

Vestry Minutes
August 24, 2021
Via Zoom

Vestry Members Present:

Rev. Lisa Musser, Stewart Abbot, Patricia Streeter, Katie Kinney, Julie Matt, Jan Branham, Paul Scholar, Sandy Torres, Andy Kitchell, Jesus Pureco, Dorothy Sullivan, Bob Brunswig, Judy Gregory, Linda Springer

Also present:

Herrick Garnsey
Nancy Teksten
Mary Lou Hall
Ray Quick
Barb Maxfield

Prayer by Stewart

Intersessions – under separate cover

Lord's Prayer led by Linda

Vestry Covenant recited, led by Stewart

No Ministry Reports

Business

Additions

Update re masks indoors by Rev Lisa. Part of what the Bishop recommended is everyone return to wearing masks for indoor gatherings. We hadn't removed the requirement for indoor masks in general, but we had for small groups meeting in person if all were vaccinated, felt comfortable removing them and all agreed, but it has become apparent that Delta variant is unpredictable. It's too risky and since more and more people are getting sick and dying, we will reinstate masks worn at indoor meetings and gatherings.

Minutes approved with the following correction:

Convention dates are October 7-9 rather than October 7-10. Motion to approve minutes by Judy. Second by Dorothy. Motion carries.

July financial report - review and approve

Katie presented the July financial report review, with brief explanation by Katie. By consensus, a summary is fine for submission with quarterly report.

Motion by Finance Committee to approve report from July. Second by Linda. Motion carries.

Discussion

Property boundary issues

On August 12 cease and desist letters were delivered by hand if possible. The letter was written to 14 neighbors. Ten were delivered. Four were sent return receipt requested. One was returned as unknown unable to forward. Noel Johnston wrote a letter expressing his unhappiness about weeds on our side of the fence and construction materials. Basically, per Stewart, we are maybe not such good neighbors. Mr. Johnston expressed interest in helping if we decide to put in a community garden. Linda questioned whether the letters were well received. Katie had a door slammed in her face. Stewart had one that wasn't too friendly and wasn't pleased. 90 days from August 12, the property will be checked to see if the neighbors are complying and if they aren't something will be placed on our side of the fence to prohibit traffic through the gates on our side. Linda asked about a plan for maintaining weeds. Judy's son knows about noxious weeds and may be a resource for us. Katie suggests that one swath out from fence should be sufficient. There was a free offer from one of the residents to mow and keep those weeds down by the fence. Patricia prefers not to ask residents but rather seek advice from county extension office.

Day Spring Meeting

Rev Lisa reports that Weston Kurz, Day Spring executive director, contacted Lisa earlier this spring wondering if we were interested in selling. Selling the property was not a consideration at that time. She recontacted him six to eight weeks ago. They were still interested in that conversation. Day Spring's Foundation Board met with Trinity's Executive Committee to begin that conversation. They are interested in our property and want as much as they can get. They're not sure what they would build, perhaps a playing field or parking. A water line runs through their two fields right now. What they can currently build is not sufficient for their needs. Access is an issue, and they would have to figure it out. Some design things they would have to do. Lisa talked with Scott Asper who is at the Dioceses Office and deals with all property matters to tell him where we are and what our next steps are. They want to know how much land is being discussed. A change in ownership requires a survey and the cost of that is unknown currently. We will start our due diligence. Day Spring's time is into the future one to two years. Stewart questions how we will gauge interest in parish? Six or seven people have said to him to do something definitive or sell it.

Bob urges that we need to restrict access by Day Spring because of mowers and other vehicles going over the property currently.

Patricia says that Day Spring represented that they were upset to hear about mower vehicles. Andy references the motion passed on June 22, 2021, and requests that we provide cease and desist order to Day Spring as soon as possible.

Jan and Linda will review vestry minutes to see if the minutes reflect when the agreement was made with Day Spring.

Rev Lisa reports that Day Spring does not have permission to park in field or our parking lot for football games. If they wanted to continue, then a formal agreement needs to happen.

Ray expresses concern that liability is likely an issue.

There is no water to the south field so that limits who it could be sold to.
Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Vestry-ministry liaison proposal

Dorothy presented a listing of ministries currently in place at Trinity. In the past one vestry member was associated with each ministry as a type of liaison person. If anything is left off, let Dorothy know.

Email Stewart as to which area you are interested in associating with before this coming Sunday, August 29th.

VPOD (vestry person of the day)

Rev Lisa would like volunteers for Sunday for VPOD. The VPOD will count money, answer questions, receive comments and lock doors. That person will also fill in as needed. Stewart will send out an email to sign up for the next quarter.

Visitors

Nancy Teksten has not seen a listing of what is intended for September in the Epistle. She would like to be updated. Rev Lisa reports that the staff will meet on Thursday to discuss that. Healing service is happening but won't likely be in chapel because there is no ventilation in the chapel. Nancy asks if sufficient ventilation can be maintained by opening the windows and doors in the chapel. Rev Lisa indicates that the stained-glass windows are loose, and she has concerns about opening the windows for that purpose. She recommends meeting in church. Nancy wants to know what will jumpstart our getting back to in-person worship. We are currently in-person but only have one service. Stewart says there are multiple factors. Low attendance is a factor. Nancy would like the vestry to address why people are not attending. She thinks it's because we have reduced the ministries of our church and the rhythm of Trinity has been disrupted. Nancy has 21 ministries that are no longer available and believes that is the reason people are pulling back. Dorothy asks to see Nancy's list so she can incorporate it into her list of ministries we are currently trying to reinstate. Nancy wondered why the Episcopal Lutheran ministry is no longer happening and why the GCO is no longer using Trinity. Rev Lisa reports that GCO resumes practice on this Thursday and that the Episcopal Lutheran ministry is currently a budgeted item. Nancy suggests that our newsletter used to provide a significant amount of information about ministries and would like to see that reinstated. Rev Lisa states we no longer have staff to provide that, but we are doing the best we can with the people and the funds we have. Stewart needs communication. Nancy has talked to volunteers in the office, and they say they aren't busy. Dorothy says that's what we're trying to do.

Barb Maxfield suggests that former senior wardens have a lot of history and maybe some of the questions about Day Spring can be answered by them. She also asks when Karoline will be leaving. Rev Lisa reports that Karoline will be leaving when we have someone in place for her.

Patricia reports that Trinity has been in conversation with GCO. They have been trying to make it possible for them to rehearse safely at Trinity.

Reports

Organ information

The donors for repairing the organ have made proposal that they will contribute another \$40,000 for repair of the organ and would like the parish to match it by December 1. The Finance Committee moves that we accept this proposal.

Rev Lisa reports that the vestry has agreed to sign off on contracts to do repairs for the organ. The vestry understood work was going to be done as we move forward in a phase-by-phase process. The vestry did not agree to do the whole thing but rather agreed to do it as we had the money to do it. As reported by Ray, if we don't engage Spencer Organs in the next phase, we are going to be pushing back any work on the organ 18-24 months. Console will fail within that time, and we will have lost everything that has been done to this point. Ray reports that \$140,000 will complete the work on the organ. The original cost was \$400,000. The Spencer Organ representative is coming on Sunday to talk to parish.

Significant discussion was had.

Motion made by Finance Committee to accept the proposal. Second by Patricia. Motion carries.

Junior Warden

Patricia will contact the county extension office regarding noxious weeds. Contacts have been made to obtain recommendations about the terrace area repair.

Senior Warden

Stewart's report was Included in previous discussions

Rector

Rev Lisa reports that the final draft for office administrator job description is nearing completion. She will have a staff meeting with program staff to look at programs. She is looking at updating the personnel handbook. She has been asked by dioceses to be on the Administrative Committee to look at health care options offered to all churches in the dioceses and has accepted that call. She will be attending a couple of webinars from stewardship to communications to admin stuff. We tested out on August 15 reincorporating wine to service at 10:30. It was successful so we will continue to have wine with communion the first and third Sundays of the month. Saturday is Fr. Dave's funeral at 10:00 a.m. and she has been working with the family regarding that.

Dates

9/14 - Vestry meeting

9/25 - Front Range Convocation

9/28 - Vestry meeting

10/7-10/9 - Diocesan Convention