

Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes – July 26, 2022

6:00 pm – Prayers and Holy Communion at the altar

6:30 pm – Church Library and Zoom

Prayer

Judy shared from the Women’s Bible Study on Psalms by Beth Moore. She also shared how she and her Mom and Kobe have been painting “kindness rocks” and we were all invited to pick one that spoke to us! Thank you!

Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:35. Those in attendance: Rev. Lisa Musser, Stewart Abbot, Lisa Blank, Bob Brunswig, Joe Butler, Jim DeMesserman, Margaret Grant, Judy Gregory, Mark Johnson, Katie Kinney, Andy Kitchell, Linda Springer, Dorothy Sullivan and on Zoom – Herrick Garnsey and Kim Larson.

Visitor Recognition

Terrie Abbot, Brian Larson, Dick Maxfield, Patricia Streeter

An alternate version of the Lord’s Prayer was shared (attached) and recited together

Correspondence

We have received a letter from Mary Linscome resigning as volunteer librarian. She reiterated that it isn’t that she doesn’t want to do this, but is unable to fulfill this position any longer.

Weston Kurtz from Dayspring sent an email and a proposed contract with regard to parking in the lot on certain days which would include trash cleanup and would offer \$1,000 for the use of the lot. It will be discussed further in Executive Committee.

Additions to the Agenda

(word of the meeting – truncate)

Patricia Streeter has asked to speak.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Minutes of the June 28th meeting – got out in 2 weeks! A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Joe and seconded by Katie. The motion was passed.

Business

The Vestry Clerk position is still open. Erin Bley will hope to be here for our next meeting to sit in for consideration.

Diocesan Convention Delegates – we need to give names to the Diocesan office soon. There are four slots available. Convention will be held October 13 – 15 in Pueblo (in person). Stewart and Terrie Abbot and Andy Kitchell are interested in attending. Their attendance was approved by acclimation.

Brian Larson and Dick Maxfield joined us from Trinity Housing Corporation/Island Grove Village. Brian is currently president and Dick has been the face of Trinity Housing/Island Grove Village since the beginning! With Dick's retirement as property manager, we asked for an update since it is now under new management. The corporation is separate and distinct from our church due to limited liability. Dick and Brian gave us as the history of Trinity Housing/Island Grove Village which began in 1971-1972. Many thanks to them both and to Dick for all of his years of service!

There was some discussion about the bylaws and the terms of directors of the corporation. We voted on the appointment of members to the Trinity Housing Board –serving staggered 4 year terms. The slate of members to the Board of Directors includes the reappointment of George Stockum, and the appointment of Clifford Clift and Dick Maxfield. A motion was made by Andy with Joe as a second. The motion was approved. (Minutes of the Trinity Housing Corporation Board meetings of Trinity Housing will be sent to Stewart.)

A short break was taken – back in session at 7:48.

A report from Terrie Abbot, our representative to the Diocese of Colorado/Front Range Region Executive Council was given. Terri passed out a synopsis from Council and explained what they do and about grants which were given, and requests from different congregations in need. She also shared that grant requests are due August 1 and were discussed. If there is a need in a specific area, keep in mind there are regional grants.

The Property Committee can move forward with presenting the contract for the sale of the water share to the Standing Committee for approval. Standing Committee meets on August 8th. Tom Grant drew up the contract for the sale. Stewart did meet with Carlos, who is our buyer, over coffee.

Vestry Ministry Assignments – Judy, with Rev. Lisa's help, has created a spreadsheet with ministry assignments and with parish leads in those areas. We will get copies so that we can reach out to leads and those who have been helping in order to better improve our ministries. We should all be on the lookout for parishioners who might need some encouragement to join one of our ministries.

Resolution for Signing Authority – Stewart wrote a Proclamation giving Reverend Lisa Musser the authority to sign anything related to the water share. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Dorothy to approve this motion. The motion passed.

Patricia Streeter – speaking on her own (not as part of Finance Committee – although she is part of the committee) joined us to share some of her thoughts about our financial situation as a parish.

She stated that decisions regarding the budget are not easily made and/or hopes for income have not reached fulfillment. It appears adjustments are going to have to be made. The 2023 Stewardship campaign is 3 months away and Stewardship Committee members should be able to explain to parishioners the true state of our finances and plans for the year. Vestry is going to have to make tough decisions. The water share sale will help ease things for 2022 but not into the next year. Several things need to be addressed and serious conversations will need to be had. The future of this parish we all love is at stake – it is serious. Some of Patricia’s questions/thoughts follow:

Will some current paid staffing have to be converted to volunteer positions? (It has been done before.)

How can we expand and develop a cadre of volunteers to maintain or expand our robust tradition of worship and community outreach?

How can we support Rev. Lisa in her ministries?

How can we afford a full-time rector?

How can we develop a mission of song and music?

Membership in mainline/in person worship is declining everywhere. Changes don’t need to be permanent.

Stewart emphasized that the committee is all of us, and we need to work this through. With that in mind –Stewart proposed an extra work session – 2nd Tuesday in August – August 9 at 6:00 – starting with communion. It is really important for all of us to meet around the altar.

Just a reminder about the minutes. Last month, minutes were sent out and members sent any corrections back which were corrected and sent out again. Then they were approved without exception. Then, we affirm the minutes at the meeting. If what Stewart did last time is okay, we will do that again.

Treasurer’s Report

Katie reported that Total Revenue is down, a little lower than what we want. Expenditures are down. We actually have a \$67,000 deficit. Utilities are exploding. (We would profit \$152,950 from the sale of water rights.) A positive is that pledges are coming in nicely.

Junior Warden’s Report

Mark reported problems with the courtyard sprinklers. Sabrina’s friend fixed them! There was a problem with the thermostat. Sabrina figured out it was the battery. Thank you, Sabrina! The barricade is up in the parking lot. There is a gate and a clip that can be unclipped, if needed.

Parishioners cleaned all of the cushions in the sanctuary– they are brighter! Thank you. Bright White cleaned the pews also.

8:30 – a vote was needed to extend the meeting for another 15 minutes-passed

Senior Warden's Report

nothing further

Rector's Report

Reverend Lisa reported that she and staff will be working on the Fall calendar and plans for upcoming classes. Sabrina is out with COVID so staff will meet upon her recovery. There are a lot of things to do. It is imperative to have a Newcomer's Social at the end of August. We have to many new attendees and we need to engage them. Rev. Lisa proposes the final Sunday of August to host the Social. We have the final evening service of the summer, so it could be right before the service or right after with some hors d'oeuvres, cheese and wine and refreshing non-alcoholic beverages. We should invite all of those who have attended and filled out cards since before Thanksgiving and especially those who have been coming these past two months. Vestry support would be crucial to help with the welcoming of these attendees! We hope to have the Fall calendar put together with the list of activities, classes to hand out at this event. Rev. Lisa really wants to make this happen at the end of August.

Budget talk-we have to have an idea of what next year is going to look like. The budget is \$606,000 – we do not have it. We need to have tough conversations, pray about it, think about it. The numbers haven't changed. It is what it is. With that, dates out of office 8/4-7 (last hurrah before Kindergarten starts for Gabriel) Fr. Scott Turner will officiate, and there will be no music that Sunday.

Other things that staff is working on, we will get to the congregation soon!

Senior Warden's Cultural Moment and Closing

Stewart shared, *The Lion* by Ogden Nash.

This was followed by a blessing by *Chief Dan George (24 July 1899 – 23 September 1981)*

Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver, British Columbia

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Grant, Vestry Member

Upcoming Dates

8/4-7 – Reverend Lisa – out of the office

8/9 – 6:00 Communion/Vestry Work Session