

Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

March 9, 2021



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

Spiritual reflections led by Dave

Agenda for 3-9-2021 meeting. Unanimously approved – Rosalyn moved and Ken seconded.

Approval of minutes for 2-9-2021 meeting. Unanimously approved with Margaret's changes – Bonnie moved and Rosalyn seconded.

Upcoming activities:

Sunday, March 21 – Annual Parish Meeting on Zoom

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Day

Sunday, May 30 – Trinity Sunday

February Financial Report – Jim

Jim noted there was nothing too remarkable in the February Financial Report that he sent out prior to the meeting; no questions were raised.

A motion to accept the February Financial Report was unanimously passed – Margaret moved and Rosalyn seconded.

Insurance Review – Jim

The Church Insurance Company policy will be up for renewal in April and will include a new exclusion for claims resulting from communicable diseases.

Follow-up to Financial Presentation and Next Steps – Terri

Terri said there is a follow-up plan for the financial issues discussed in the recent work session, possibly with Diocese advisor. It will be the next subject Vestry takes up.

Ministry Reports

Outreach Report – Bonnie and Margaret

- The February 24 drive-through Community Dinner was a success, with 37 dinners, 12 MacDonald's gift cards, 20 bags fruit and cookies and 21 personal care bags handed out.

- The Outreach Committee will ask parishioners for donations to cover the \$100 per month being spent on personal care and cleaning products.
- Judith de Luce has resigned from the Outreach Committee. Mary Bausano has agreed to fill the vacant slot.
- Bonnie is recruiting volunteers to work as shoppers for TOPSS (Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services) curbside pickup.
- Holy Trinity is collecting non-perishable food and personal care items as part of the worship service. Food will be donated to TOPSS and the personal care items will be handed out at Community Dinners.
- The Easter offering go to the Family Resource Center to support transitional housing.
- The Outreach Committee would like to offer the undercroft for the Oxford Literacy Team's summer camp.
- Margaret and Dave attended a recent Oxford Community Awareness meeting.
- Area churches will meet to discuss Community Dinners.
- The In the Loop knitters and crochet group has started making prayer shawls.

Nominating and Leadership Development Committee – John

The Nominating Committee collected 20 names of potential nominees for open Vestry and conference delegate positions and is contacting those folks to confirm their interest. The goal is to have nominees included in the information that will be mailed to parishioners before the Annual Parish Meeting.

Vestry members discussed whether a slate of candidates or all eligible nominees should be presented for election at the annual meeting. The actual voting process was also discussed, given that this would be the first virtual annual meeting. The plan is to use a voice vote; if there are more nominees than positions or nominations from the floor, paper ballots will be used. Details will be worked out by the wardens and the Nominating Committee and communicated to Vestry members.

Rector's Report – Terri

• Holy Week and Easter

- **Palm Sunday** will be in-person, outside on the patio (weather permitting) at 10:30 Sunday, March 28, followed by palm cross making. A recorded service that will feature the Passion Play will be available online at 10:30 as well. Blessed palms and palm crosses will be available in the Bishop's Foyer all week.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, will be in-person, in the church and livestreamed on Facebook. Twenty people will be allowed in the church with reservations.
- **Good Friday**, April 3, will include a self-guided Stations of the Cross tour, using the plaques Holy Trinity is holding for Bob and Marianne Dice. Reservations are required, with 15-minute time slots available from noon to 2 p.m. A recorded Stations of the Cross service will be available online. A recorded Good Friday service will be available at 7 p.m.

- **Easter Eucharist service** will be recorded with music and some in-person attendance. It will be available at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 4. A simple in-person service is also planned for Easter Sunday, with organ music, possibly a Choral Scholar soloist and Eucharist. About 20 people can attend this service, though Terri said if more than 20 people want to attend, we will find a way to accommodate.

- **Moving to in-person worship**

Vestry members discussed the future of in-person worship. Holy Trinity can accommodate 20 attendees plus about 10 people participating in the service. The obvious choices are in-person with limited singing or a high-quality recorded service or some of both. We must make sure to include the people who can't be in-person. More use of outdoor worship was suggested.

- **Explorers and Seekers class**

This six-week Diocese of Southern Ohio class will be held on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., starting April 13. It is the foundation for Holy Trinity's Confirmation, Reception and Explorers Series.

- **Ash Wednesday results**

The outdoor Ashes-to-Go and indoor Ash Wednesday services were successful both in terms of process and attendance. We are looking at alternative reservation systems.

Annual Parish Meeting

- It will be incorporated into the worship service on Sunday, March 21 at 11 a.m.
- The format will be live on Zoom. A recorded version will be available.
- Once we move to the meeting part of the service, we will start with a voice vote to amend the bylaws to allow for virtual annual meetings.
- The agenda for the meeting part of the service will be roughly as follows:
 - a prayer for guidance;
 - 2020 minutes;
 - vote for Vestry, wardens and delegates to the convention;
 - presentation of parish officers;
 - Financial Report;
 - State of the Parish Report;
 - thanks and acknowledgements;
 - closing of meeting prayer.

Commissioning of new Vestry members and conference delegates will be incorporated in the later part of the service.

- Vestry members should plan to attend, with interested significant others in their households, to help ensure we have a quorum of 25.
- A mailing will go out with a cover letter, the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting minutes, the 2020 Financial Reports and Endowment Report, the 2020 Parochial Report and the amendment to the bylaws. Other supporting documents will be available online, with an invitation to have them mailed for those that want that.

- A report on the transition effort will be sent out via Constant Contact and will be posted on the website.
- A Q&A session will take the place of the usual coffee hour.

New Business

Dates for next work session. The new Vestry members will need a recap of the work sessions we've already had. That will probably happen April 17 or 24.

Vestry retreat. Possible dates are May 15 or 22 or June 5. It may be outside. Terri would like to know three things from current Vestry members:

- things they wish they'd been told earlier in their tenure,
- things they would like to know more about and
- what we need to work on.

New Vestry Orientation. It will also be in May.

Closing prayer was led by Pete.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk