

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

Oct. 13, 2020



Present: Terri Thornton, Interim Rector; Pete Lindsay, Sr. Warden; John Harper, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry members: Rosalyn Benson, Ken Grabach, Lisa Hermann, Glenn Julian, Bonnie Mason, Ellen Reister and Margaret Smith

Absent: Dave Guilfoyle, Deacon, and Martin Ganev

Spiritual reflections led by Pete

Agenda for 10-13-2020 meeting: Unanimously approved – Ellen moved and Rosalyn seconded.

Approval of minutes for 9-8-2020 meeting: Unanimously approved with correction – Bonnie moved and Rosalyn seconded.

Upcoming activities:

November 10, 7 p.m. – Vestry meeting
November 15 -- Bishop Nedi Rivera visitation
November 22 – Stewardship campaign ends

September 2020 Financial Report – Jim

Jim provided the September Financial Report, the January-September Expense Detail Report and the first draft budget for 2021. In reference to the September Financial Report, he said finances are similar to last month -- \$15K ahead of budget; income and expenses are both underbudget, but expenses are more underbudget. The rest of report is unexceptional.

In reference to the draft 2021 budget, he said:

- We are about \$10K in the red right now; that number has been much larger other years. The concerning thing is that both income and expenses are down.
- On the income side, this is because, we've lost parishioners, don't have any expected rental income and no grant or subsidy income, among other things.
- This budget also has the church spending less. We're not allocating as much to maintenance. A lower amount is allocated to compensation because we have an interim priest in charge. Outreach donation is \$200; other years, it's been \$7K-\$8K.
- The Finance Committee will refine this budget, and Vestry will look at it again in November.

A motion to accept the September Financial Report was unanimously approved – Ken moved and Margaret seconded.

Senior Warden's Report – Pete

- Stewardship Campaign: The stewardship letter Ellen and Margaret drafted was sent to parishioners with pledge cards. The campaign concludes November 22. Four peoples' recorded statements will be part of services over the next month.
- Consent Agenda: Information was provided on using a Consent Agenda. With this approach, votes aren't needed on agendas and minutes. We will revisit this discussion next month.
- Solarize Ohio Report: We're waiting for the report on the energy audit of Holy Trinity. May need a special meeting to review it.

Rector's Report – Terri

Bishop Nedi Rivera's visit is scheduled for November 15. We don't know yet if it will be inside, outside or virtual. If the visit is in person, she will be able to do confirmations; if it's virtual, confirmation will have to wait until spring. After the service, the Bishop spends an hour with the Vestry.

Rex Man is working to get the **choir and the choral scholars** working together. He and Phillip have started working on music for Advent and Christmas.

The **Constant Contact application** is being tested as a way to communicate with parishioners. It takes reservations and could be useful when we get back in the building.

Follow-up to the **Vestry Workshop on Transition and Church Size Theory** will include repeating the initial workshop for Bonnie, Glenn and Martin. Vestry members comments on the initial workshop included concern that no action steps were discussed, and there was no discussion of whether a church can stay in the Transition Zone indefinitely and how it moves out of the Transition Zone. Terri said those points will be addressed in subsequent workshops. The next session will focus on the church's history and why there has been a decline in attendance.

Vestry Business

Vestry working groups – Pete & Terri

A paper describing six working groups was provided. They include Liturgy, Worship and Spiritual Life; Formation; Parish Life, Health and Ministries; Communications; Stewardship of Blessings; and Infrastructure. These groups will focus on the church's mission and purpose and how that effects the congregation. Existing committees are integrated into these working groups. Vestry members will serve as liaisons, providing support and keeping information and ideas flowing.

Vestry members should volunteer for two areas:

John -- Infrastructure

Pete -- Stewardship

Rosalyn -- Communication and Parish Life

Ken – Liturgy and Parish Life

Ellen -- Liturgy and Stewardship

Bonnie says – Formation

Jim -- Stewardship

Margaret – Formation and Stewardship

Lisa, Stacey -- Communication

Planning for opening in winter and with Holy Communion -- Terri

It's possible the church building could open for in-person attendance in November. The plan discussed in the summer won't fully apply. We must figure out what we want to do and then identify the technology that's needed. Suggestions were made to give this discussion to the Liturgy Workgroup and also to have Morning Prayer on Zoom once a week.

Another Transition Workday --Terri

Terri plans to send an email to schedule another meeting.

Comments for the Good of the Parish

- The works of the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Prayer Group were acknowledged; they both keep in touch with many people in the congregation that need care.
- Non-parishioners are attending virtual services and maybe should be considered in the stewardship effort.

Closing prayer was led by Pete.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk