

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

Feb. 11, 2020



Present: Sara Palmer, Rector; Pete Lindsay, Sr. Warden; Hugo Oliaz, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry members: Karen Ander Francis, Martin Ganev, Ken Grabach, John Harper, Lisa Hermann, Bonnie Mason, Ellen Reister, Chris Shoker and Margaret Smith; Guests: Glenn Julian and Bill Ubbes

Absent: Dave Guilfoyle, Deacon

Spiritual reflections led by John

Agenda for 2-11-2020 meeting: Unanimously approved – Bonnie moved; Ken seconded

Approval of 1-14-2020 Vestry meeting minutes: Unanimously approved – Ellen moved; Karen seconded

Diocesan Solar Panel/Power Purchase Agreement -- Bill Ubbes

Churches aren't eligible for the Federal tax credit to encourage the installation of solar arrays. The Solarize group intends to form a for-profit company to buy, install and own the solar arrays of churches. Solarize would be eligible for the tax credit, and it's assumed that it would pass the savings back to churches in the form of lower electricity rates. There would be no up-front costs to participating churches, and their electric bills would not be any higher – and might be lower – than they are now. It's not clear what would happen once Solarize recovers the capital cost of the solar array installations. Solarize needs 500 kW of potential installations; that could be covered by the Procter Center and 15-20 southern Ohio churches. Holy Trinity would use about 25-30 kW. We would still need Duke Energy for distribution services and to cover times when the solar panels don't generate enough electricity to meet the church's use.

A motion expressing interest in the project was approved with two abstentions. Hugo moved; John seconded

Upcoming activities:

Sunday, Feb 23: Annual Parish meeting and lunch, 12 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23: Mardi Gras spaghetti supper, 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday, noon and 7 p.m. services

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Community Dinner, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27: Lenten Evening Prayer Services, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 19: Green Beer Day, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 21: Vestry Retreat, Glendale Convent, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 28: Quiet Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 29, Better Together Week Unity Walk, 1-3 p.m. at Holy Trinity to make 200 sandwiches for homeless shelter

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist and foot washing, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Walk of Witness, begins at noon at Holy Trinity

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Solemnities and Holy Eucharist, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 12: Easter service followed by gala brunch

Rector's Report -- Sara

- Sara continues to meet with new church attendees, as well as provide pastoral care to various parishioners.
- Sara met with the Worship Committee to plan services for Lent, Easter and Pentecost until Trinity Sunday (June 7).
- Contemplative Prayer is being held Mondays at 12:10 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Bede.
- Prayer Ministry will start Sunday, February 16, after the service in Chapel. Valerie Ubbes, Dave Guilfoyle, Mary Hay and Sara will take turns leading.
- Adult Forum on the prophets is going well; Sara will teach March 1 on prophet Jonah.
- 14 people attended the students' lunch. Sara continues to meet with various students and hold Student Bible Study.
- Holy Trinity youth took 180 pounds of food and other goods to TOPSS.
- Karen, Margaret and Sara will be visiting the Dayton Correctional Institution.
- Bill Bausano is retiring as choir director; Jim will chair the committee to find a new choir director.

January - December 2019 Financial Report -- Jim

- This report is an updated version of what Vestry received at the January 2019 meeting.
- Page 8 has the running balance of restricted funds. The far right-hand column of Accrued Balances will move to the January 2020 report.

January 2020 Financial Report -- Jim

- Page 7 – The left-hand column (Beginning Balance) was moved from the 2019 report (see comment above).
- The Unrestricted Fund Balance is nearly \$33,000, which is better than it's been in several months and reflects parishioners' prepaying pledges.
- Annual budget numbers have been entered on assumption that Vestry will approve them.

A motion to accept both the January - December 2019 and the January 2020 Financial Reports was unanimously approved -- Hugo moved; Margaret seconded.

2020 Budget Presentation and Adoption -- Jim

- Vestry has seen this document several times. It has been fine-tuned and reflects budgeted pledge income of \$224,693, which is higher than what is in the January 2020 Financial Report because pledges have come in higher than expected.
- The beginning of the Income and Expense sections are the green-highlighted rows. Net rows on last page are also highlighted green.

- Blue lines accumulate the white lines underneath them.
- It's a lean budget. The bottom line on page 4 shows that the church is \$1,703 in the red. We'd like to turn that to zero. It's a stable budget, though we will still need to do fundraising.

A motion to accept the budget was unanimously approved – Pete moved; Chris seconded.

Annual Parochial Report Approval -- Jim

This report goes to the national church and the diocese; it provides information on membership, attendance, services, financial standing and stewardship. It determines our Mission Share payment.

A motion to accept the Annual Parochial Report was unanimously approved – Hugo moved; Margaret seconded.

Loan Refinance Approval -- Jim

Holy Trinity has been paying off the Bath State Bank loan for construction of the Community Wing since Jan. 1, 2013. The interest rate was recently adjusted from 4% to 5.375%. Holy Trinity has paid down the principal on the loan, which, after the modification will be \$105,056. The new interest rate will be 4.25%, and the new monthly payment will be \$589.

A motion to accept the Loan Modification Agreement was unanimously approved – Bonnie moved; Hugo seconded.

Committee Meetings -- Pete

Breakout meetings of the four Vestry committees were held to discuss what each committee would like to do. Discussions focused on identifying two or three goals that that each committee can take to the Annual Vestry Retreat. There Vestry members will discuss how to quantify and measure progress toward those goal. Committee membership is as follows:

- Community (Ken, Karen, Sara)
- Social Justice (Bonnie, Martin, Hugo)
- Parish Sustainability (Lisa, Chris, Pete)
- Fundraising and Stewardship (Jim, John, Margaret, Ellen)

Comments for the Good

Bonnie, John and Ken have finished Safe Church training

Closing prayer led by John

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk