

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
August 15, 2016

A meeting of the 2017 Vestry was held in the Trinity Parish Office on August 15, 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; Fiona Boucher; Marge Eichler; Murray Harrison; Karen Isaacs; David Jenkins; Richard Mammana; Mary Ellen Savage; Sarah Woodford.

Guests:

Duo Dickinson

Representatives of First Church, Christ Scientist: Judith Cushingam, President; Nancy Alexander, Treasurer; Russell Schwimmer

Wynn Davis of Downtown District Services

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of June 20, 2016, Vestry Meeting**
- **Approved agreement with Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc., regarding steps repair**
- **Approved recommendation of the Finance Committee that withdrawals from the endowment be based on 5% of the average endowment valuation over the past 5 years.**
- **Referred the matter of contribution to the Downtown District Services Ambassador project on the New Haven Green to the Grants Committee for evaluation and report regarding a reasonable grant, but if funds available are oversubscribed, the Treasurer will analyze the 2016 budget to determine if funds are available from that source.**

Tasks identified:

- **Education and Youth and Communications Committees will explore welcoming materials for the Church School**
- **The Church School Director will attend or report to the September Vestry meeting**
- **The Rector will request additional data from First Church, Christ Scientist, concerning 950 Chapel Street**
- **Vestry members to review the proposed 2017 Budget**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Richard Mammana offered an opening prayer.

Bible Moment: The Rector read Hebrews 12: 1-2 for contemplation by the Vestry: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Vestry Covenant: The Rector reiterated the second item of the Vestry Covenant adopted on April 13, 2016: “We promise to pray for each other, for our clergy and staff, and for the congregation.”

Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2016, Vestry Meeting (see attached): It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on June 20, 2016, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Rector’s Report:

The Rector welcomed the guests from First Church, Christ Scientist, Duo Dickinson for the Trinity Properties Committee, and Wynn Davis of Downtown District Services.

Call of Assistant Minister to Grace Church, Hartford: The Rector noted the call to a new position for the Assistant Minister, the Rev. Rowena Kemp, at Grace Church, Hartford. Trinity will celebrate her ministry at Trinity at the Trinity Church picnic on September 11, her last Sunday at Trinity. The Rector expressed thanks for her ministry at Trinity and offered congratulations on her new position.

Downtown District Services Proposal: Wynn Davis, Director, appeared in order to clarify the Downtown District Services proposal to fund the presence on the New Haven Green of an Ambassador. He explained that the program, begun in 1996, was originally confined to the commercial areas of downtown New Haven, which pay an additional millage tax for services in those 27 square blocks, not including the Green, where the tax-exempt occupants and the Proprietors of the New Haven Green are not taxed. Downtown District Services would like to provide services on the Green as well. In 2013, the group began to talk to the Proprietors about placing furniture on the Green near the fountain as a pilot program and the need for safety measures on the Green, such as the Ambassadors, who perform hospitality and maintenance in other areas of downtown. For the past 10 weeks, such Ambassadors have been provided on the Green through funding by the Proprietors, 8 hours per day, 7 days per week as a uniformed presence in cooperation with the New Haven Police Department. In those 10 weeks, there have been many contacts and positive feedback from police, passers-by and City of New Haven Departments. Mr. Davis had agreed with the Proprietors to talk to other involved groups in order to sustain the program for an additional 26 weeks. (See attached handout circulated to the Trinity Vestry at the June Vestry meeting.) He pointed out that Downtown District Services funds the District 1 police substation across from the Green next to Starbucks. The Ambassadors have the ability to text police immediately concerning incidents. Community service has been offered by prosecutors at the Superior Court, rather than using the former procedure of offering nolle prosequi on infractions; this includes clean-up under Project Green Thumb. Mr. Davis requested Trinity’s partnership and support to continue the presence of Ambassadors on

the New Haven Green, and suggested support of 5 weeks at \$1,000, or \$5,000. Northside Development, owner of 2 properties on Church Street, has donated 1 week, or \$1,000. The District itself will likely support 5 to 10 weeks; the project is now 12 weeks into the 26 weeks proposed. David Soper will contact Liz Dickinson of the Grants Committee regarding funding prospects. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the matter of contribution to the Downtown District Services Ambassador project on the New Haven Green will be referred to the Grants Committee for evaluation and report regarding a reasonable grant, but if funds available are oversubscribed, the Treasurer will analyze the 2016 budget to determine if funds are available from that source. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Ministry Teams:

Properties and History: Duo Dickinson discussed the progress of the front steps project: Stone for the steps is to be sent from India to Canada, to arrive in North America about October 1, 2016; it is not possible to set stone in temperatures below 40 degrees. On account of the delay in delivery of the stone, Duo negotiated an agreement with Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc., the company under contract to perform the repair work, which incorporates stabilization work on the tower at a cost of \$10,900 (the prior low bid on that work had been \$11,300), patching of brownstone, and construction of code compliant temporary steps which for the side stairs, which can be used until the stone steps are installed (see attached letter to Duo from Mark Aldieri, AIA, Project Manager). Following discussion, it was MOVED and SECONDED that the agreement of Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc., as set forth in the attached letter, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Education and Youth:

Church School Budget: David Assis reported that the Church School Director, Julia Johnson, has reviewed the proposed 2017 budget amount and says that the needs of the Church School fit in with the amount reflected. A need for welcoming materials for families was pointed out, and David Assis will pursue this; it may also be a matter for the Communications Committee. There was also a request that the Church School Director present an overview of the current status at the Vestry meeting in September.

Continuing Business and New Business:

Endorsement of Candidates: Forms were circulated for signature by the Vestry in support of ordination of Tuesday Jane Rupp to the priesthood and the candidacy to ordination of Mary Barnett.

Administrative Operations:

Investment Committee Recommendation re: Spending Rule: Heather Tookes Alexopoulos, Chair of the Investment Committee sent a letter to the Vestry summarizing the reasons behind the committee's recommendation that the time frame for calculating withdrawals from the Trinity endowment be shortened from 7 years to 5 years (attached). Following discussion, it was MOVED and SECONDED that withdrawals from the endowment be based on 5% of the average endowment valuation over the past 5 years. The motion PASSED with 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report: David Soper, Treasurer, presented the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" through June, 2016, with comments on the 2017 Budget projections (attached). Trinity is

doing well financially through June, and the cash situation is very good. It was requested that there be a review of the current rental premises occupied by the office.

Nomination Team: The Senior Warden announced that the Nomination Team, consisting of retiring Vestry members, will begin to meet soon.

Clean-up on the New Haven Green: There are “Clean the Green” days scheduled on the following Saturdays: August 27, September 17, and October 22, from 10 AM to 12 noon.

The following items will be dealt with at the September Vestry meeting:

- The Rector will ask the Christian Science Church for more data in writing regarding 950 Chapel Street.
- The Vestry should take the opportunity to review the items in the proposed budget and give thought to them.
- The Church School Director will attend or report.
- Bibles in the pews.
- Walden Moore will speak about the choir trip to England.
- The Strategic Planning Meeting with committee leaders, originally scheduled for the September Vestry meeting is postponed.

The Vestry presented a card with good wishes to Assistant Rector the Rev. Rowena Kemp and shared a celebratory cake in her honor. Rowena expressed her thanks for the past months at Trinity and the learning experiences she has shared; she said that there were many times when she knew that God and the Holy Spirit were in the midst of these experiences.

Richard Mammana led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

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

September 19, 2016: Next Vestry Meeting Prayers, Sarah Woodford

Snacks, Robert Orr, David Jenkins, David Rivera, Mary Ellen Savage

September 25: Coffee Hour, Robert Orr, David Rivera (9 AM); David Jenkins, Mary Ellen Savage, (11 AM)

November 22, 2016: Vestry Meeting with Bishop Laura Ahrens (note Tuesday date)

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Minutes of June 20, 2016, Vestry Meeting

Downtown District Services handout

Letter to Duo Dickinson from Mark Aldieri, AIA, Project Manager for Kronenberger & Sons
Restoration, Inc.

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review through June, 2016

Letter of Heather Tookes Alexopoulos to Vestry re: Endowment Spending Rule