

**Vestry Meeting Minutes
Trinity Church – Milford
7pm on January 9, 2017**

Check-in and Opening Worship (*Dwight Kee*)

Attendees: Dwight Kee, Dianne Belamarich, Peach Warren, Jim Phillips, Ginny Starkis, Cheryl Martin, Cheryl Edinger Taylor, Gayle Ruscitti, Patricia Peterson, Sarajane Duncan-Richter, Steve Ketcham, Elaina Chambers
Absent: Fr. Mac Murray, Ruth Warner, John Ellis, Lucille Clinkman, Ralph Stafford

Housekeeping

- ✦ Adoption of the Agenda – **A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the agenda as presented. It passed unanimously.**
- ✦ Acceptance of the Minutes of the December 2016 Meeting – **A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the Minutes of the December 2016 Vestry meeting provided via email. It passed unanimously.**

Parishioner Sharing - Comments / Discussion

- ✦ Christmas Service Feedback – Attendance seemed lighter than prior years at the 4PM service. The 11PM was very well attended. The Blue Christmas service was beautiful and attended by approx.. 11 people...it would be nice if more people would come. The vestry thought we should publicize it as “an island of quiet”. Maybe instead of a paragraph advertising it, list thoughts from others who have attended in the past.
- ✦ Reflections from outgoing vestry members – 3 years seems like a long time to sit on vestry. 1 year is more manageable. Some comments were “It was interesting learning about everything the church is actually involved in”, one thing that is difficult is that we discuss things in meetings but then never seem to revisit items that seem like they should be...we seem to lack follow through. The age old question remains...How do we get people involved? Some people are afraid to join vestry because they are afraid they have to “do” everything.
- ✦ Regarding the open house concept that was once discussed. Maybe have a history of the church display. Or have a welcome to the community celebration.
- ✦ Open the church during the Christmas Fair and have carol singing going on at the same time. To showcase the sanctuary.
- ✦ We are not sharing information within the church family.

Treasurer’s Report (*Cheryl Eidinger-Taylor / Karen-O’Neill*)

- ✦ December Treasurer’s Report – The Christmas fair money has not been recorded yet so the December treasurer’s report is not final yet. We have approximately a \$17K deficit for the year. The general fund needs money and faith funding is down. Regarding the general fund...we need to think about having some fund raising money go toward the general fund as opposed to specific events. We will likely launch some sort of capital campaign in the spring to help erase some of the deficits from prior years.
- ✦ 2017 Budget – There are several parishioners who have pledged in the past and have not yet pledged this year. Throughout the year we need to be thinking of ways we can gain income. We’ve had to take away raises for 2017. The capital improvement reserve has been removed. We removed the annual budgeted amount for community meals because we have enough in reserve to take care of it. And also the mission budget has been cut in half...they also have money in reserve so we feel safe doing this. All of these were in order to balance the budget. **A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the 2017 Budget as presented. It passed unanimously.**
- ✦ Finance Committee Activities
 - Stewardship Status – Outstanding pledges are being followed up on.
 - Capital Campaign Status – Still working on this... Looking at consultants.

Vestry Responsibilities

- ✦ Issues / Required Vestry Actions
 - Reach out to ministry leaders to let them know their reports are needed for the annual report.

Sabbatical Planning

- ✦ Committee Work – the committee is asking weekly questions for parishioners to reflect upon and answer. The purpose of the questions is to determine where we need to be going as a parish. Are we too outward focused...do we need to do internal work? Are there issues going on with morale that we as the church leaders don’t know about? The sabbatical committee will compile all the answers to determine where we go from there.
- ✦ Vestry Work

Wardens’ Report (*Dwight Kee and John Ellis*)

- ✦ Annual Meeting February 5th at 9AM – Vestry Hosted Pot Luck Brunch
- ✦ February Vestry Retreat – February 18th at 9AM until noon
- ✦ Succession Planning – a few Vestry members have asked people if they are interested and have gotten some interest...Dwight asked them to obtain forms on the people who are interested.
 - Wardens: Dwight Kee and John Ellis
 - Vestry Class of 2017: Lucille Clinkman, Sarajane Duncan-Richter, Steve Ketcham, Jim Phillips, Ralph Stafford

New Business – no new business

For Follow up

- ✦ The vestry has committed to adding this section to the minutes for items that require follow through in the future.
- ✦ Revisit the Open House event idea.

Closing Worship – the meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

CALENDAR: See Attached Calendar

Future Ideas:

- ✦ Open the church during the Christmas Fair and have carol singing going on at the same time. To showcase the sanctuary.

Upcoming Leadership Events:

- ✦ Upcoming Vestry Persons of the Day
 - 15-Jan..... 2 EpiphanyJohn Ellis
 - 22-Jan..... 3 EpiphanyDianne Belamarich
 - 29-Jan..... 4 EpiphanySarajane Duncan-Richter
 - 05-Feb Annual MeetingVestry
- ✦ Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 5th – 9am service – Vestry Hosted Pot Luck Brunch
- ✦ Vestry Meeting – Monday, February 13th – Fr. Mac, Facilitator
- ✦ Vestry Retreat –Saturday, February 18th – Trinity Parish Hall
- ✦ Parish Leadership Day –Saturday, March 18th – American International College, Springfield, MA

Annual Events

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Monthly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Thursday – Laundry Love at Double Bubble ○ First Friday – ROMEOs ○ Third Wednesday – Laundry Love at EZ ○ Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – Community Dinner ✦ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Burning of the Ashes ✦ Ash Wednesday Service ✦ Adult Inquirer’s Class (during Lent) ✦ Rotating Stations of the Cross in Lent ✦ St. Patrick’s Day Dinner ✦ Community Blessing of the Palms (Palm Sunday) ✦ Maundy Thursday Service ✦ Good Friday – 3 Hour Service ✦ Easter Egg Hunt – Holy Saturday ✦ UTO Breakfast ✦ Newcomer’s Potluck Supper ✦ Parish Clean Up Days (Spring and Fall) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Pentecost – Mylar Balloons ✦ Welcome to Summer BBQ ✦ Blessing of the Backpacks ✦ Welcome Back BBQ ✦ Ministry Fair ✦ Blessing of the Animals ✦ AGS Walk ✦ Fall Senior Social (Covenant Committee) ✦ Taste of Trinity ✦ Italian / Harvest Supper ✦ Covenant Evensong and Potluck (Thanksgiving) ✦ Thanksgiving Baskets ✦ Thanksgiving Meal Delivery ✦ Jesse Tree ✦ Christmas Fair ✦ Caroling to Homebound ✦ Ecumenical Christmas Concert ✦ Blue Christmas Service ✦ Annual Meeting |
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