

January 25, 2022 final vestry minutes

Present: Rev. Lisa Musser, Stewart Abbot, Patricia Streeter, Katie Kinney, Jan Branham, Andy Kitchell, Joe Butler, Dorothy Sullivan, Sandy Torres, Judy Gregory, Linda Springer, Paul Scholar

Absent excused: Bob Brunswig

Also present: Barb Maxfield, Herrick Garnsey

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Opening meditation by Sandy.

Lord's Prayer led by Katie.

Vestry Covenant recited.

Correspondence – Holiday greeting card from the Colorado Episcopal Foundation and an email from Weston Kurz, director of Dayspring. The email will be addressed later in the agenda.

Business:

No additions to the agenda

Terrie Abbot has become the new liaison between Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry (LECM) and gave a brief update on the house and incoming pastor. The pastor position is shared between Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) and LECM. Trinity Episcopal will be providing a home cooked dinner at the house on the 4th Sunday of each month. Barb wonders if there's still a food pantry at the house, that we had helped stock from our pantry.

At present there is only one name to be in the hat for the three vestry openings. Members present were encouraged to help seek further "nominees."

Minutes for vestry meeting December 21, 2021

One spelling correction noted. Motion to approve by Joe. Second by Linda. Motion carries.

Financial report December/End of Year 2021

Katie presented the finance report. There was a \$6082 deficit for income vs expenses for the year. She pointed out that there was a \$62,757 income deficit for anticipated income vs actual income for the year. Fortunately, this was offset by a reduction in expenses with much less use of the building, not having organist nor choir director salaries to pay, and a one-time income from the Paycheck Protection Plan of \$46,592. (Federal government loan which was forgiven) The Finance Committee moves the report be accepted. Second by Joe. Motion carries.

Discussion:

Stewardship calls update – Stewart provided vestry members with notes the Stewardship team made during their calls to parishioners who had not pledged nor given in 2021. The goal of the calls was not to seek donations, but to get a sense of engagement. Many unanswered messages were left. Several persons asked to be made inactive on Trinity's rolls. General consensus is that we need to be more

proactive at keeping connections with parishioners. A digital directory will soon be available for use with a smartphone app.

Season of prayer – Stewart asked for comments from vestry members of what they may have discerned in their prayer time for Trinity’s future. Jan feels that time and talent offerings aren’t getting their share of emphasis. These are ministries, not volunteer opportunities. Andy reminds us that vestry members need to make the effort at connecting, even though it might be personally uncomfortable.

Annual Meeting February 6, 2022 – There will be a single service at 9:00 followed by the meeting in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Facebook will not be available for meeting attendance from homes. Following the meeting a chili cook-off will take place in the parish hall. TYG will be making cornbread. Barb asked for rules about food preparation. Because we are not feeding the public, but rather our own group, food preparation may take place from our homes. Some system of judging will take place, details TBA. It is hoped this will be a fun time harking back to pre-pandemic events of the past.

VPOD Volunteer: Jan volunteered to take the VPOD assignment on January 30 in Julie Matt’s absence.

South 6 update – Stewart read the email from Weston Kurz of Dayspring in which it is apparent they are anxious to have a sense of what we might offer in acreage and at what cost, so that they might move forward. Barb asks why we are selling. The timeline of Dayspring’s approaching us with the request was reviewed. A market analysis was received just prior to Christmas and will be moved to the property committee comprised of Rev Lisa, Patricia, Stewart, Chris Woodruff, Bob Brunswig, and Linda Springer. Two committees in the Diocesan office need to be involved in any decision. A major concern revealed with the survey involves ongoing access through our driveways and lot. We will ask Dayspring to give us a proposal for what they wish and for what amount.

Decision –

2022 Budget – The proposed budget, passed by finance committee, was presented by Katie. We received pledges for 2022 of \$293,310 and used 2021’s plate income of \$84,900 as anticipated for 2022. Other income of \$11,425 reflects mostly rent from Wee Love and a small amount of investment earnings. This makes an expected income of \$359,635. This is in contrast to anticipated salary expense of \$404,606, which includes a pro-rated amount for a full-time organist/choirmaster as well as expected 6-9% increase in utilities, and total expenditures of \$599,786. Funding for Youth activities and Outreach were significantly decreased as each has accumulated funds retained to fund their ongoing programs. Overall, this budget anticipates a yearly deficit of \$240,151, or about -\$20,000 monthly. This, then is the “stepping out in faith” the leadership had been challenged with that non pledge income will rise to make up the shortfall.

Judy asks if it’s not dangerous for us to pass this with such a large deficit. We could make the budget look better by increasing the anticipated plate income as has been done in the past. We’ve chosen to use what seems a more prudent number to start with and have faith that income will improve.

Dorothy is uncomfortable with passing a deficit budget, adding that the congregation rises to a specific need. In order to reduce expenses to the point of anticipated income, we would need to fire all employees other than Reverend Lisa, cut all ministries, only have worship on Sundays and maintain the building.

Herrick reminds us that 'God loves a cheerful giver' and that we should feel called to give rather than obligated to. How do we do ministry to help congregants to feel more called? Feels we need to 'open the doors' and let people participate more.

Andy reminds us that our needs have already been met through our baptism in Jesus.

Patricia reminds us that giving should not be transactional in nature. It is the responsibility of the vestry and Rector to develop a plan to increase participation in in the life of the church and therefore giving. There should be a conclave of people to determine to discern who we are as Episcopalians and where we are headed.

Motion to approve the 2022 budget by the finance committee, second by Andy. Motion passes with no dissents and with one abstention.

Approve new Finance committee members – Markku Korolainen and Marsha Biddle will rotate off the committee. Katie is trying to return to the rotating 3 year terms noted in the By-laws. Margaret Hurley will stay on one more year, Patricia Streeter will take a 2 year term and Jason Deselms will take a 3 year term. Motion for this slate made by Judy, seconded by Jan. Passed unanimously.

Patricia motion – That Trinity have a committee charged with looking to discern who we are, where we're going and within the framework of the traditional Episcopal church in light of today's reality. Second by Katie. Motion passes 9 to 3.

For two years vestry has been in crisis management mode, prior to that had been in human resources mode. Thus, it's been 3 years since vestry has been able to attend to the church's calling.

At 8:30, a vote was taken to continue for another 15 minutes

Reports

Paul – Paul Scholar, outgoing vestry member wished to address the group. Lots has happened in his three year term. The vestry must be bold and move forward. He feels COVID statistics are overstated perhaps due to financial incentives to over-report. He relates anecdotal experiences with friends and family. Jesus walked amongst the lepers. When there's trouble in business there are lots of excuses. Committees are not the answer. He states World Health Association [sic] reports 68,000 deaths yearly from the common cold. He refers to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, CT. Asks us if we will be the death of ourselves and that we should open the front doors.

Treasurer – Refers to by-laws statement that we are to have a yearly audit. This had formerly been done by Mark Hinze, who is unable to now. We had started this process for 2019, but it was not completed. Current cost for a true audit is over \$12,000 and no one seems to offer this for churches. A review and report could be had for \$6000. We had only budgeted \$5250 for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Discussion and decision on seeking guidance from the Diocese as to the extent of financial review required.

Junior Warden - a proposal for fly mitigation has been received. Initial costs of about \$500 includes some outside treatment and 2 electronic units to be in the choir loft stairways. These use ultraviolet light as attractant and collects the corpses. \$99 every two months provides ongoing service and maintenance. Motion to approve this expenditure by Patricia, second by Stewart. Passed unanimously.

As this is Patricia's last vestry meeting, she reflected on the joy and growth that she has experienced in the junior warden role.

Senior Warden –no further report

Rector – Thanks you to Sandy, Paul, Jan and Patricia for their service to the vestry the past 3 years. Bernie Haley has finished his time of Outreach chair. Karoline Woodruff will be nominated to fill this position. She is preparing materials for the next vestry class

Stewart closed with prayer.
Adjourned at 8:57 pm

Dates to remember:

Annual Meeting, February 6, 2022

VPOD Schedule:

1/30	Jan
2/6	Stewart
2/13	Dorothy
2/20	Bob
2/27	Joe
3/6	Andy
3/13	Linda
3/20	Stewart
3/27	Judy

Respectfully submitted,
Stewart Abbot, Senior Warden