

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

Oct. 8, 2019



Present: Pete Lindsay, Sr. Warden; Hugo Olaiz, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry members: Martin Ganev, Ken Grabach, John Harper, Lisa Herrmann and Margaret Smith

Absent: Sara Palmer, Rector; Vestry members: Bonnie Mason, Ellen Reister and Chris Shoker

Spiritual reflections led by Ken

Agenda for 10-8-2019 Meeting: Unanimously approved with the addition of a discussion about thanking the people who managed the capital campaign – Hugo moved; Lisa seconded.

Approval of 9-10-2019 Vestry meeting minutes: Unanimously approved – John moved; Hugo seconded.

Upcoming activities:

- Hayride, corn maze at Butterfield Farm – October 12
- Blessing of the Beasts, Old Stone Riding Stables – October 13
- Mutual Ministry Review – October 16
- Pumpkin Carving after morning service; Evensong service – October 27
- Jubilate Conference, Christ Church Cathedral – November 15
- Diocesan Convention, Wilmington, Ohio – November 15-16
- Stewardship drive completion – November 24

God moment and devil-made-me-do-it moment: Member sharing

Rector's Report – Pete

Group read over the Rector's report, which included the following:

- Multi-faith movie festival was a success with attendance from churches and the community.
- Sara was interviewed for a Miami journalism project on Oxford churches and their ministers.
- Sara attended Healthy Congregations program in Delaware, Ohio.
- Meetings with parishioners and new people, as well as pastoral care continue.
- Sara led two Adult Forums on dreams in scripture. Carla Blackmar Rice presented on the climate crisis. Toni Saldivar will lead a discussion on Richard Rohr's book *The Universal Christ*.
- Sara plans to attend a pre-Diocesan Convention meeting October 8 at Christ Church in Glendale with Holy Trinity delegates and the October 17 Clergy Day at the Procter Center.
- Sara spoke at a Miami Progressive Christian group meeting on Prison Ministry.
- A tour is planned of McGuffey school, where several parish children attend.

September Financial Report – Jim

Two documents were distributed: The regular monthly report and the Expense Detail report for the year to date. The high points from the September monthly report include:

- Pledge income is ahead of schedule, and our bottom line is positive
- On page 5, the Capital Project column restored – fundraising income is \$178,805.
- Cash in the bank from the Capital Campaign is \$51,294, and we have just under \$200 in unrestricted funds (see page 8). Jim would like to see a higher unrestricted funds balance.

Jim noted the Expense Detail report is all lines of the expense side of the monthly financial reports to date, with details provided on each expense.

The September Financial Report and the Expense Detail report for the third quarter were unanimously approved – Martin moved; Lisa seconded.

Capital Campaign thank you – Pete

Pete plans to draft a statement to Jim Michael, Dick Nault, Margaret Smith, Jack Southard and Diana Uhlman, expressing appreciation for their work on the campaign.

Copier request – Jim

Holy Trinity acquired its copy machine five years ago on an equipment lease. The lease is up, and the parish can buy the copy machine or trade it in. Our vendor, Woodhull, has proposed trading the existing machine in for a new one. We'd get a machine that's as good or better and will cost less. Kim and Jim both think it's a good move. We'd get service, toner and many supplies at no charge as part of the arrangement. Our monthly payments would decrease from \$369 to \$286.

Discussion ensued about how use less ink and paper, including the possibility of having a standard weekly bulletin for each church season, with inserts added about a specific service.

A motion to accept Woodhull's bid was unanimously approved – Ken moved; Martin seconded.

The Haven at College update – Pete

The group is not yet using the Holy Trinity offices. It has not received the furniture that's on order. Also, it hasn't started renovating its space at the Interfaith Center. Jim says The Haven hasn't sent a check yet. Pete noted that The Haven would like to make sure that everything related to clients is confidential during its time at Holy Trinity.

Mutual Ministry Review – Pete

Sara and Pete met with Marty Lentz and affirmed that the Mutual Ministry Review will look at how Holy Trinity is accomplishing its missions. Pete asked Vestry members to return completed Mutual Ministry Review forms to Marty. She will use a 10-4 system where each Vestry member can cast 10 votes on what she or he thinks is most important, putting no more than four votes on any one choice. These votes will determine the church's missions going forward.

New Vestry person – Pete

Debbie Williams' replacement will be a Vestry appointment. Three names have been suggested. Pete will conduct a straw poll via email after the Vestry meeting and extend an invitation once a

definitive candidate has been selected. An official vote will be conducted at the November meeting.

Safe Church Training – Pete

Ken, John, Bonnie and Margaret need to complete Safe Church Training.

Hospitality Subcommittee – Pete

We must start planning the December 8 Lessons and Carols dinner. Pete has heard that the people who have managed it in the past can't be involved at the same level as in the past.

- It was suggested we poll parishioners about their interest in volunteering to help.
- Another suggestion was that we check with all the people who have been doing it in the past, so we know for sure who is interested in being involved again and who isn't.
- In the future, we must get the date on calendar much earlier in the year.
- The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was also mentioned. John said that it's possible the Family Committee could participate in it.

Small group discussions with the Rector and Wardens

It has been suggested that we hold small group discussions among people in the parish on how the parish is doing. People who head committees also meet with Sara, the wardens and sometimes the entire Vestry to discuss their committee's efforts. Sara would like to be present at all such meetings. Pete says this will be part of Mutual Ministry Review.

Other business

- Jim said it's time to start planning next year's budget and suggest budget lines that need attention. Is there programming that will be launched in 2020 that should be budgeted for?
- Margaret said the Outreach Commission has results from the survey in conducted. Members are researching various local organizations to find out what the needs are and what other funds they're getting. Discussion ensued as to how the Outreach Commission gets Vestry support for its projects. Jim said there is no written charter for the Commission and that has led to confusion on this point, but since everything the group does is in Holy Trinity's name, projects should be brought before the Vestry.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer lead by Ken.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk