

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING, 2016
September 19, 2016

A meeting of the 2017 Vestry was held in the Trinity Parish Office on September 19, 2016.

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

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made;

- **Approved Minutes of August 15, 2016, Vestry Meeting**
- **Approved Annual Parish Meeting date of January 31, 2017**
- **Approved Boys' and Girls' Choirs proposed trip to England in late June/early July, 2017**
- **Endorsed Episcopal Church at Yale application for "Undoing Racism" workshop**

Tasks identified:

- **Promote the Church School**
- **Volunteer for Chapel on the Green services**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Richard Mammana offered an opening prayer.

Bible Moment: The Rector offered the following Bible passages for consideration and reflection by the Vestry:

- "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". John 8:12
- "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden". Matthew 5:14

Vestry Covenant: The Vestry read and reflected upon the following provision of the recently-adopted Vestry Covenant:

"We promise to listen actively and communicate directly with one another, nurturing and supporting one another to ensure mutual understanding".

Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2016, Vestry Meeting (see attached): It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on August 15, 2016, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Rector's Report:

Strategic Planning: In view of the recent openings in the Parish staff, consideration of strategic planning has been postponed. Fiona Boucher and Barbara Lamb continue to facilitate the process. The goal is to meet with the Trinity leadership structure within the coming year.

Change in date of Annual Parish Meeting: In order to provide additional time to prepare for the meeting, it was MOVED and SECONDED that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on the 5th Sunday of January, 2017 (January 31, 2017). The motion PASSED unanimously.

Bibles in the Pews: The Rector announced that Bibles will be returned to the pews. It is possible to apply for funding for that purpose. It was pointed out that another current issue is the condition of the Book of Common Prayer in some of the pews. In addition, copies of the Bible will be available for those who request them.

Sunday School Report (see attached): Julia Johnson, Director, submitted a report. Classes are now being held during church services. Teachers have registered for the Safe Church training to be offered at Trinity on October 15. There is a need for volunteers and Vestry promotion of the Church School.

Undoing Racism Support (see attached): Deacon Kyle Pedersen has requested, on behalf of the Episcopal Church at Yale, Trinity's support and endorsement of a grant application to the diocesan Mission Development Fund for a 3-day educational workshop on undoing racism and community organizing. It was MOVED and SECONDED that Trinity endorse the project; the motion PASSED unanimously.

Warden's Report: Lisa Omark reported that Richard Mammana has agreed to serve in the position of Parish Clerk, following the Annual Parish Meeting in January. She announced that Glenda McLean is serving as Administrative Assistant in the Parish Office. Her hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 10 AM to 5 PM. It is expected that in a couple of weeks her temporary status will become permanent. The search for an Assistant Rector has been progressing, with 3 applicants to be interviewed by the 6 members of the interview team. In the interim, Lilian Revel, Pastoral Associate for Elder Care, has increased her hours of service from 10 to 25 hours per week. It is contemplated that a person to act in the communications area for Trinity will be hired soon, with responsibilities in relation to the data base, social media, and newsletters. The Wardens have met with Trinity employees for job self-reviews. From the review with the Chapel on the Green Coordinator, it came to the Wardens' attention that there is a need for more Trinity parishioners to become involved with Chapel on the Green services. Those interested should contact Jack Tebes.

Ministry Teams:

Music: The Rector presented a letter from Walden Moore requesting Vestry approval of a proposed choir trip to England by the Boys' and Girls' Choirs. Most of the expenses of the trip will be paid from the Choir Activities Fund (with a current value of between \$80,000 and \$100,000) and contributions from choristers' parents (with scholarship assistance available). It was MOVED and SECONDED that

the Choirs' proposed trip to England in late June/early July, 2017, be approved; the motion PASSED unanimously.

Properties and History: The brownstone for replacement of the front steps has been shipped. It is anticipated that the side steps will be completed by the Christmas season and the center steps, by Easter.

Pastoral Care: Sheila Owen reported that Lilian Revel will take on an expanded role. At the Adult Forum on October 9, members of the Pastoral Care Team will present aspects of their work. The Team consists of: Barbara Fennelly (Healing Team); Candy Carl-Stannard (Prayer Shawl Ministry); Judi Kniffin-Shattuck (Circle of Caring); Lilian Revel (Pastoral Visits); Ellen Freiler (Elder Support System); Lilian Revel (Trinity Home Board); Lisa Omark (Welcome/Membership Ministry); and Chris Janis (History of Pastoral Care). There will be a Healing Team retreat on January 21, 2017, at Barbara Fennelly's home.

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer's Report (see attached): David Soper, Treasurer, reviewed the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review" through August, 2016. Income and expenses are on target through August, 2016. The withdrawal rate from the Trinity endowment in 2016 is at 6% to date.

Stewardship Committee: David Jenkins and Mary Ellen Savage expressed their appreciation and gratitude to all who have assisted. Pledge letters will go this week. Work continues on a stewardship brochure and items for the E-News.

Nomination Team: Retiring Vestry members will meet after the Vestry meeting to begin the nominating process.

Continuing Business and New Business:

Parish Picnic: David Rivera presented feed-back from the recent Parish Picnic. He stated that in general it went well and was well-attended, with suggestions made for next year's planning.

Dealing with Visitors on the New Haven Green: The Rector reported that there has been a shift in the way of dealing with persons on the Green. In relation to Chapel on the Green, a recovery group is being guided by Sexton James Thomas, in order to make Chapel on the Green more engaged. There will be further conversation about dealing with visitors, many of whom are addicted, rather than homeless.

A flyer entitled "Build Hope in Our Holy Land" was circulated about celebration of St. Nicholas Day (see attached) in support of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Richard Mammana led a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

October 17, 2016: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers, Fiona Boucher

Snacks, Robert Orr, Richard Mammana, David Assis

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

October 23, 2016: Coffee Hour, Robert Orr (9 AM); Richard Mammana, David Rivera (11 AM)

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda September 19, 2016

Minutes of August 15, 2016, Vestry Meeting

“Undoing Racism: Ministry Collaboration with 3 other New Haven Episcopal Churches”

Sunday School Report

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review through August 2016

“Build Hope in Our Holy Land” flyer