

Trinity Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2018

Present: Rob Baldwin (Rector), Susan Terry (Assistant Rector), Kim Mandle (Senior Warden), David Severance (Junior Warden), Katie Bieker, Brenda Clary, Andrew Hoyt, Richard Lungstrum, Katherine McGillivray, Elizabeth Miller (Treasurer), Charles Olcese, Maria Thompson (Clerk)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Declaration of Quorum

A count was taken, and a quorum declared.

Minutes of the September Meeting

Katherine made a motion to accept the Minutes of the September 2018 Vestry meeting. Andrew seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Rector's Report

First of all, for those who are unaware, last weekend the clergy and lay delegates elected the Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom to be the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Kansas. The Rev. Bascom is a former member of this parish, was sponsored for ordination by this parish, and was married here. I am looking forward to working with her.

Speaking of working with new people, I have hired Ms. Vickie Randel to be our new finance staff person. Ms. Randel is a long-time and respected member of the Lawrence community, is highly qualified, and I believe will do an outstanding job. She began employment here last week.

With that position taken care of, attention is now being turned towards finding new volunteers for the church office. We could use four or five new people to help answer phones, greet office visitors, and do light clerical work.

I have been searching for a renewed option for the evening service that will garner better attendance for the effort involved, and expand the range of our ministries. Recently I began a conversation with Karen Schlabach, campus missionary, and Will Chaney, campus ministry intern for the Lawrence Canterbury House, about moving the evening service to their worship space. The original vision of the evening service was one that would appeal to college students. Worship assistance and musical contributions could be made by members of the Canterbury community. Rather than rush the implementation, we are taking a little time to plan this out before unrolling it.

We had one baptism in the past month: Allison Rose Moore, on October 13.

Susan and I have been conversing at length about a means to revitalize and restore a vision to the ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church. In particular, a way to communicate to our members and visitors our core values and mission.

At the time of this writing, we have received 95 pledge cards totalling \$245,835 in pledges. For those pledging households who turned in cards and new pledging households, we have a net gain of \$1,782. Declines in pledging, death, and loss of membership played a significant role in this number (three households alone account for almost \$25K in lost income.)

Currently there are over 60 households out there who returned a card for 2018 but have not returned one for 2019 yet. If they returned a card at the same gift as 2018, which would total \$149,840 in pledges.

Other Items

The Vestry reviewed the list of outstanding pledge cards and members volunteered to contact those on the list.

A Pastoral Review Committee was formed to assist the Vestry and Fr. Rob in regard to expectations, concerns and accomplishments, and to enhance communication between Fr. Rob, the Vestry and the parish. Committee members will be Katherine, Liz, Andrew and Richard.

The Vestry went into executive session to discuss personnel and budget matters.

David made a motion to maintain organist Mark Stotler's contract as written until new contract negotiations take place at the beginning of the coming year. Andrew seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

The Finance Committee met on October 21st, and the new finance staff person, Vickie Randel, participated in the meeting. Due to the staffing transition, we are still working with Miller Management on the production of Trinity's financial statements for September. While I expect the September financial report to be forthcoming the next few days, it will not be available for the Vestry meeting.

Trinity's cash flow situation continues to be very tight, and Trinity will owe the Diocese \$44,632 in apportionment payments as of the end of October. Regarding the IRS penalty, Jenn Holloway has submitted the 2015 W2s to the IRS, and will provide her correspondence with the IRS on this issue to Father Rob. We do not yet know the amount of the (hopefully) reduced penalty or the due date.

The Finance Committee would like to provide useful information and analysis to the Vestry in support of the development of the 2019 mission plan (budget). Therefore, the Finance Committee plans to meet again on October 28th to develop a set of budgetary options and a list of key decisions for the Vestry to consider during the upcoming Vestry Budget Retreat.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will consist of the outgoing Vestry members:

- Katie (eligible to run for a second term)
- Richard (fulfilling Clint Laing's first year, and eligible to run for either a two-year or three-year term)
- Chuck (eligible to run for a second term)
- Heather (eligible to run for a second term)
- Andrew

Additionally, two at-large members of the parish will be needed for the committee. Kim will chair.

Assistant Rector's Report

Mthr. Susan is working with the Sunday School teachers, helping with curricula and craft ideas. We have six teams of teachers who are doing wonderful things. The 6th-8th-grade group is going to do an outreach project every month. They are engaged and energetic.

She continues to provide pastoral care.

Junior Warden's Report

Lawn Sign

Zack Pitts has been working on the sign for the front lawn and emailed some paint color options. The Vestry voted to go with red.

Cleaning Service

Now that the cleaning service is coming in on Fridays, we need to be more diligent about cleaning up after Sunday coffee hours. Some concerns have been expressed regarding full trash cans sitting in the building for a week.

We will also need to be more careful about making sure the building is locked up once everyone leaves on Sunday mornings, now that we won't have the cleaning crew doing that for us.

Newcomers Brochure

The brochure for newcomers is done.

Communicating with the Parish about the Budget

There is a perception among some parishioners that we are now debt-free because we have paid off our loan. The Vestry will need to communicate to the parish that we still have a significant budget deficit.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Thompson, Clerk