

MINUTES
Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
March 20, 2017

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder, Rector; Lisa Omark, Senior Warden; Charlotte Rea, Junior Warden; Richard Mammana, Clerk; David Soper, Treasurer; David Assis, Linda Beconsall (visiting), Sheila Bonenberger, Barbara Casey, Karen Isaacs, Barbara Lamb, Geri Mauhs, Kim Morris, Sheila Owen, David Rivera, Andrew Smyth, Patricia Thurston, Sarah Woodford. (Regrets received from Fiona Boucher, David Jenkins, and Mary Ann Stroup.)

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Andrew Smyth opened with prayer.

Kim Morris read the Bible passage from Romans 5:5-11.

Barbara Lamb read a passage from the Vestry Covenant.

During discussion of the minutes, David Rivera and Geri Mauhs inquired about the list of members at the annual meeting. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the annual parish meeting on January 29, 2017.

Linda Beconsall introduced herself as the new business manager, and the vestry expressed its welcome.

Luk opened a period of sharing in which each member present was invited to express a matter for gratitude or open discussion.

Lisa distributed an updated vestry liaisons chart and reviewed each ministry team's contacts and the dates of future reports. Charlotte noted the importance of the vestry's work in connecting with each ministry team. Luk noted the importance of closing the gap between the vestry in its decision-making work and the practical work carried out by the teams.

Following a brief discussion of the 2016 Parochial Report, it was moved and seconded to accept the report that had been circulated for electronic approval on March 2, 2017.

Luk opened discussion of a grant application from the Episcopal Church at Yale for a Young Adult Ministry Network for the New Haven area. He noted that ECY is considering Trinity as a location for its work during construction in Dwight Chapel. Karen Isaacs moved acceptance, and David Rivera seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa distributed a draft brochure for newcomers, and a positive discussion followed with some suggestions about minor changes and edits. The brochures will replace the visitor cards in the pews.

Charlotte opened discussion of the 2018 vestry retreat, and noted the need to cancel this year's retreat at Incarnation Camp because of weather. She asked about the possibility of a one-day retreat at the Graduate Club, Quinnipiack Club, or the Lawn Club with breakfast and lunch. She said that staying in New Haven would cost about half as much as an overnight retreat—about \$60 per person.

Lisa provided an update on hiring, noting the arrival of a new business manager. She also noted that there is progress in terms of approval from the bishop for the associate rector. There will be a meet and greet at 6:30 on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017, in the undercroft with the vestry, the interview committee, and the former wardens.

Charlotte offered an update about the parish directory project. She noted that the directory and the database is no longer accurate, but that Jeff Freeman has volunteered to improve the information and that it will be integrated into the directory.

Lisa and Charlotte introduced the Ranja Irrigation Project responding to persistent rain failure in the Chumvi region of Kenya. The proposal for \$1,000.00 will help to expand the area in which vegetables can be grown through a low-pressure drip irrigation system. David Soper made a motion for an off-cycle grant from the outreach budget for \$1,000.00, and this was seconded by Karen Isaacs. Following discussion of the funding source, support from other churches, and the full amount of the project's budget, the grant passed unanimously.

David narrated the Treasurer's Report and noted that there was nothing unusual in January, but that income increases generally as we move toward Holy Week. Utilities were low to date because of mild weather, but may increase slightly in the next report. Building maintenance was up because of the need to repair the back door. The cash balance has dropped significantly because of the payment of two installments for the choir trip. He will instruct Vanguard to make two additional withdrawals to cover the final costs related to the steps in the next 90-120 days. By the end of May or June, the costs for the steps and choir trip should all be made.

Barbara Lamb provided an update on the work of the steering committee on strategic planning. Due to a family illness, our consultant has asked to be released from her contract. The steering committee will regroup, and hold a parish-wide meeting in June. As things settle down in terms of parish transitions, the committee will evaluate the best approach to moving forward with another consultant.

David Rivera spoke about a pilgrimage to visit all of the Episcopal churches in New Haven and a meeting at St. Paul and St. James on March 29, 2017 to discuss collaboration among local churches. He will circulate the agenda for this meeting, to which all are welcome. He also discussed his work with Geri Mauhs in planning the South-Central Region Spring Convocation on April 29, 2017 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange.

Kim Morris spoke about the work of the time capsule committee preparing to mark the end of the bicentennial year. The money for the time capsule has been donated, and parishioners will be welcome to suggest items for inclusion in it for placement beneath the stairs. She will get in touch with the heads of parish committees to solicit their participation. The timeline is short because the steps will be completed in the near term.

Charlotte distributed the *Vestry Resource Guide* to new members of the vestry.

Andrew Smyth offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Mammana
Clerk

Upcoming dates

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

May 15, 2017

Vestry meeting

Prayer: Barbara Casey; Snacks: Fiona; Lisa; Barbara Lamb and Barbara C.
Pastoral and Membership Care report: Patricia Thurston and Dave Jenkins