

Vestry Minutes
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio
Feb. 13, 2024



Present: Rev. Julie Fisher, priest in charge; Dave Guilfoyle, deacon; John Harper, senior warden; Rosalyn Benson, junior warden; Jim Michael, treasurer; Stacey Peterson, clerk; Vestry members: Jeff Ittel (on Zoom), Alex Nyquist, Michael Reardon, John Schaffer, Karen Shilling, Stephanie Southard, Bill Ubbes and Gregg Wentzell

Absent: Jessica Sparks,

Spiritual reflections led by John H

Agenda for 02-13-2024 meeting was approved with some adjustments – Bill moved; Stephanie seconded.

Minutes for 01-02-2024 meeting were approved.

Reports

Financial reports

- **2023 Financial Report – Jim**
The updated 2023 Financial Report will be combined with the 2024 Budget into one document that will be distributed at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).
- **January 2024 Financial Report – Jim**
Jim went over some details, saying we're right on budget.
Vestry unanimously accepted the January 2024 Financial Report – Bill moved; Stephanie seconded.
- **Final 2024 Budget – Jim**
The budgeted pledge income has increased to \$231K from \$225K since the last draft of this budget. Expenses have increased as well
Vestry unanimously accepted the 2024 Budget – Stephanie moved; Karen seconded.
- **Diocese Finance Meeting – Bill**
 - Parishes are supposed to undergo an independent financial audit during a clergy transition. Jim noted Holy Trinity was excused from that requirement during its recent clergy transition.
 - The Diocese ended 2023 with an \$800K-\$900K surplus. That money may be used to provide parishes with relief from some mission share obligations.
 - Due to changes in the Diocese Campus Ministry leadership, it might be a good time to raise the issue of using Campus Ministry funds for a choral scholars program.

2024 Parish Nominating Committee – Karen

Karen reported that nominations closed Sunday, and the committee is working identifying the final two Vestry members for the slate to be presented at the APM. Some parishioners who turned down Vestry membership this time said they would be interested in serving in the future.

APM report – John H. and Rosalyn

John reviewed the agenda for the February 25 APM as well as parishioners and staff who will be recognized. He noted it's a good time for Vestry members to touch base with POD leaders, so they're prepared to provide a brief report on their ministries' work and needs.

Deacon report – Dave

Dave reported that he and some parishioners are meeting weekly at the Knolls of Oxford, and he is talking with Knolls activities staff about having a monthly communion service there. Dave has also completed the training for Congregational Care Ministry, a pastoral care group.

Lenten funds – John H

Vestry members discussed how to make Easter and Lenten giving more effective and visible in the church and the need to designate specific charities that will benefit from these offerings.

Grant applications – John H

Holy Trinity missed the recent Episcopal Community Ministries grant application deadline. John suggested someone be designated to watch for grant opportunities. Bill volunteered to find out the relevant granting agencies that would need to be monitored.

Priest-In-Charge Report – Julie

- **Adult Formation.** The group will switch to a new Forward Day By Day book on desert spirituality. Bill has copies and plans to donate them.
- **Campus Ministry.** Julie will do a presentation at Miami's Queer and Tran Conference. She will provide a spirituality component. Vestry members noted that a lot of students attended Sunday's service.
- **Liturgy.** Services have been redesigned for Lent.
- **Bishop's ordination.** Julie will participate in the service for the ordination of Bishop Kirstin Uffelman. Rene Ferguson and Elaine Brandner are completing a new Holy Trinity banner that will be in the procession at the ordination.
- **Worship Committee.** Holy Week services have been planned and include a Tenebrae service.
- **Upcoming funeral.** Holy Trinity will host a private service for Bill Pratt, who died recently.

Old Business

Solar conversion -- Bill

A program to help churches in the Diocese take advantage of the federal tax credit for nonprofits is in the works. The Diocese Trustees will make grants available. That, along with the tax credit, will provide about half the cost. Holy Trinity is scheduled for a roof inspection as part of the program, and Bill is looking into possible contractors.

Diocese facility condition assessment – Bill

A date in March is being scheduled for the Diocese to inspect the church as part of its effort to report on the condition of all churches. Money have been set aside to help with upgrades that are needed.

New Business

Lenten Evening Prayer and Compline services – John H

The schedule is available to sign up to lead these services. Gregg will announce this on Sunday.

Building use policy – Rosalyn

Rosalyn reported that the building use policy and fees need to be reassessed and updated. Her recent experience working with the Moon Co-op chili luncheon underscored this. Vestry members discussed the need for a policy that covers the physical space as well church equipment and wares that are used. A committee was set up that tentatively includes Alex, Jim, Christina and Julie.

Comments for the good of the Parish

- John H reviewed various shoutouts and resolutions of gratitude planned for the APM.
- Bill expressed appreciation for all Rosalyn and John H have done.
- Rosalyn and John H both spoke about their years serving on Vestry and as wardens. Rosalyn noted this Vestry is committed and wonderful to work with. John said this is a healthy parish, and we shouldn't hesitate to say that.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Peterson

Stacey Peterson, Clerk