

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
June 20, 2016

A meeting of the 2017 Vestry was held in the Trinity Church Undercroft on June 20, 2016.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Rowena Kemp; Charlotte Rea, Junior Warden; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; David Assis; Fiona Boucher; Marge Eichler; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Richard Mammana; Sheila Owen; David Rivera; Mary Ellen Savage.

Guests: Peg Chambers; Duo Dickinson

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made;

- **Approved Minutes of May 16, 2016, Vestry Meeting, as corrected**
- **Approved expenditure of an additional amount up to \$26,000 in relation to the steps and spandrels as presented**

Tasks identified:

- **Volunteer to meet with City of New Haven on the future of the Green and homelessness**
- **Follow-up on Christian Science Church proposal for renovation at 950 Chapel Street**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Sheila Owen offered an opening prayer.

Bible Moment: A Bible passage from John 1:35-39 was read aloud and considered silently by those present.

Vestry Covenant: As had been decided, each month at the Vestry meetings, the Vestry will review a portion of the Vestry Covenant to reinforce the promises made in relation to communication among members of the Vestry. Richard Mammana read the promise to pray: "We promise to pray for each other, for our clergy and staff, and for the congregation". This promise seeks to build community and recognize others' needs, which contributes to recognizing the need for prayer in our own lives.

Vestry Conversation: Charlotte Rea started the conversation by pointing out the need for Vestry members to converse with each other and express views on how things are going in relation to Trinity. The following are comments from Vestry members:

- It is good to see the beginning of the project to reconstruct the front steps.
- The year is off to a rearing start in many ways, in part attributable to the Bicentennial events.

- There have been many positive comments on the community recognition of the Triumph of Tolerance concert.
- The meetings of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut South Central Region have been generating collaboration among the Episcopal Churches in the New Haven area.
- Happiness abounded at the Lighthouse Point picnic celebration.
- The Bicentennial events have fostered community among all ages at Trinity.
- A comment from a non-parishioner who was at Lighthouse Point was received to the effect that it was one of the best parties there ever.
- Services recently have been very well-attended.
- The recent Evensong with church musicians from all over the country was well-attended and a joyous occasion.

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2016, Vestry Meeting (attached): The following corrections to the minutes of the May 16, 2016, Vestry meeting were noted: Spelling of David Assis' name; title of the Assistant Rector; there are 6 "Regions" of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Rector's Report:

Strategic Planning: The Rector and Barbara Lamb have identified and interviewed some companies involved in marketing. On Monday, September 19, there will be a Strategic Planning meeting scheduled in conjunction with the scheduled Vestry meeting.

Meeting with Bishop Laura Ahrens: The Vestry will meet with Bishop Laura Ahrens on Tuesday, October 18, at 5:30 (instead of the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 17).

Ministry Teams:

Properties and History: Duo Dickinson reviewed the Estimate Worksheets (attached) of Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc., and "Trinity Steps Project Change Orders 6/20/2016" (attached) in relation to the current front steps replacement project. Before the start of construction, it had been assumed that the original steps construction was a conventional type, which turned out not to be the case when the original steps were removed: there was no support under the side steps. In addition, other needed repairs have been discovered. The 3 change orders relate to the following:

- Need for trap rock rubble under the steps, with a poured sub-slab, at a cost of between \$10,000 and \$20,000
- Repair of the side trim frame repair, at an estimated cost of \$971.15
- Filling of the wood attachment to the wooden spandrels over the doors and remaking of a stucco lintel, at an estimated cost of \$4,574.70

It was MOVED and SECONDED that expenditure of an additional amount up to \$26,000 be authorized in relation to the steps and spandrels as presented. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Peg Chambers then presented slides showing the results of research regarding paint color choices for the wooden spandrels. The grant request to the State Historic Preservation Commission had built in amounts to conduct research on the existing spandrels. Canning Company used a

photomicrography procedure to identify the colors of 16 layers of paint on the spandrels; the original paint was the same color (chocolate brown) as was on the stucco. The recommendation is to use a lighter color, as had been done in the past as well. The consensus of the Vestry was that selection of the color of paint for the replacement spandrels be left to Peg and Duo.

Administrative Operations:

Sunday School Structure Proposal (attached): The Rector reported that there have been 6 to 8 children in the nursery on Sundays recently. There is a need there for additional equipment in order to present a welcoming play environment for younger children. The items requested are designed to be removable in view of the limited storage space available. It was suggested that the addition of any new items purchased be publicized. A recent lack of “pew packs” for children was noted. A question was raised regarding the reasons why children are not joining in the opportunities in the undercroft, but rather remain upstairs with parents during the service.

Chapel on the Green Outreach Report: This item was deferred to the next meeting. The Rector commented that Chapel on the Green has never been going as well as it is now; he expressed gratitude to the Rev. Rowena Kemp and Chapel on the Green Coordinator Samantha Butler for this development.

Treasurer’s Report: In the absence of David Soper, Treasurer, the Rector reviewed the “Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review” (attached) through May, 2016, and the Treasurer’s comments regarding the financial status of the parish. The results to date in 2016 are positive and projections for 2017 look positive as well.

Continuing Business and New Business:

Bicentennial Beach Bash: David Rivera reported that the event was a huge success which broke even, with possibly a little left over. He expressed thanks to all who came and helped. The Wardens sent a thank you gift to Barbara Lamb in appreciation for her efforts.

Downtown District Services Proposal (attached): The Rector explained that downtown New Haven businesses pay for clean-up and snow removal in the downtown area. There is a plan proposed for a 26-week pilot program for Safety/Hospitality Ambassadors to create a safer atmosphere. The churches on the Green are being asked to contribute to the cost of this plan; the Proprietors of the Green will contribute \$10,000, and the churches are asked for the remaining \$16,000 of the total \$26,000 cost. It was requested that Wynn Davis, who is in charge of this program, be invited to come and speak to the Vestry about the project. In the meantime, Trinity will express willingness to make a contribution to the effort, to be determined later.

Christian Science Renovation Investment Request (attached): The Church of Christ, Scientist, Trinity’s landlord at 950 Chapel Street, has submitted a proposal requesting that Trinity be a co-investor in a renovation plan for the building. The plan would involve converting the basement of the building into a commercial storage facility; a side benefit would be construction of an elevator for the building. The proposal will be referred to Trinity’s Finance Committee for consideration.

New Haven Churches Collaboration (attached): There has been a proposal made by Felix Rivera, parishioner of St. Paul & St. James, that 2 members of each parish visit each of the 8 Episcopal churches in New Haven for Sunday worship, as to be scheduled. If interested in participating, Trinity parishioners should contact the Rector.

Stewardship: David Jenkins reported that there will be a Stewardship Newsletter sent out in August, to let the parish know how the pledges have been spent and describing the good things going on at Trinity. The theme of this year's stewardship campaign will be "Trinity and Community: 201 Years Together".

The Vestry is invited to a meeting of the Finance Committee, to be held on September 1. Leo Corrigan of Vanguard will make a presentation on the topic of a possible change to the calculation of the draw from the Trinity endowment

Sheila Owen led a closing prayer. Vestry members were reminded to keep in their prayers the Boys' and Girls' Choirs as they journey to Montreal and also Charles Lemert as he recuperates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

August 15, 2016: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, Richard Mammana

Snacks, Karen Isaacs

Richard Mammana

August 21, 2016: Coffee Hour,

Karen Isaacs

Richard Mammana

**September 1, 2016, 5:30 to 6:30 (Undercroft): Special Investment Committee Meeting
(Vanguard Advisor, Leo Corrigan)**

**September 19, 2016, 5:30 to 8 (Undercroft): Vestry and Strategic Planning Meeting with
committee leaders**

October 18, 2016: Vestry Meeting with Bishop Laura Ahrens (note Tuesday date)

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda: Bible Moment (John 1:35-39); Treasurer's Report; Financial Review through May; Sunday School Structure Proposal; Trinity Steps Project Change Orders 6/20/16; Proposal Downtown District Services; CSRR Investment Plans; New Haven Churches Collaboration

Minutes of May 16, 2016, Vestry Meeting