Minutes of July 2018 Vestry of Trinity Church--DRAFT

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| Date of Meeting: | July 18, 2018 |
| Location: | **Trinity Church, Newtown, CT** |
| **Attending:** Jenny Montgomery, Hope Johnson, Laurie Trotto, Dennis O’Connor, Beth Thompson, Dan Bacon, Jack Wojtowicz, Sue Roman, Mo Powell; Patrick DeBrock |
| Meeting items for discussion |
| **7:00 – 7:15** | **As a Community of Theological Imagination** |  |
|  | Dwelling in the Word | Jenny |
|  | New items: (Beth to create a “parking lot” in our minutes to capture these items.* Could we sponsor trash disposal on Main Street, would be especially helpful for dog walkers.
* The Fire Department needs volunteers, are there ways we could help, aside from becoming firefighters?
* Where are we on our four goals. Put updates on our August agenda. For example, where are we going with our “small groups.” What is happening organically? Where are we “stuck.”
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| 7:15 –8:15 | **Doing the Fiduciary Work of the Church** |  |
| 1. | Consent of the minutes of the June Vestry Meeting | Beth |
|  | **Notes**: Sue clarified that a restricted grants/gifts must be approved by the Vestry, at least for the first time for a given purpose.Approved by consensus. |  |
| 2. | Consent of the June Treasurer’s Report | Pat |
|  | **Notes**: Sue pointed out that on the I&E, under Parish Ministry, the first thing under expenses, there are several ministries that have spent less that 30% of their budgets. She urged us to check in with our ministries to see why these numbers are low. Are things that were planned not being executed on?Approved by consensus. |  |
| 3.  | 2017 Audit | Pat |
|  | **Notes**: The Audit should be submitted by September 1. We will put it on the Vestry agenda for August; but may need to share with the Vestry by email closer to 9/1. |  |
| 4. | Sign-off procedures for vouchers | Forry |
|  | **Notes: Move to August, when Forry can attend.** |  |
| 5. | Staff evaluations |  |
|  | **Notes**: Jenny is updating the HR Practices and Procedures Manuals, which hasn’t been done for 7 or 8 years (current copy is from 2000). We are aligning ourselves with the format provided by ECCT. Learning some things about policies that have changed. Hope to have it available for the August Vestry meeting for review.Evaluations are scheduled for the staff and Carrie and will be complete by August. Working off a form from ECCT that Jenny has modified to approach it as “mutual ministry.” This is not a salary-based review. It’s intended as an opportunity to identify growth opportunities and possible gaps. Self-evaluation is one component. This is in addition to Jenny’s weekly meetings with staff and the monthly all staff meeting that includes calendar planning.Currently there is a role description for each position.  |  |
| 6. | Bookkeeper position |  |
|  | **Notes**: Lori Rohrbacher, who was recommended as a contract person when Mary left, is fabulous and likes being here. We have offered her a 10 hour/week position (may be as much as 15 hours/week seasonally). She accepted the position of finance manager and is excited to have joined. With this addition, we will still be positive financially through the end of the year. The tile for her position will be Finance Manager. |  |
| 7. | PIC’s Holy Land Trip |  |
|  | **Notes**: Jenny has the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land through an alumni trip offered by her seminary with two of her favorite professors and a valued colleague. The only downside is that she will be away during Halloween. We have all committed to pitch in to help Joe at the Rectory. The trip is October 23 to November 4.Jenny obtained permission from Bishop Shannon to miss General Convention in Virginia, and from Bishop Ian in Connecticut. |  |
| 8:15 –8:50 | **Forming Disciples and Apostles in God’s Mission** |  |
| 8. | Update on Mapping Our Neighborhood | All |
|  | **Notes**: Forry and Patrick did one visit at Starbucks. Patrick reported it was a strange experience. They felt weird using the form. Didn’t feel they really knew what to do. Jotted down notes afterwards. Didn’t get to hear as much as notice. Hope said that it is important to be very deliberate about it. Dan and Jenny have set dates.Jenny suggested referring to page 70 before you go, as well as the video at [vimeo.com/77079681](file:///%5C%5Chewitt.com%5Cnausers%5CLSHOM1%5CAH01980%5CVestry%5C2018%20Vestry%5CAgendas%20and%20Minutes%5Cvimeo.com%5C77079681)Beth will reattach the form when she submits the minutes for review.Jenny asked, “What would it take for the Vestry to have a conversation with the parish about going out into the neighborhood.” Here are some discussion points that emerged.* Neighborhood is difficult to define.
* Even the Vestry needs to have a better idea of what this means.
* How do we help the Parish understand the value of this exercise.
* Don’t want to discount the value of “adding to the body of Christ.” even though increasing membership is not the primary focus of the exercise.
* The book says we are, “Looking for where God is at work in the neighborhood.”
* Hope likened to the Mr. Rogers documentary. Once someone is your neighbor you look after them and take care of each other.
* How can we be better neighbors?
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| 9. | Fall Planning |  |
|  | **Notes**: We need some opportunities in the Fall to talk more about the ECCT definition of what it means to be a church in the missional age, make disciples, forming apostles, as well as our congregational goals. Jenny doesn’t want to be the only one leading this. She needs to gauge where we are, where is the congregation?**September 9** is our first breakfast Sunday and the pilgrims will share their experience and Hope’s daughter will share some of her experience in India.In October, we have several guest speakers coming:**October 7**, focus on missional engagement with ERD, Josephine Hicks. **October 13**, Trinity will host a regional workshop with The Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson on “sharing our stories.” They are looking for some community partners for us in the Southwest Region. It will either be at Trinity or Camp Washington. On **October 14**, The Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson, her doctoral work was on sharing our stories of faith. Will preach and lead us in a practice of sharing our stories at a forum afterwards. **October 20**, (option1) offer a workshop for the community with Caitie Wheelan on the art of risk taking. It fits to any person in any stage of life and would help connect us to our community (this would be instead of having her on Sunday morning). If we did this, because of the cost, we would make the Sunday forum about sharing about the experience and could invite anyone who attended. **October 21**, (option 2) if we decide not to offer to the wider community event, have a Sunday forum on the art of risk taking, with Caitie Wheelan leading this session **October 28**, forum on how we care for one another, more specifically through Stephen Ministry. Ron Dukensky and Michelle Toby are taking the training this week. They will do a forum. Jenny is looking for commitment from the Vestry on participating in these events. There was some discussion as to if this was “too much.” It was intentional to make it clear that when the congregation returns in September that the parish is active and there is a sense of momentum that builds through these activities.  |  |
| 8:50 – 9:00 | **Fed by Word and Sacraments** |  |
| 10. | Compline |  |
| Connected to the Wider Body of Christ |