

**TRINITY CHURCH ON THE GREEN
VESTRY MEETING
MAY 16, 2016**

Present: Rev. Luk de Volder, Rev. Rowena Kemp, Sarah Woodford, Richard Mammana, Joan Dreyfus, Lisa Omark, Mary Ellen Savage, Barbara Casey, Glen Segger, , Charlotte Rea, David Asiss, David Jenkins, David Rivera, Duo Dickinson, Sheila Owens, Fiona Boucher, Robert Orr.

Decisions Made:

- **The Minutes of March 21, 2016, were approved as corrected.**
- **The Behavioral Covenant was approved and signed.**
- **The vote by email to approve payment to the Christian Science Church for part of cost of front gate and office grates was approved.**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35 pm and Glen Segger offered the opening prayer.

1. Opening Prayer by Glen Segger—Bible Moment, Romans 5:1-5
2. Minutes of March 21, 2016—Corrections: “Missioners” should be “Delegates” or “Council Members”.

Moved and seconded to accept minutes as corrected.

3. Rector’s Report:

Luk’s message at the Sunday Planning Forum on May 15:

A. The current vacancy in the office has created “missing building blocks.” The search for an administrative assistant continues, and the Church is poised for growth. He and others are screening consultants to help with marketing but are finding that many consultants are not accustomed to working with churches.

Rachel Segger, who has been appointed Music Program Manager, will begin on June 1.

B. ECCT has created an initiative to foster collaboration with other New Haven churches, with a second meeting scheduled in Meriden in June. Trinity’s Development Committee is currently working with other churches. Trinity needs to assess its needs and ascertain which projects fit with our strengths as we plan for further collaboration.

3. Properties Committee Report:

A. Congratulations and thanks were offered for the very successful Bicentennial Concert, which netted about \$21,000. One or two concerts will be scheduled again in the fall because the Music Committee needs another \$20,000 to \$25,000 to fill the funding gap.

B. Front Steps: Duo has been meeting with the construction company, Kronenberger, and they will bill us again after the shop drawings are approved. The construction schedule was distributed (see attached). The Vestry needs to prepare for the disruption because the contractors will need the entire apron. The spandrels will be painted and completed first.

The contractors will try to have the front door accessible for most of the summer. Sam is working to have Green side of the Church accept cars for parking. The contractors plan to finish by August 31, although schedules are subject to weather and other variables. All information will be published in the E-News.

4. Associate Rector’s Report: At the next Sunday Forum, May 22, Rowena will report to the Parish on the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC) and on the work of the South Central Region. The previous deaneries were eliminated and were replaced

by six regional councils. The South Central Region held a convocation on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, which was well-attended and focused on finding ways to collaborate.

5. Behavioral Covenant. Barbara Casey reported on the work of the Behavioral Covenant Group, who wrote the proposed Behavioral Covenant that is based on the work of the Vestry at the Retreat in February. The question arose about the procedure for “standing aside” if one disagrees with a decision by the Vestry but wishes to support the work of the whole group. The concept of “standing aside,” supporting without agreeing, was accepted as part of the Covenant.

The Behavioral Covenant was approved and signed by all present (see attached). The Covenant will be displayed in the Church.

A question arose about people who are certified by the Diocesan Safe Church initiative. Sherrill is working on scheduling a meeting to certify parishioners for Safe Church and to have the Safe Church certifications for each Vestry person on file.

6. Ministry Teams

A. Chorister Academy and the Arts: Fiona Boucher reported that the process of gathering information showed some gaps in communication and that the ministries are learning the value of communicating their activities. The reporting of the ministries is a new process and adjustments will be important. The title of the Report was changed to “Music Ministry and Chorister Academy Report” since arts other than music are not part of the report.

B. Education: David Assis reported that Julia Johnson hopes to include more children in the Sunday School and that Sunday School should be highlighted to the full congregation. The hope is that the Genesis Garden will attract more participants. Average attendance has been in the range of none to five. She feels that having Sunday School during the service has been helpful for the families, but the average attendance has not increased. The website and handouts can be helpful.

C. Building and History: The Vestry had voted by e-mail to approve payment to the Christian Science Church for part of the cost of the front gates and grates in the office. The total cost was under the \$6,000 originally approved. **The vote to ratify the email was unanimous in favor.**

7. Administrative Operations

A. Treasurer’s Report through March 2016 was included in Vestry packet.

B. Finance Committee—On March 17, Louis Fuertes, Canon for Mission, Finance, and Operations at ECCT, presented his overview of sustainability to the Finance Committee, and a copy was distributed to Vestry members.

C. Stewardship—Committee has determined the theme for the year and they are preparing pledge requests although the parish database does not have a reliable list of all participants with accurate addresses. Different groups such as Music and Welcoming Committee have separate databases that should be merged. Luk reported that he has been interviewing consultants to help improve the databases, and Barbara Casey noted that grants are available from ECCT. Mary Ellen would like more members for the Stewardship Committee, which works during July and August.

8. Continuing Business and New Business: Lisa Omark expressed gratitude to Glen Segger, who must leave the Vestry because on June 1, his wife will become the Music Program Manager. Lisa thanked him for his energy, courage and willingness to ask questions. Glen has become the President of the Home Board.

9. Glen offered the closing prayer.

Missing: Karen Isaacs and Marge Eichler. They will be asked to sign the Covenant at the next meeting.

The Vestry meeting with Bishop Laura may not happen as scheduled on May 26, but Luk will communicate with the Vestry.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rea, Pro Tem

Attachments:

Minutes of March 16, 2016, Vestry Meeting (as corrected)
Behavioral Covenant
Financial Review through April, 2016
Construction schedule