

Trinity Church Vestry Meeting

November 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:19pm by the Rev. Chase Danford.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Roll Call:

Present: The Rev. Chase Danford, Lesley Castellini, Carol Scollay, Adrienne Wert, Bill Presutti, Charles Hagon, Donna Griffin, and Russ Bennett

Absent: James Pillar, Gregory Curatolo, Wendy Jaghab, and Andy Place

Minutes:

- Minutes from the October 19, 2022 vestry meeting were read. Russ Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes. Donna Griffin seconded. Motion carried.

Rector's Report:

- The December Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14 due to Christmas timing.
- We will plan a vestry retreat for early 2023.
- Nominations for the next Bishop of the Diocese of NJ have been released. We are currently in the petition period.
- Deacon Carolyn has started a new Community Engagement Committee. They will reach out to our local area and southern Monmouth/ northern Ocean counties through festivals, events, etc. and will try to partner with other Episcopal congregations.
- Next Wednesday is our Thanksgiving Eve Service and December 1 is the World AIDS Day service. We will be reaching out into the community to promote both of these services.
- We held an Active Shooter Training. We have a lot to consider and plan. We will be having a building security assessment and will be looking at security grants. We will hold a de-escalation training to learn how to deal with conflict at church and beyond.
- Our Social Justice program was awarded the Presidential Staff Award from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This is a monetary award of \$14,000 and recognition of the critical work we are doing in the community.
- We are planning for an arts residency program to begin here in the spring. We will host an artist studio in the classroom wing and we are working with an organization that supports persecuted artists from abroad.
- We recently hired two new staff members:
 - o Courtney Pearson as Operations Assistant
 - o Kevin Reyes as Property Maintenance Assistant

Rocco Sherman gave an update on his journey to ordination to the Diaconate.

- Rocco is doing his second placement at St. Peter's in Freehold.
- He met with the Committee for Deacons and they have approved him to move forward as a postulant. The Standing Committee still needs to give their approval. They meet this week.

Wardens' Report

- Nominating Committee, chaired by Carol Scollay, includes Jim Pillar and Joanie McCoy.

Committee Reports:

- Building & Grounds
 - o The high flat roof is ready for repair and sealing. JW Bills is waiting for the best weather to perform the project.
 - o We informed SCCS that, currently, we do not want to move forward with housing on our property. We have asked them to give us plans for a ramp and connection between the church and offices. We plan to move forward with ADA improvements in 2023.
 - o HVAC System is going to be installed soon.
 - o We are finalizing a plan for a sound system, livestreaming, and building-wide wifi.
- Stewardship
 - o We had our pledge in-gathering. We have 67 pledges with 16 being new or returning pledgers. 42% of pledgers increased their pledge and only 7% decreased.
- Grants/Fundraising
 - o We will hold a spring Planned Giving education session.
- Social Justice
 - o We will hold a de-escalation training on December 4. Derek will lead.
 - o Our second annual Social Justice bookfair will be held on December 11.
 - o We continue to meet with NJ Together but we are unsure of moving forward. The group has gained new momentum and has committed to continuing to organize together.
 - o ECS is the Diocesan charitable effort to support congregations in their community projects. Trinity has received 2 grants from them. They are asking us to be a founding congregation. We would need to commit to giving \$10,000. Vestry discussed and will continue with discussions.
 - o We are forming a Social Justice Advisory Board. We are looking at members from both the church and the community.
- Children, Youth, & Families
 - o The new Sunday School room is now where the choir room was located. All of the kids from nursery through Sunday School are now in one area in the office wing.
- Hospitality
 - o We have several events coming up including making Advent Wreaths and our Christmas Party (December 18)

Finance Report

- 2023 budget

- We held two small group meetings and a full finance committee meeting to work on the budget for 2023.
- Income projection for 2023 from contributions is a stretch but we believe that with our current growth and momentum that we can reach that goal.
- We will look to increase income from weddings, events and a small amount of fundraising.
- Diocesan Marks of Mission ask is only \$800 more than last year's ask.
- We did some reallocation of salaries and expenses between Social Justice and the parish to better represent the actual use of resources and time.
- The Diocese's COLA for clergy is 5%. We have increased all lay employee's salaries that were hired before 2022 by 5% as well.
- Utilities are much higher and that is reflected in the new budget numbers.

Adrienne Wert made a motion to extend the meeting. Charlie Hagon seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Presutti made a motion to enter into executive session. Lesley Castellini seconded. Motion carried.

Adrienne Wert made a motion to exit executive session. Donna Griffin seconded. Motion carried.

Adrienne Wert made a motion to adjourn at 9:14pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Osis, Recording Secretary