

**MINUTES**  
**TRINITY VESTRY MEETING**  
**December 19, 2016**

A meeting of the 2017 Vestry was held at the home of Luk De Volder and Tiffany Israel on December 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; Fiona Boucher; Barbara Casey; Marge Eichler; Karen Isaacs; Robert Orr; Sheila Owen; David Rivera; Mary Ellen Savage

**QUICK VIEW**

**Decisions made;**

- **Approved Minutes of November 22, 2016, Vestry Meeting**

**Tasks identified:**

- **Consider changing date for Giving Sunday**
- **Close Wells Fargo Advisors account**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Charlotte Rea read an opening prayer prepared by Sarah Woodford.

**Bible Moment:** The Rector read Titus 2:11-12 for consideration by the Vestry:

For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Vestry Covenant:** Barbara Casey re-read the following provision of the Vestry Covenant:

We promise to treat each other with respect, acknowledging that disagreement and conflict are part of the decision-making process but that each of us is united in our love for God and our church. When conflicts do arise, we commit to draw on the wisdom of our Christian tradition -- scripture, prayers, hymns, art – to understand the conflict with a broader and deeper context.

**Approval of Minutes of November 22, 2016, Vestry Meeting (see attached):** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the Vestry meeting held on October 17, 2016, be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

## **Rector's Report:**

**Trinity Strategic Planning Process (see attached):** The Rector reviewed the attached document, which was developed with Barbara Lamb in association with Jennifer Aniskovich, Trinity's consultant, and the Wardens.

**Leadership Retreat:** There will be a retreat for Trinity leaders, who will be the team guiding the planning process.

**Stakeholder Meeting:** There will be a meeting of everyone in the Parish who wishes to participate in the process.

**Steering Committee:** This Committee will prepare data relating to the Greater New Haven area; it will meet on January 4, 2017.

The 3 groups will work together; there will be a short survey circulated at Sunday services.

## **Ministry Teams:**

**Music:** The Boys' and Girls' Choirs will be making a trip to England, from June 23 to July 7, 2017. The choirs will visit Guildford Cathedral and Bury St. Edmunds. It is proposed that the following accompany the choirs on the trip: Walden Moore, Janet Yieh, Rachel Segger, Pat Rossiter, and a choir mother with a medical background. It was MOVED and SECONDED that those individuals be approved as chaperones for the choir trip. The motion PASSED unanimously.

## **Administrative Operations:**

**Treasurer's Report:** David Soper, Treasurer, reported that 100 % of budgeted revenue has already been received by the end of November. Pledges are in good shape. The net proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar will be about \$32,000. Expenses were at 88 % of budget, personnel being down on account of the vacancy in the Assistant Rector position. Buildings and Operations will likely end the year under budget. Office expenses are in line, and the \$104,000 operating deficit is not as high as was projected. The value of 5.4 % has been withdrawn from the endowment.

There have been small changes to the 2017 budget over the past few months, with 1 ½ % salary increases for the staff. There have been no changes in programmatic items except for inflation. The Music budget has not yet been set on account of planning for the England trip. The Stewardship campaign receipts are slow this year, and the Stewardship Committee is working on additional pledges. The pledge amount to date is \$360,000, and is expected to be more than \$400,000.

**Stewardship Committee:** Mary Ellen Savage reported that about 50 letters have gone out to previous pledgers who have not yet pledged. She suggested that it may be beneficial to move Giving Sunday into September or the beginning of October. The Rector commented that other churches have seen the same change in giving patterns.

**Nomination Team:** Lisa Omark reported that 52 people were contact regarding serving on the Vestry, resulting in a full slate to fill the openings. Sheila Bonenberger and Kim Morris volunteered to accept the 2 places open in the 2018 Vestry. The remaining positions will be filled by Geri Mauhs, Andrew Smyth, Mary Ann Stroup, and Patricia Thurston. On January 15, 2017, there will be a Forum with an opportunity for parishioners to meet the incoming Vestry candidates.

**Other Business:**

**Clergy Housing Allowance:** As required by the Internal Revenue Service annually, it was MOVED and SECONDED that the following Clergy Housing Resolution be adopted for 2017:

WHEREAS, THE Reverend Dr. Luk de Volder is compensated by Trinity Church on the Green exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and  
WHEREAS, Trinity Church does not provide the Reverend De Volder with a rectory,  
THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED, that, of the total compensation (including salary, housing and social Security allowance) paid to the Reverend De Volder for calendar year 2017, \$50,545 is hereby designated to be a parsonage allowance within the meaning of the term used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, but in any event, until further notice, the parsonage allowance shall be \$4,212 per month.

The motion PASSED unanimously.

**Wells Fargo Advisors Non-Corporate Resolution:** A brokerage account at Wells Fargo Advisors in the name of Parish of Trinity Church has recently been discovered. In order to liquidate and close the account, which has a value of close to \$9,000 invested in a mutual fund, Wells Fargo Advisors requires an authorizing Non-Corporate Resolution. It was MOVED and SECONDED that Carolyn P. Gould, Clerk of Parish of Trinity Church, be authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities registered or hereafter registered in the name of Parish of Trinity Church. The motion PASSED unanimously.

**Holiday Bazaar:** The shared leadership for the Holiday Bazaar has worked, so that there is confidence in continuing the Bazaar. There will be a team meeting in January.

The Rector thanked the members of the Vestry for their leadership and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Lisa Omark led a closing prayer prepared by Sarah Woodford.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

**Upcoming Dates:**

**January 16, 2017: Vestry Meeting**

**Prayers, Carolyn Gould**

**Snacks, Sarah Woodford, Carolyn Gould, Barbara Casey**

**January 22, 2017: Coffee Hour, Sarah Woodford, Barbara Casey (9 AM); Carolyn Gould (11 AM)**

**January 29, 2017: Annual Parish Meeting**

**February 10 and 11: Vestry Retreat at Incarnation Camp**

**Attachments:**

Vestry Agenda, December 19, 2016

Minutes of November 22, 2016, Vestry Meeting

Trinity Strategic Planning Process

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review through November 2016