

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

Nov. 12, 2019



Present: Sara Palmer, Rector; Deacon, Dave Guilfoyle; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry members: Ken Grabach, John Harper, Lisa Herrmann, Bonnie Mason, Ellen Reister and Margaret Smith; Guest: Kathy Mohylsky

Absent: Pete Lindsay, Sr. Warden; Hugo Olaiz, Jr. Warden; Vestry members: Martin Ganev, Chris Shoker

Spiritual reflections led by Margaret

Agenda for 11-12-2019 meeting: Unanimously approved with the addition of Endowment Trustees presentation by Kathy Mohylsky – Bonnie moved; Lisa seconded.

Approval of 10-8-2019 Vestry meeting minutes: Unanimously approved with a change to the list of people needing to complete Safe Church Training – Ken moved; Margaret seconded.

Upcoming activities:

- Jubilate Conference, Christ Church Cathedral – November 15
- Diocesan Convention, Wilmington, Ohio – November 15-16
- Stewardship drive completion – November 24
- Nominations for three Vestry members, senior warden, junior warden and four delegates to Diocesan Convention – Due November 24
- Advent daily Evening Prayer led by Vestry and congregation members – starts December 1
- Advent Lessons and Carols – December 8
- Vestry meeting at Palmers' – 43 Jeffrey Dr. (coffee and dessert) – December 10
- Annual Joint Service of Comfort – December 11, 3 p.m., at Oxford Presbyterian Church
- Annual Parish Meeting – February 23
- New Vestry orientation – March 4
- Vestry Retreat, Glendale Convent – March 21, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Quarterly Trustees Endowment Fund Report – Kathy Mohylsky

- Endowment Trustees haven't made any changes to Holy Trinity's holdings this quarter.
- The portfolio is up 14.2%.
- The Merrill Lynch account is up 15.59%, and PNC account is up 10.52%.
- The portfolio is valued at \$670K. It has increased more than \$80K through the 3rd quarter.

Blessings and challenges: Member sharing

Rector's Report – Sara

- Adult Forum – Sara has asked Karen Ander Francis to teach about discerning God's will. Toni Saldivar facilitated a discussion of Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. Nicole Thesz will lead

a discussion on Brene Brown's *Daring Greatly*. Ann Wainscott will chair the Adult Forum Committee. Spring forums will be on the theme of the prophets.

- Evensong was held with Trinity Church of Hamilton; 63 people attended. Music included Miami string ensemble and Choral Scholars.
- Annual Joint Service of Comfort will be December 11, 3 p.m., at Oxford Presbyterian Church.
- House blessing – Sara blessed the home of Karen Ander Francis and Anton.
- Visits – Sara visited various people at Good Sam, the Knolls and Woodland Country Manor.
- Deacon Guilfoyle was welcomed. He and Sara meet weekly. He'll preach his first sermon December 1 and will lead Morning Prayer December 29. He plans to lead a monthly gathering of middle school and early high school young men.
- Peter Sturni is working with Elizabeth Taylor to take over running Godly Play.
- Family Ministry Committee's fall hay ride went well.
- Student Bible Study group continues to grow; eight students are regularly attending.
- Healthy Congregations – Sara continues to attend monthly meetings; the group is reading Robert Creech's *Family Systems and Congregational Life*.
- Sara attended installation of Rev. Mary Carson and the national Jubilate conference. The theme was inclusive language and whether we should change *The Book of Common Prayer*.
- Veterans' Day – Vestry member noted that we should do more to acknowledge veterans on Sunday around Veterans' Day.

Deacon David Guilfoyle introduces himself. What does a deacon do? – Dave

- Grew up in Harrison, Ohio. Joined the Air Force and worked at GE as an engineer, technical writer and trainer.
- Was raised Catholic; became Episcopalian in 2010.
- Lives in Metamora, Ind.
- Was ordained a deacon in 2016 in the Diocesan of Indianapolis.
- Works under authority of the bishop of Indianapolis and under the supervision of a rector.
- He has a foot in the world and a foot in the church. His mission is to be out in the world looking for people in need and bringing those people and needs back to the church. He interprets the needs of the church to the world and needs of the world to the church.
- Dave will spend 15 hours a week at Holy Trinity.
- He's comfortable in places outside the church. Has gone to Community Needs Awareness meeting and a PFLAG meeting.
- He takes no salary.

October Financial Report – Jim

The January-October Financial Report was distributed. Jim plans to have a draft of the 2020 budget to review at the December meeting. We will review it again at the January Vestry meeting and adopt it at the February meeting.

Jim's comments on the October Financial Report included:

- Page 6 – We have just under \$39K in the bank. Not as much of a cushion as we'd like.

- Page 8 – Our bottom line is negative at the moment.
- Page 2 – Total income (line 4000) is on target.
- Page 4 – Total expenses (line 5000) are under budget
- Our bank balance is low because we've made a conscious effort to spend some expenses down (page 5), and our income and expenses are zeroed out (page 4).
- The bank balance is low, but our income and expenses are doing well.
- Capital Projects column (page 5) shows we've received nearly \$180K in pledges toward the Capital Campaign, and we've made a principal payment on the mortgage of more than \$51K.
- Page 7, line 2820, currently says more than \$201K. That number will be adjusted at the end of the year to take into account \$51K paid on the mortgage.
- We've received three monthly payments from Haven House (see page 1, line 4400).

The October Financial Report was unanimously approved – Ellen moved; Margaret seconded.

Church insurance policy – Jim

Jim provided the declaration page for Holy Trinity's insurance policy. Jim has the policy and can answer questions Vestry members have. He noted it's Vestry's fiduciary responsibility to oversee insurance.

Mutual Ministry Review – Sara

The Mutual Ministry Review was held October 16 with Sara, Dave, five Vestry members and Diocese facilitator Marty Lentz in attendance. Attendees came up with three priorities for next six months: social justice, community and parish sustainability. When Pete returns, we will discuss how to go forward.

Comments from Vestry members on the process included:

- There should be more of a review of the past.
- More clarity is needed up front on what the review entails and what the goals are.

New Vestry person – Sara

Pete is meeting with potential candidates to assess interest.

Safe Church Training – Sara

Ken, John, Bonnie and Margaret need to complete training

Advent Evening Prayer – Sara

Sara requested Vestry member sign up for at least two times to lead Advent Evening Prayer.

Advent Lessons and Carols – Sara

- Takes place December 8.
- Pete is coordinating the feast.
- All Vestry members should arrive to help by 4 p.m. and plan to stay until all dishes are done.
- Elaine Brandner, Rosalyn Benson and maybe others will handle set up.

- Sign-up sheets for food and wine donations are available; Vestry members should take them to Coffee Connections and get people to sign up.
- Bring enough food for 8-10 people

Deacon Guilfoyle requests permission to use the library as his office -- Sara

Motion to let Dave use the library was unanimously approved – Ken moved; Bonnie seconded.

Lack of torchbearers and acolytes – Sara

Five families are participating. Suggestion was made that there might be college students interested in doing this.

Comments for the good:

- It was noted that Vestry members should attend parish services and events whenever possible.
- Question was raised whether Shrove Tuesday dinner could be something other than pancakes. Consensus was that it could be; Sara noted that the point is to create community.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer lead by Margaret.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk