

**MINUTES**  
**TRINITY VESTRY MEETING**  
**March 21, 2016**

A meeting of the 2017 Vestry was held in the Trinity Parish Office on March 21, 2016.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Rowena Kemp; Lisa Omark, Senior Warden; Charlotte Rea, Junior Warden; David Soper, Treasurer; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; David Assis; Barbara Casey; Fiona Boucher; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Richard Mammana; Sheila Owen; David Rivera; Mary Ellen Savage; Glen Segger.

**QUICK VIEW**

**Decisions made;**

- **Approved Minutes of January 18, 2016, Vestry Meeting; Annual Parish Meeting of January 31, 2016, and February 27, 2016, Vestry Meeting**
- **Ratified electronic vote approving Addenda to restoration of front steps project**

**Tasks identified:**

- **Volunteer to meet with City of New Haven on the future of the Green and homelessness**
- **Prepare reports by Vestry liaisons to Chorister Academy and the Arts and Education for May Vestry meeting**
- **Create women's evening Bible Study group**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:40 PM.

David Jenkins offered an opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2016, Vestry Meeting; Annual Parish Meeting of January 31, 2016, and February 27, 2016, Vestry Meeting (see attached):** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meetings held on January 18, 2016, and February 27, 2016, and the Annual Parish Meeting of January 31, 2016, be approved. The motion PASSED.

**Rector's Report:**

**Collaboration of Churches on the New Haven Green:** The Rector reported on efforts among the three churches on the New Haven Green to work together with the City of New Haven. He called for volunteers to meet with the City on behalf of Trinity, to discuss the future of the Green and issues of homelessness.

**Update on the Search for New Associate Director of Music (see attached):** The Rector has been in discussions with Walden Moore, Music Director, regarding his need for hiring of a hands-on organizer for the music program, rather than a musician, to fill the vacancy created by the departure

of Andy Kotylo. This would free Walden to work with the musical aspects of the program. It is also recommended that a second Organ Scholar be engaged, with a 2-year commitment to overlap with the current Organ Scholar. Trinity's Organ Scholar position is considered to be very prestigious, and a second Organ Scholar will expand and add to that tradition.

**Program Church Conversation:** Lisa Omark led discussion of a portion of the national Episcopal Church series on "Sizing Up Your Congregation – Program Church" (see attached), in relation to church structure. The Vestry discussed the benefits of being a program church that arises from parishioners taking ownership of the parish teams.

**Vestry Member Liaisons:** Lisa Omark circulated "Vestry Member Liaisons to our Ministry Teams" (see attached), which outlines procedure for Vestry liaisons to report on the work of 1 or 2 Ministry Teams to the Vestry each month. In May, there will be reports from the following Ministry Teams: Chorister Academy and the Arts (Fiona Boucher, Barbara Casey, Karen Isaacs); Education (David Assis, Mary Ellen Savage). These brief reports have as their purpose to communicate to the Vestry the activities undertaken by the programs within Trinity.

### **Assistant Rector's Report:**

**TREC (Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut) Transition:** The Assistant Rector reported that the TREC transition team has met, and the first Convocation of the new Regions will be held on the last weekend in April. Barbara Casey, Murray Harrison and Janet Hutchins will serve as Trinity's representatives on the planning team for the South Central Region. The team will locate a site (not part of an Episcopal church) which has space for the delegates and break-out sessions. The delegates, or "Council Members", will be selected to represent the Regions in the Diocesan Mission Council through a process to be decided upon by the delegates in each Region. The Missioners will report on ministry activities at the Convocations. There is a weekly e-news on the Diocesan website, to which Trinity members may subscribe. The purpose of the transition is to foster collaboration and reaching out into the community among parishes in each Region.

**Report of Meeting of New Haven Parishes:** Lisa Omark and Charlotte Rea reported on a meeting held on March 17, 2016, at the Diocesan offices of representatives of the parishes in New Haven. At that meeting, Louis Fuertes, Diocesan Canon for Mission Finance and Operations, prepared "Perspectives on Parish Financial Sustainability" (attached), which he presented at the meeting. Louis Fuertes will join the Trinity Finance Committee at its May meeting. There are churches in New Haven which have concluded that they cannot support full-time clergy. As part of TREC, there has been a dialog started with cities, and the New Haven churches will be meeting. The next meeting will take place on April 28. Lisa mentioned that there was positive energy among the New Haven churches at the meeting.

### **Ministry Teams:**

**Outreach and Chapel on the Green:** The Rector reported the conclusion reached that Trinity could apply for grants for its own outreach programs, which would be primarily for seed money.

**Properties and History:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Vestry e-mail vote to approve Addenda to the project for restoration of the front steps be ratified. The motion PASSED unanimously.

**Administrative Operations:**

**Treasurer's Report:** David Soper, Treasurer, reviewed the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" (attached) through February, 2016. He noted that the church is ahead of budget in revenues and pledges. There will be upcoming capital expenses for payment of the first installment of the steps project and Trinity's share of the additional security measures and gate to the Christian Science Church at the parish office site. Distributions from the endowment are holding steady; the endowment value at the end of February was \$10.4 million and has increased to \$10.6 since then.

**Finance Committee:** Charlotte Rea reported on the Finance Committee meeting attended by Heather Tookes Alexopoulos, Chair of the Investment Committee. That committee is discussing a change to calculation of the annual draw from the endowment. At the next meeting, Louis Fuertes will discuss "Perspectives on Parish Financial Sustainability" with the committee. Charlotte and Barbara Casey met with the Community Foundation to discuss the two endowment funds which pay income annually to Trinity and the possibility of grants from the Foundation.

**Continuing Business and New Business:**

**Behavioral Covenant Work Group:** Barbara Casey announced that Mary Ellen Savage, Lisa Omark, Charlotte Rea, and Fiona Boucher will comprise the Work Group to draft a Vestry Behavioral Covenant. They will present a draft to the May Vestry meeting. It is intended that compliance with the Covenant will be assessed at the end of each Vestry meeting.

**Meeting Snacks, Meeting Prayer, and Coffee Hour Sign-up (see attached):** Lisa Omark circulated the attached schedule of assignments for Vestry meeting snacks, and prayer and Sunday coffee hours.

**Evening Women's Bible Study:** Sheila Owen discussed the possibility of creating an evening Bible Study group for women. The Assistant Rector indicated that she will be willing to assist with that.

**Genesis Garden Program:** Julia Johnson is launching a Genesis Garden program, which may become part of an environmental ministry.

**Clean-up on the New Haven Green:** There will be a project to clean-up the New Haven Green on Saturday, March 25.

**Mother's Day Plant Sale:** This year, the Mother's Day Plant sale will include the Caseus Cheese Truck, which will be parked near the church. All necessary permits have been obtained from the City of New Haven.

The Rector expressed his appreciation for the positive and engaged dedication of the Vestry members present.

David Jenkins led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

**Upcoming Dates:**

**May 16, 2016: Next Vestry Meeting**

**Prayers, Glen Segger**

**Snacks, Sarah Woodford, David Jenkins, Glen Segger, Fiona Boucher**

**April 3: Coffee Hour, Fiona Boucher, David Rivera (9 AM); David Jenkins, Marge Eichler  
(11 AM)**

**April 24: Coffee Hour, David Assis (9 AM); Charlotte Rea, Lisa Omark (11 AM)**

**May 16: Coffee Hour, Fiona Boucher, Sarah Woodford (9 AM); David Jenkins, Glen Segger  
(11 AM)**

**Attachments:**

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of January 18, 2016, Vestry Meeting

Minutes of January 31, 2016, Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of February 27, 2016, Vestry Meeting

Update on the Search for New Associate Director of Music

Excerpt from "Sizing Up Your Congregation – Program Church"

Vestry Member Liaisons to our Ministry Teams

Perspectives on Parish Financial Sustainability

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review

Meeting Snacks, Meeting Prayer, and Coffee Hour Sign-up