

(Subject to Vestry approval)

**MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
October 19, 2015**

A meeting of the 2016 Vestry was held in the Trinity Parish Office on October 19, 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; Ellen Freiler; Barbara Hedberg; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Richard Mammana; Charlotte Rae; Mary Ellen Savage; Glen Segger.

Guest: Charles Lemert

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of September 21, 2015, meeting, as corrected**
- **Endorsement of Tuesday Rupp for the Transitional Diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut**
- **Approved expenditure of one-half of the cost of construction of a gate at 950 Chapel Street, to a maximum of \$6,000**
- **Approved Definition of Membership as change to the Bylaws**
- **Approved the grants recommended in the Grants Committee Budget Report**

Tasks identified:

- **Consideration of remaining proposed changes to the Bylaws at the November Vestry meeting**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:30.

Ellen Freiler offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2015, Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on August 17, 2015, be approved with the following corrections: David Jenkins and Richard Mammana were present; the gate at the Church office is not to be privately funded. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Rector's Report: The Rector referred to the 2015 Budget and Vision Conversation (see attached) and pointed to the progress on vision which has taken place over the past 8 months, building to the Parish Meeting with a picture of what the future of Trinity will look like. The decision stage will take place in the Spring of 2016. The parish needs to decide whether to continue the Holiday Bazaar

beyond 2016 and/or whether to hire someone to run it. The question will be whether the Holiday Bazaar fits with Trinity's identity and plays a role in community building. There have been suggestions that components of the Holiday Bazaar could be broken down, so that there could be more than one chair for committees for those components in order to share the leadership role.

Ministry Teams:

Membership Care: Welcome and Safety Conversation: The Senior Warden, Jack Tebes, has been heading a work group on this topic. Charles Lemert reported that there will be a series of meetings at Trinity on the subject and presented a document entitled "Homeless People on the Green: Facts" (see attached). He pointed out that the nature of the problems of homelessness stems from a lack of affordable housing (not substance abuse, which is well down the list of causes). Trinity is at the epicenter of homeless life in New Haven. The challenge is to understand the problem better and to come to terms with it. Jack Tebes stated that people at Trinity care about the issue, but many are concerned. The challenge is what Trinity can do as a Parish. The first step is to find out what the real concerns are; it is evident that parents with young children and seniors are concerned about safety. To address these issues, more sextons are now on duty, and security systems have been installed. There was discussion about how to help all people feel safe and comfortable.

Endorsement of Tuesday Rupp for the Transitional Diaconate: A document indicating approval of the Vestry of Tuesday Rupp for the Transitional Diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut was circulated for signature by Vestry members.

Properties and History: The proposal of the Christian Science Church for construction of a gate at 950 Chapel Street was discussed. It was MOVED and SECONDED that Trinity contribute one-half of the cost, to a maximum of \$6,000 toward construction of a gate at 950 Chapel Street. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Outreach and Chapel on the Green:

Grants Committee: Barbara Hedberg presented the Trinity Grants Committee Budget Report (see attached), which reflects a total of \$33,963 in grants recommended by the Grants Committee. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the grants recommended in the Grants Committee Report be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer's Report: David Soper, Treasurer, reported that we are holding the line on spending and are on track per the 2015 budget.

Stewardship: Mary Ellen Savage announced that Sunday, October 25, is "Giving Sunday". Pledge cards will be placed in the collection plate or in baskets in the rear of the church. There will be special stewardship prayers during the Prayers of the People.

Bylaws Changes: David Assis, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee discussed the review of the Bylaws, which is to be undertaken every 3 years, and presented the Committee's proposed changes

to the Bylaws. (See attached Summary of Proposed Changes to Trinity church on-the-Green Bylaws as of 8-17-15.) There was discussion concerning the proposed definition of “membership” in Trinity Church. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following be adopted:

Article II. Members of the Church

Section 1. Any worshipper who attends services at Trinity, and who prays, pledges or makes a designated donation, and works to spread the Kingdom of God should declare her/himself a member of this church and be so recognized by the Rector or Wardens of Trinity.

The motion PASSED unanimously. Consideration of the remaining proposed changes to the Bylaws was deferred to the November Vestry meeting.

Ellen Freiler led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

November 16, 2015: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, Chuck Kaywood

Snacks, Lisa Omark, Charlotte Rae, Robert Orr

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of August 17, 2015, Vestry Meeting

2015 Budget and Vision Conversation

Homeless People on the Green: Facts

Summary of Proposed Changes to Trinity Church on-the-Green Bylaws as of 8-17-15

Trinity Grants Committee Budget Report