

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

May 5, 2020



Present: Dave Guilfoyle, Deacon; Pete Lindsay, Sr. Warden; John Harper, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry members: Rosalyn Benson, Karen Ander Francis, Ken Grabach, Lisa Hermann, Glenn Julian, Bonnie Mason, Ellen Reister and Margaret Smith

Absent: Martin Ganev

Spiritual reflections led by Rosalyn

Agenda for 5-5-2020 meeting: Unanimously approved

Approval of 4-14-2020, and 4-21-2020 Vestry meeting minutes: Approved with one vote against – Bonnie moved and Ellen seconded

Upcoming activities:

Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m., Vestry meeting with The Rev. Canon Jason Leo
May TBA Earth Day neighborhood cleanup

Warden report -- Pete

On-call pastoral care: Rev. Terri Thornton will handle daily pastoral care duties. Rev Jason Leo will handle graveside pastoral care. Sara has provided Terri with a list of the parishioners with whom she has been staying in touch. Pete should be contacted if new needs arise.

Rev. Sara Palmer's leave-taking letter of agreement: May 15 is Sara's last contracted day Pete described the leaving-taking letter of agreement, which he has signed on behalf of the Vestry. The letter will be shared with parish after May 15. Pete will check whether he can share it with the Vestry before then. [Pete shared the letter with Vestry members on May 6.]

Church openings and use: A decision is on opening up access to the church building is expected from the Diocese on Thursday. Pete and John are planning to do a video of Sunday's service with five people in the church on Friday.

Treasurers' report – Jim

Holy Trinity received a Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$32,400, Jim said, and the money is in the bank. He doesn't think we'll be able to retain more than half of the total under the loan forgiveness part of PPP. After eight weeks we'll send back whatever doesn't qualify for forgiveness.

Mutual Ministry Review group reports – Vestry members

Fundraising: Ellen, Jim, John, Margaret

The focus is on fundraising in uncertain times. Members of the group attended a church-sponsored webinar where the point was made that it's important to be honest and truthful, and to overcommunicate. Ellen has written a Triad article that discussed what various aspects of Holy Trinity's fundraising needs. Several members noted that we need to rethink fundraising.

Parish Sustainability: Glenn, Lisa, Pete

The group needs has a dual focus: long-range planning and more-immediate sustainability issues. A first step is to define what is meant by sustainability and why we have difficulties with it. Our challenges recruiting new people are the same as other local churches. The problem is tied to issues Oxford has getting young families to live in the city. In general, churches that do well are ones that are in an economically strong and attractive community.

Community: Karen, Ken, Rosalyn

The group's report reviews the types of community activities and events Holy Trinity engages in. Some ways to help increase community within the parish include more-frequent congregational meals, information packets for visitors and a midwinter gathering. Other steps include: finding a way to connect the student group with the rest of the congregation, continuing Community Dinners and more family-friendly activities. A discussion ensued on using YouTube instead of Facebook for making Evening Prayer services accessible to more people.

Social Justice: Margaret, Bonnie, Martin

A report was submitted covering the scope of Holy Trinity's participation in social justice causes. Areas of interest include conservation and environmental resources, safe access to food, healthcare and prisons. The group recommends a monthly article in the Triad, on HT's website and on the Facebook page on social justice issues. We need to make sure someone attends Oxford's monthly needs assessment meeting and shares information from it with the Vestry and the Outreach Commission. A quarterly talk at Coffee Connections on social justice issues might be helpful, as might a pledge drive where parishioners commit to targets to reduce their use of fuel, water and plastics, for example.

Community contact assignments – Pete and John

A list of parishioners broken into eight groups was circulated. Each Vestry member will be assigned a group to stay in touch with. Members should add one or two more people to their group list. Assignments are as follows:

- Group A -- Rosalyn
- Group B -- Bonnie
- Group C -- Ellen
- Group D -- Margaret
- Group E -- Lisa
- Group F -- Glenn
- Group G -- Ken
- Group H -- Karen

Comments for the Good

Holy Trinity will not do the May Community Dinner; we need to think about alternative approaches to this event during the pandemic and in general.

Rosalyn led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk