Minutes of the Vestry of Trinity Church—Approved

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| Date of Meeting: | | **November 20, 2018** | |
| Location: | | **Trinity Church, Newtown, CT** | |
| **Attending: Forry, Jack, Dan, Carrie, Beth, Sue, Moe, Patrick, Dennis, Laurie** | | | |
| Meeting items for discussion | | | |
| **7:00 –  7:20** | **As a Community of Theological Imagination** | |  |
|  | Dwelling in the Word –Praying | | Jenny |
|  | Notes | |  |
| 7:20 – 8:20 | **Doing the fiduciary work of the Church** | |  |
| 1. | Consent of October vestry meeting minutes | | Beth |
|  | Notes: One edit was made to clarify that the PIC discernment is a “mutual process” and the minutes were approved as amended by affirmation. | |  |
| 2. | Consent of October Treasurer’s Report | | Pat |
|  | Notes: The November finance committee meeting will decide how to move to close the line of credit. Patrick with provide details in December. The capital reserve funds only restriction is that the funds be used for major capital projects. A small amount is taken out each year to pay the loan on the driveway repair and to give property some breathing room. Forecast for the end of the year is that we will be pretty close to on target, perhaps north of $5,000 on the positive side. Laurie commented that Patrick’s summary is very helpful. The October Treasurer’s report was approved by affirmation. | |  |
| 3. | 2019 Annual Pledge and Budget Presentation | | Sue |
|  | Notes: The 2019 budget is not very different from the 2018 budget. Activities differ, but in scale and scope it is very similar. Sue will check to see if the 2017 numbers were for full year or as of 10/2017. Music’s line item is one place where there is a significant difference, because it assumes there are four paid singers for 2019. Vestry budget includes more with training, and other operational expenses for convention, etc. The diocesean pledge remains at 10% but is dropping in the amount this year because the operating budget was lower. Theological Education contains a $4,000 fee for a seminarian. Budgeted a 2.4% increase for all staff, which is the diocesean recommendation. Office expenses are less for 2019 because we are moving forward with a less expensive audit. Finance is recommending that we stick at a 4.5% withdrawal from the Glover account. Will use part of the Youth Leadership grant to pay for the curate.  Contributions and pledges: $283,000 pledges have been received to date. Wardens and Treasurer are reaching out to those who pledged in 2018 but not 2019 or who were contributors for 2018, and inviting them to pledge for 2019. We could arrive at $320,000 as a final pledge number, but $315,000 is a good solid number.  Patrick sees a lot of positive signs in our trends.  $41,000 higher in expenses than in income.  Discuss TDS and possibly raising rent, which hasn’t changed in several years. Pat will talk to Don about reducing music budget. Sue will look into single medical coverage for curate position. Forry will look at the CCS contract and whether rent is a part of that. Budget heads will go back to their ministries and look for opportunities to cut budgets. | |  |
| 4. | 2019 Housing Allowance Resolution for PIC | | Jenny |
|  | Notes: Postponed until Jenny can be present. | |  |
| 5. | Invitees for vestry informational meeting – December 9, 4-5:30pm | | All |
|  | Notes: | |  |
| 6. | HR Manual – electronic approval by December 1 (attached) | | All |
|  | Notes: Approved by affirmation. | |  |
| 7. | 2018 Annual Reports due by December 15 to Kim | | All |
|  | Notes: Due by December 15. In addition to Parish Life, Worship, Formation, Missional Engagement and Finance and Operations. | |  |
| 8:20 – 8:50 | **Forming Disciples and Apostles in God’s Mission** | |  |
| 8. | Reports from teams on Mapping Our Neighborhood   * Brainstorming list * Ideas for annual meeting presentation | | All |
|  | Notes:  Pat and Forry visited Caraluzzi’s and the General Store. Caraluzzi’s is very friendly. Families coming from and going to events. General Store was interesting in the variety of people who visit. Fathers and kids, people in business suits, construction workers. General flow and observation that there are lots of busy folks coming and going.  Laurie and Moe passed out Halloween candy at the rectory. The parents were very respectful and were instructing their children to be respectful. Even the older kids were very respectful. Lots of non-Newtowners, felt that because we don’t’ have the diversity that Laurie saw in the trick or treaters.  Need to start thinking about how we present this at the annual meeting. Need to clearly explain the why and what our expected outcomes are or do we have expectations as part of this process? Laurie has learned to make a shift to being more intentional. Dan asked, what if we intentionally started praying for 3 or 4 individuals we encounter in our daily lives. Through prayer we can discern God’s intentions for us and be a bridge.  Dennis reminded us that we also need to share how we’ve been dwelling in the word and become a people of prayer in Vestry.  Need to have a sub-group look at how to share this with the wider Parish. The book may have some language or pointers for us. | |  |
| 8:50 –  9:00 | **Fed by Word and Sacraments** | |  |
| 9. | Compline | |  |
| Connected to the Wider Body of Christ | | | |

**Connected to the Wider Body of Christ**

SOUFRA success! (see The Bee)

Sunday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.—Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Rose 7pm

Friday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.—12/14 Remembrance at Adath Israel Synagogue

Saturday, April 27—Trinity Stephen Leaders to present at 2019 Spring Training

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Tuesday, November 20, 2018—November vestry meeting date

Sunday, December 9, 4:00 – 5:30—Vestry Informational Meeting @ the Rectory

Friday, January 4—Vestry Christmas Party – Location TBD—NOTE: Change of date at Laurie and Earl’s

Sunday, January 13, 2019—2019 Budget Forum

Sunday, January 20, 2019—Trinity Church 2019 Annual Meeting, followed by Brunch

Saturday, January 26 and Sunday, January 27, 2019—2019 Vestry Retreat at Camp Washington

**Brainstorming List:**

**Items from July Meeting:**

* 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.”

**Items from August Meeting:**

* Creating a place on the website for the Vestry and posting the minutes in the e-news each month

**Items from September Meeting:**

* As we look to celebrate our 150th anniversary, should we look more broadly to include the rest of the Main Street community.

**Items from October Meeting:**

* Renting an ice cream cart and serving the community to invite them in to Trinity.

**Items from November Meeting**