

MINUTES
TRINITY VESTRY MEETING
November 19, 2018

A meeting of the 2018 Vestry was held in the Trinity Undercroft on November 19, 2018.

Present: The Rev. Dr. Luk De Volder; The Rev. Elise Ashley Hanley; Charlotte Rea, Senior Warden; Leigh Cromey, Junior Warden; Carolyn Gould, Clerk; David Soper, Treasurer; Fiona Boucher; Gloria Hoda; Barbara Jongbloed; Charles Kaywood; Charles Lemert; Geri Mauhs; Bill Pagano; Andrew Smyth; Mary Ann Stroup; Patricia Thurston; Richard Walser

Guest: Chris Ashley

QUICK VIEW

Decisions made:

- **Approved Minutes of October 15, 2018, Vestry Meeting, as amended, and October 21, 2018, Parish Meeting**
- **Approved Grants Committee recommended distributions in the budgeted amount of \$35,682**
- **Approved 2019 Budget as presented by the Treasurer**
- **Approved Clergy Housing Allowance Resolutions**

Tasks identified:

- **Welcome newcomers to Trinity**

The Rector opened the meeting at 5:45 PM and introduced the guest. Geri Mauhs offered an opening prayer. Patricia Thurston read the Bible Passage from Revelations 1:4b-8..

Rich Walser read the Vestry Covenant selection about promising to “support Vestry decisions, even though we might personally disagree with them, especially when we engage with the congregation.”

Approval of Minutes of October 15 Vestry Meeting and October 21, 2018, Parish Meeting (see attached): It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of these meetings be approved, with a correction to reflect that Patricia Thurston attended the meeting. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Adult Education Report: Chris Ashley spoke about Adult Education at Trinity and circulated a proposed schedule for 2018 – 2019 (attached). Ten to twenty-five people have been attending the 10 AM discussion sessions on Sundays when time is available. The best attended were on the history of Christian worship and Trinity’s form of worship.

Chris commented that parishioners have been faithful in attendance, including in the summertime. It was suggested that there be a celebration around the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in June 2019, as well as sessions on feminism and women's theology. Chris has an LGBT church history course which could be offered.

Rector's Report: The Rector reported that the Celebration of All Souls, with luminaries, had been well-received, with good attendance. On November 11, there was a commemoration of the World War I armistice at the 11 AM service. This service involved collaboration with the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale Divinity School and the Yale School of Music. As Trinity is an urban church with an emphasis on music and the arts, this service was part of an effort to make Trinity a center of urban life in New Haven. On October ????? 14, there was a celebration of Veteran's Day on the Green. The Christmas Market went well, and evaluations and feedback are taking place, with gratitude that the Market happened. The Rector spoke at the Jewish Community Center after the shooting at the synagogue in Pittsburgh. He had expressed the view that the Jewish people are not alone and that Trinity stands with them in their suffering. He has received much very good feedback following his attendance and speaking at the Jewish Community Center.

Ministry Teams:

Membership Care: The Associate Rector spoke about the Newcomers' Reception. There is an effort to try to keep a better record of newcomers. More newcomers' bags are needed. Mary Ann spoke about talking to newcomers, asking for contact information, and making visitors feel welcome. Elise is keeping a spreadsheet of newcomers.

Grants Committee: The Vestry had previously approved grants in the amount of \$35,682, which appears in the 2018 budget. The Grants Committee recommended distributions in the total amount of \$35,682, per the "Trinity Church on the Green – Grants Committee 2018 Distributions" (attached). It was MOVED and SECONDED that the distributions be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously. Trinity is an exception within the Episcopal church and in the city because its grants are larger than those from other organizations, so Trinity is often hurt in applying for grants. in applying for grants.

Administrative Operations:

Treasurer's Report: David Soper presented the 2019 Budget, as shown on the "Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review," with comparisons to 2017 actual figures and 2018 budgeted and actual amounts (attached). Income is projected at \$1,302,236. Expenses have been reduced from the draft budget by decreases in health insurance and some personnel costs, for total 2019 budgeted expenses of \$1,424,156 in 2019. This reflects a draw on the endowment of \$6.2%. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 2019 Budget as presented by the Treasurer be approved. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Clergy Housing Allowances: The following 2019 Housing Allowance Resolutions were presented:

2019 Housing Allowance Resolution for the Rev. Dr. Luk de Volder:

Whereas the Rev. Dr. Luk de Volder is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green, New Haven, CT, which does not provide a residence for him, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation paid to him in 2019 (that is, salary, housing and social security allowance) \$52,000 of it shall be paid to the Rev. Dr. de Volder during calendar year 2019, and be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986 as amended, but in any event until further notice the parsonage allowance shall be \$4,333.33 per month.

Detailed records must be kept by the cleric to substantiate the allowance. Unused allowances are fully IRS taxable. The full allowance is taxable for self-employment (SE) taxes. Information on this matter and other tax issues is available from the Church Pension Fund.

2019 Housing Allowance Resolution for the Rev. Elise Hanley:

Whereas the Rev. Elise Hanley is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green, New Haven, CT, which does not provide a residence for her, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation paid to her in 2019 (that is, salary, housing and social security allowance) \$25,000 of it shall be paid to the Rev. Hanley during calendar year 2019, and be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986 as amended, but in any event until further notice the parsonage allowance shall be \$2,083.33 per month.

Detailed records must be kept by the cleric to substantiate the allowance. Unused allowances are fully IRS taxable. The full allowance is taxable for self-employment (SE) taxes. Information on this matter and other tax issues is available from the Church Pension Fund.

Stewardship: There are pledges of \$396,071 to date. The Committee will meet in 2 weeks to prepare a third letter and, perhaps, to make calls. Thanks were expressed to Georgia Cosgrove for her assistance. The first two letters emphasized proportional giving.

LGBTQ Welcoming: Plans are proceeding for celebrating Stonewall 30 and considering the concept of radical welcome. There will also be outreach to all marginalized people, not only to offer welcome, but to educate people in the parish.

There will be contact with the Pride Center and the Episcopal Church at Yale, which has a radical welcome program.

Nominating Committee: There are 4 people who have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry: Bob Werner; Micah Luce; Marsha Ackerman, and Michael Downes.

New Business:

Head Sexton: Jeff Perron has been named Head Sexton, since Sam Sigg decided to seek another role. Interviewing is taking place for 2 part-time Sextons.

Christmas Market: Leigh reported that the Christmas Market was successful, with some new volunteers joining the effort. Some aspects stayed the same, and some things were different. Vestry members were encouraged to gather feedback on the continued legacy of the Holiday Bazaar. The Market was budgeted at \$25,000 and will probably be close to that figure.

Visit of Bishop Douglas: Bishop Ian Douglas will visit Trinity on March 24, 2019, and will meet with the Vestry.

Parish Clerk: Lisa Omark has agreed to serve as Parish Clerk.

Music: A music planning group will meet in January to plan for 2019.

Agendae Copies: Vestry Members agreed unanimously to print their own Agendae and supporting documents for Vestry meetings in the future, beginning with the meeting on December 17.

Chuck Kaywood led a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gould, Parish Clerk

Upcoming Dates:

December 17, 2018: Next Vestry Meeting

Prayers

Opening: Carolyn Gould

Closing: Barbara Casey

Snacks for Vestry meeting:

Carolyn Gould and Barbara Casey

December 23, 2018: Coffee Hour Refreshments

9 AM: Gloria Hoda

11 AM: Charles Lemert

Vestry Meetings: December 17, January 21

Annual Parish Meeting: January 27, 2019

Attachments:

Vestry Agenda

Vestry Covenant

Bible Passage

Minutes of October 15, 2018, Vestry Meeting

Minutes of October 21, 2018, Parish Meeting

Proposed Adult Education Schedule 2018-2019

Trinity Church on the Green – Grants Committee 2018 Distributions

Trinity Church on the Green Financial Review