

Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Present:

Stewart Abbot, Senior Warden
Mark Johnson, Junior Warden
Julie Matt, Clerk
Judy Gregory (via Zoom) – term ends 2024
Bob Brunswig – term ends 2024
Linda Springer – term ends 2024
Lisa Blank – term ends 2025
Jim DeMersseman – term ends 2025
Linda Haley – term ends 2026
Sean Miller – term ends 2026

Absent:

Margaret Grant – term ends 2025

Also present:

Rachel Thompson – Trinity bookkeeper

Meeting **called to order** by Stewart at 6:30 p.m.

Meditation offered by Stewart from “The Lives we Actually Have.”

Visitor recognition – Rachel Thompson

Agenda additions – none

Minutes of November 28 – Mark moved to approve the minutes, Linda H. seconded. Motion carries.

Financial report

Rachel submitted a written report. The breakdown for plate and pledge: \$9,190 – pledge; plate – \$6,169. On the second page in utilities there is a line for property and liability insurance. The November payment is the final payment for the quarter.

The current deficit for the year is \$117,655. December revenue looks pretty good. We are close to receiving what is budgeted.

The financial report was approved by the finance committee last week. Linda S. moved to accept the report as submitted. Lisa seconded. **Motion carries.**

Pledge information: 72 pledges have been received and \$322,260 has been pledged. Stewart set the goal for the campaign at \$450,000.

Cleaning plan

Brite White indicates that the charge for cleaning the church once a month will be \$742.50 per cleaning and it will take place on the last Friday of the month. They only bid the common areas, not classrooms nor the chapel. This results in a \$28,000 reduction for the year. Discussion was had about how to move forward with cleaning. The consensus is that we move in the direction of Brite White cleaning once a month and parishioners cleaning the rest of the time.

Bylaws changes

Article V – Vestry

Stewart proposes to change the bylaws to reflect a total of six members, two members serving each of the alternating three-year terms. Comments were received from one parishioner and distributed to the vestry members prior to the meeting. Bob seconded the proposal. Discussion was had. Linda S. calls the question. **Motion fails.** Stewart abstains.

Article X – Endowment Committee

Stewart proposes to adopt the proposal as presented to the vestry on November 17, 2023. Linda S. seconds the motion. Discussion was had. Lisa calls the question. **Motion carries.** Jim and Stewart abstain.

Parish Life

Services will be at 9:30 on Sunday, December 24th; and at 4:30 on the 24th for the pageant.

Epiphany gathering – Stewart can get the permit for burning. Lisa would like the vestry members to provide chili, which they will do. The vestry members will be present at 4:30 to set up for the evening. The gathering will begin at 5:00.

Vestry/Wardens for 2024

Stewart will agree to continue as Senior Warden for another year.

Linda S and Bob will continue on the vestry for another year if no one else puts their name in the hat.

Mark will agree to continue as Junior Warden for another year.

Roundtable

Jim – Jim brings up the subject of training session for new readers and chalicers. Lisa moved that the vestry go into executive session. Bob seconded. **Motion carries.**

The vestry went into executive session.

The vestry left executive session.

The funeral event on 12/18 was difficult for everyone. It underlined how we are missing bits because we don't have office staff. A funeral sheet to outline the service, music, etc., would be helpful going forward.

Sean – Sean wonders about the possibility of using the Trinity property to host things like weddings, et cetera, and possibly using the church property as an event center.

Bob – nothing to offer this month.

Julie – nothing to offer this month.

Linda H. – Linda has a question about what we are paying the diocesan office and possibly cutting down from 10 percent to 5 percent. Stewart states that we are currently paying the diocesan office 8 percent. Linda reiterated how blessed she and Bernie felt from the outpouring of warmth from the parish during Bernie's illness.

Judy – Judy states that as far as building use is concerned, we probably need to do better with advertising that we have space available for rental on our website. For the vestry for 2024, Judy is willing to continue to support the leadership going forward. She's been in prayerful consideration about that possibility. She will continue to pray about where that leads her. Judy appreciates all Stewart has done and urges Stewart to delegate.

Linda S. – Linda had a conversation with longtime parishioner, Becky Edgren, who has not been coming to church. Becky had eye surgery last Friday. She reported to Linda that she had visits from a lot of older members of the congregation. Everyone wanted to talk about the church, and they were all complimentary of and grateful for Stewart and his leadership.

Lisa – Fran mentioned we are a cut and paste church. Lisa enjoyed purchasing the poinsettias this past week. She used what has been happening at Trinity with one of her clients; that people are more invested and we've broken through the idea that everything has to be perfect. We are modeling grace for each other and ourselves as we make mistakes and learn from them. It's refreshing for people to be volunteering.

Mark – Mark continues to investigate the snowblower situation. It will just be used for the sidewalks. We have asked the snow removal company to change their threshold to three-inches of snowfall, not clearing the courtyard, and not clearing the east plaza walkway. During the week we have to keep the walkways cleared for Wee Love. Mark continues to investigate.

Stewart – per the budget for 2024, it's clear we won't be looking for a full-time clergy person. Once we're finished with the separation payments, it won't be a quick process before someone is available to come to us. That person may not be with us for some months.

Upcoming events

Sunday, December 24 – church services at 9:30 and 4:30
Monday, December 25 – morning prayer at 9:30 in the chapel
January 3 – finance committee workshop
January 6 – Epiphany party
January 17- scheduled finance committee meeting
January 23- vestry meeting
January 28 – annual meeting

Stewart closed with reciting Samson Agonistes by Ogden Nash, and also read the collect from last Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted December 24, 2023,

Julie Matt, Vestry Clerk