroft, at an estimated cost of about \$5,000. (See attached plan and Budget Quote of Willco Sales and Service, Inc.) It was the consensus of the Vestry that action on this proposal be deferred to the October Vestry meeting. Duo Dickinson circulated a proposed

plan for diverters to deal with water on the roof; quotes will be obtained and brought back to the Vestry.

Continuing Business and New Business:

Bicentennial Celebration: The Rector presented a proposed calendar for the celebration, from the opening on January 17 with an interfaith celebration. It was suggested that the East Rock Festival would present an opportunity for publicity next year; that and other opportunities will be explored by the committee.

Gate at 950 Chapel Street: The Rector circulated the latest communication from Russell F. Schimmer on behalf of the Christian Science Membership regarding the status of the proposal for gates to be installed at the entrance to 930 Chapel Street, at a cost of \$9,000 for gates and \$3,500 for grilles. (See attached “Christian Science – Trinity Projects Summary”.) By consensus, consideration of the proposal was deferred to the October Vestry meeting.

Bylaws Changes: It was the consensus of the Vestry that discussion of the proposed Bylaws changes be deferred until the October Vestry meeting.

Jack Tebes led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

October 19, 2015: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, Ellen Freiler

Snacks, Karen Isaacs, Mary Ellen Savage, Glen Segger

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of August 17, 2015, Vestry Meeting

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review