

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Trinity Church – Milford

7pm on April 11, 2016

Check-in and Opening Worship (*Gayle Ruscitti*)

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

Absent: Steve Ketcham, Cheryl Eidenger Taylor

- ✦ Opening Worship – The meeting opened with a collect from the book of common prayer

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 March 2016 Meeting – **A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the Minutes of the March Vestry meeting as provided via email. It passed unanimously.**

Parishioner Sharing - Comments / Discussion

- ✦ James Jones addressed the vestry about the 20-30 demographic. Some suggestions were:
 - Forming a coalition with the other area churches. It was suggested the James call the First United Methodist and First Congregational church and see what they are doing for this demographic.
 - Holding a river clean up or addressing an environmental issue
 - Hosting a Trivia night
 - Gardening at the community garden in Grafton
- ✦ Justin Varteresian told the group about the “Loving the Questions” program the church supported him in attending. He came to let the vestry know how much he appreciated our support and how much he got out of the program. He went into it wondering if it was really what he wanted to do but ended up really enjoying the entire process. The program is open for anyone looking to discern what they might be called to.
- ✦ Justin also talked about the Armenian Day of Remembrance service that we did last year. It would be held on April 24th at 4PM. Justin will contact the Armenian priest in Whitinsville to see if he can do that time.

Vestry Handbook and Vestry Resource Guide

- ✦ Discussion of Chapter 1 of each book
 - ✦ The Vestry Resource Guide
 - Discussion of Chapter 1 – What is our understanding of what God is calling us as a vestry to do?
 - Having a common ministry with other churches.
 - Continuing to recruit and share what is going on with others.
 - Healthy vestries make healthy parishes.
 - We have to be diverse and welcome others
 - How do we make the church accessible to the more occasional members in a secular world?
 - What is our mission... Who are we and where are we going?
- Fr. Mac asked the vestry to read the “National Congregations Study” which he distributed.
- ✦ The Vestry Handbook
 - Discussion of Chapter 1 – We all have PDF copies of the canons. The canons are filed with the state and align with state laws.

Ministry Issues / Actions

- ✦ Worship Experience / Worship Helpers: Peach Warren
- ✦ Education and Spiritual Development: Ginny Starkis & Elaina Chambers. Not sure that the email addresses are up to date. Ginny sent emails but had no responses.
- ✦ Pastoral Care: Patricia Peterson. Patricia sent an email to her 4 contacts and received 2 responses. She told them that she’s there not just for problems but also to help them with their ministries. One response was a thank you the other was a suggestion from the praying hands ministry. The leader’s suggestion is to not give out blankets to adults being baptized. They are concentrating on babies and prayer shawls at this time. Fr. Mac has since recruited another parishioner to make the adult blankets.
- ✦ Mission and Outreach: Lucille Clinkman and Cheryl Martin. Lucille and Cheryl also sent an email and had no response.
- ✦ Parish Life: Steve Ketcham and Ralph Stafford

- ✦ Fundraising and Parish Wide Events: Gayle Ruscitti and Ruth Warner. There's a spaghetti supper this coming Saturday.
- ✦ Congregational Development: Sarajane Duncan-Richter. Sarajane is trying to arrange a vestry retreat. Safe Church training... everyone on the vestry is supposed to have training. One will be held in Milford in 2016.
- ✦ Management of Parish Resources: John Ellis and Jim Phillips.

Treasurer's Report (*Cheryl Eiding-Taylor / Karen Carig-O'Neill*)

- ✦ March Treasurer's Report
 - The budget is in really great shape. – **A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. It passed unanimously.**
- ✦ Finance Committee Activities
 - Roofing contractors are being looked at. The cost of the roof is between 40 and 50K and will be covered by insurance.
 - The windows are a problem as well. They need to be replaced but it won't be with insurance money. Paul Sweet and Steve Massey have taken on the responsibility of soliciting quotes from window contractors. We do have some money in reserve for something like this but the smarter thing to do is to do a capital campaign.
 - Employee job descriptions and reviews are being worked on.

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

- ✦ Potential Staffing Changes / Additions – Fr. Mac talked to the seminarian he was looking at asking to be our assistant rector when she graduates... She is not available. The diocese suggests we visit some seminaries if we do want to pursue having an assistant rector. Another option that has come up is the possibility of increasing the hours that our parish nurse works and change it to pastoral associates position.
- ✦ Community dinners could really use an official clean-up crew. There needs to be a formal invitation to help...maybe a sign-up sheet.

Rector's Report (*Fr. Mac*)

- ✦ The vestry has been given fliers to place around town for food collection for the food pantry.
- ✦ Reflections on Lent and Easter – Everyone had positive feedback for all of the Easter events.
- ✦ Mary Torian is turning over the reins of altar guild to Mary Ellen Yaroshefski. She is also turning over the reins of the newcomers committee to Annie Toffey. Thank you to Mary for so many years of wonderful service.
- ✦ Episcopal Visit and Vestry / Leadership Meeting – May 22nd. The Bishop will be with us. Please mark your calendars. There will be a vestry meeting with the bishop after the service.

New Business – The vestry is asked to read chapter 2 of both books and the National Congregations Study.

Closing Worship (*Gayle Ruscitti*) – Gayle read a prayer and we recited the Lord's Prayer.