

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
December 14, 2015

A meeting of the 2016 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on December 14, 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; Marge Eichler; Ellen Freiler; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Peter Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Richard Mammana; Robert Orr; Charlotte Rea; Mary Ellen Savage; Glen Segger.

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made;

- **Approved Minutes of November 16, 2015, meeting**
- **The Vestry indicated support for exploring space options for ministry to the homeless**
- **The Vestry supported the idea of community events involving other faiths**

Tasks identified:

- **Receive report regarding non-profit marketing firms**
- **Receive report from Properties Committee regarding bids on front steps**
- **Review and vote on alternative Bylaws definitions of membership and voting by early January**
- **Development of cross-cultural and interfaith events and involvement**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:40, which was a festive dinner meeting in honor of all that the Vestry does to contribute to the life of the Trinity community. He congratulated the Rev. Rowena Kemp, who celebrated the second anniversary of her ordination today.

Chuck Kaywood offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2015, Meeting (see attached):

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on November 16, 2015, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Rector's Report: The Rector reported the following:

- Charlotte Rae will be a candidate for Warden.
- Applications for the open positions for Chapel on the Green Coordinator and Eldercare Ministry have been received and are being considered.
- The Advent and Christmas programs are going well, with a moving Pageant this past Sunday.

- Attendance at Trinity has been strong during the past month, including the Taize service; the 9 AM service has grown during the fall.
- The Holiday Bazaar had a great result.
- Music for Music is close to its fund-raising goal.
- The Homeless Care Ministry has had positive meetings; an additional intern will be hired through Columbus House.
- The Parish Office has been working with low staffing in recent weeks.
- Barbara Lamb and Caren Carpenter are looking into non-profit marketing firms (Andrews Associates and Red Rock); the Rector will give a full report following their feedback.

Properties: Duo Dickinson stated that \$3,675 had been raised from the Bits and Pieces sale of Trinity memorabilia, so that the installation of the spandrels will be fully funded. Bids for renovation of the front steps have gone out, and the Properties Committee will report back at the next Vestry meeting. Installation of LED lamps throughout the church is complete, which is expected to save substantially on utility costs. Costs for 2015 in relation to the church building are expected to be under the budgeted allowance.

Membership Care: Jack Tebes reported that there have been 3 group meetings with parishioners about welcome and safety, with much interest and participation. A dozen parishioners have expressed interest in assisting in what has developed into a broad issue for the parish. Columbus House is interested in funding a case management professional and a peer leader, who will start in mid-January. There will be a Trinity meeting in early January about that program. During a 6-month period, there will be a needs assessment, to look at the situation and assess and experiment with solutions. Columbus House needs office space in the area and is willing to pay rent for it; there could be program space in the Trinity's office, with elevator access (a project considered by the landlord). There is also the possibility of using the Upper Room in the Church during the week when that space is not used. The following non-profits have indicated an interest in partnering with Trinity: Columbus House; Connecticut Mental Health Center; Nourish New Haven; St. Hilda's House. In addition, the Rev. Kemp has contacted clergy at other churches and the New Haven Clergy Association; she is now sitting on the CONECT New Haven board. There is also the possibility of Diocesan funding. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Vestry indicate support for exploring space options for ministry to the homeless. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: David Soper, Treasurer, reviewed the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" (attached) which was circulated with the Agenda, representing figures through November, 2015. He reported that 95% of budgeted revenue has been received to date. Personnel expenses are not expected to be grossly over-budget; programs are at 86%, and music will be under-budget as recruitment has not been as expensive as anticipated. Building will be under-budget, primarily as a result of a one-time insurance refund. The choirs are running a surplus. Currently, there is a net surplus of \$35,000. The value of the endowment at the end of November was just under \$11.3 million.

Stewardship: David Jenkins stated that a second letter will be go out to those who have not yet pledged. Names of parishioners to be called have been divided up among the committee, and calling will start after next weekend. Expected renewed pledges should make up the current \$100,000 shortfall. There will be a bulletin wrapper on Christmas Eve and later in January.

Nomination Team: The Nominating Committee, consisting of Peter Jongbloed, Duo Dickinson, Chuck Kaywood, Barb Hedberg, Cris Sigovich, and Jack Tebes (retiring Vestry Members and Warden), has developed a slate of 6 candidates for Vestry (one will replace current Vestry member, Charlotte Rae, who will stand for Warden) from the 38 parishioners contacted. Those are: Fiona Bouchet; Barbara Casey; Joan Dreyfus; Sheila Owen; David Rivera; Sarah Woodford. On January 17, there will be a Forum between services with an opportunity for parishioners to meet with the candidates. The Vestry Retreat will be held on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27, at the Mercy Center in Madison.

Bylaws Discussion: There was further discussion of the Trinity membership and voting requirements which had been the subject of previous motions before the Vestry, in relation to the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut (see Episcopal Church Definitions of Membership and Voting at Annual Meetings included in Agenda). It was the consensus that the Vestry should look at alternatives to the membership and voting requirements. David Assis will undertake to draft alternatives for consideration and a vote by the Vestry in early January so that the amendments to the Bylaws may be presented to the parish at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cross-Cultural Dialogue Proposal: Ellen Freiler expressed concern about current world turmoil, the source of much of which may be religious differences. She encouraged Trinity to provide a welcoming atmosphere, conduct forums, and invite people in to describe who they are and what they believe. The Rector pointed out that there will be interfaith celebrations as part of the opening service of the Bicentennial of the Trinity building. There was Vestry support for the idea of community events involving other faiths.

Chuck Kaywood led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

**January 18, 2016: Next Vestry Meeting
Prayers, Duo Dickinson**

Snacks, Duo Dickinson, Lisa Omark, Peter Jongbloed
January 17: Coffee Hour, 9 AM: Lisa Omark; 11 AM: Duo Dickinson, Peter Jongbloed

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of November 16, 2015, Vestry Meeting

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review (see Agenda)

Episcopal Church Definitions of Membership and Voting at Annual Meetings (see Agenda)