

MINUTES
Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
May 15, 2017

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder, Rector; the Reverend Elise Ashley Hanley, Assistant Rector; Lisa Omark, Senior Warden; Charlotte Rea, Junior Warden; Richard Mammanna, Clerk; David Assis, Sheila Bonenberger, Barbara Casey, Joe Dzeda (visiting), Karen Isaacs, Barbara Lamb, Geri Mauhs, Kim Morris, Sheila Owen, Lilian Revel (visiting), David Rivera, Andrew Smyth, Patricia Thurston. (Regrets received from Barbara Casey, David Jenkins, Kim Morris, David Soper, and Sarah Woodford.)

Lisa opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. with a prayer sent by Barbara Casey.

Richard Mammanna read the relevant section of the parish by-laws defining a vestry quorum, and confirmed that there were enough members present for a meeting.

Lilian Revel read the Bible passage from 1 Peter 2:8-10.

Patricia Thurston read a passage from the Vestry Covenant.

Joe Dzeda provided an update on the time capsule, noting his work with Kim Morris, and the timeline on the steps restoration. He discussed the possibility of a service to dedicate the time capsule, including an invitation to the mayor and the Board of Alders, and seeks suggestions of items to be kept in it. Geri Mauhs suggested the Proprietors of the Green as invited guests.

The minutes of the March 20, 2017 were accepted as circulated after a motion seconded and carried unanimously.

The vestry followed Joe Dzeda upstairs to the chancel for a narrative tour of Trinity's organ. Lively questions and answers followed, and Lisa expressed gratitude for Joe's work as caretaker of the organ.

Lisa provided an update of the work of the Steering Committee, noting the working vision statement and the following goals:

1. Create and implement communication and marketing messages for the following ministries: Spirituality, Outreach (with a focus on children), and Christian Education (for children and adults).
2. Create and implement communication and marketing messages for our Mission for Ministry).
3. Research, determine, and implement compelling strategies to connect with people who face spiritual hunger, carry a taste for wisdom, and yearn for the blessings of community.
4. Create and implement welcoming messages and programs to encourage newcomers to our Trinity community and to further involve current parishioners.
5. Plan to sustain, organizationally and financially, our six ministry programs.

Charlotte noted that the Steering Committee will meet again on June 14, 2017, and that they will present to the parish on June 25, 2017.

Lilian Revel explained her work in pastoral care and her effort to be present as much as possible with parishioners. She noted her visits to the sick, hospitalized, and home-bound, and her ministry of accompaniment of parishioners who are active. She also connects with parishioners in house churches, at the Wednesday Club, etc. Charlotte highlighted Lilian's work

in organizing columbarium contracts, and Lilian indicated that email and telephone are the best ways to reach her if parishioners are in need of visits or other assistance.

David Rivera spoke about the work of the South Central Region of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and the six regional missionaries who have been appointed. Our regional missionary is the Reverend Rachel Field. Geri Mauhs noted that Rachel will be present at the next convocation on June 24, 2017 at Trinity Church, Seymour. The Reverend Canon Timothy Hodap will give a presentation. David reported on attendance at the previous convocation on April 29, 2017 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange. Geri noted that parishes are invited to make a gift basket for Rachel. David indicated that vestry members and youth are welcome to participate; he encouraged vestry members to subscribe to an e-newsletter and to follow regional social media. Mary Ann Stroup reported on her conversation about vestries at separate churches connecting to examine matters of common interest.

It was moved and seconded to approve Benjamin Straley's ordination to the diaconate. The vestry had voted for this electronically, and a voice vote was necessary to confirm. The motion carried unanimously.

Mary Ann Stroup inquired about current configuration of Christian Education, and Luk reported that Gregory Johnston is interested in assisting to redesign Sunday School programming after Julia Johnson's departure. Luk also noted the plan to involve parents and children in church events, and that while Sunday School attendance is relatively low, children are sometimes reluctant to leave their parents.

Luk introduced Elise as Assistant Rector, and Elise thanked the vestry for its welcome. She is meeting regularly with the wardens, the interview team, and Patricia Thurston who continue to help her familiarize herself with the parish. Luk and Elise will spend two months on liturgical orientation, two months on work with children and young adults, and two months on outreach programs and leadership.

Lisa spoke about the ongoing Database Project spearheaded by Jeff Freeman, who is working closely with Walden Moore to develop a detailed and functional list of community members. There are 40 pages of notes about how parishioners will need to use the database, and a decision about software will be made based on interviews.

Luk gave a personnel update on the departures of Anne Broomell, Matthew Singleton, and Julia Johnson. He noted the positive atmosphere in the office and successful start of work by Linda Becconsall. Karen Carpenter has been assisting with the transition in communications, and Sam Sigg is also working about ten hours a week to handle the communications workload.

Luk offered an update on an upcoming temporary relocation of the Episcopal Church at Yale to Trinity during renovations at Dwight Chapel. Richard Mammana and Patricia Thurston discussed other student groups who will be displaced by the construction. ECY Sunday evening services and dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. When that time conflicts with Taizé or Evensong, there will be opportunities for collaboration. ECY has applied for a grant from the diocese for outreach to young persons. There are also possibilities of a long-term connection between Trinity and ECY. David Assis suggested a dedicated service to welcome ECY. Patricia is now serving on the board of ECY.

Lisa noted that David Soper would welcome any questions about the financial review circulated with the agenda. David will be on vacation during the June vestry meeting, and Linda Becconsall will attend. Luk noted a possible change in the frequency and timing of transfers from the endowment.

David Rivera noted that there will be another meeting of the Episcopal Church in New Haven on Wednesday, June 1 at St. Thomas Church on Whitney Avenue.
Charlotte Rea offered a closing prayer sent by Barbara Casey.
The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Mammana
Clerk

Upcoming dates

June 19, 2017

Vestry meeting

Prayer: Sarah Woodford; Snacks: Karen Isaacs, Geri Mauhs, Sarah Woodford