Vestry Agenda of Trinity Church

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| Date of Meeting: | **March 20, 2019** |
| Location: | **Trinity Church, Newtown, CT** |
| **Attending:**  |
| Meeting items for discussion |
| **7:00 – 7:20** | **As a Community of Theological Imagination** |  |
|  | Dwelling in the Word: Luke 13: 1-9 | Jack Gilpin |
| **7:20 – 8:00** | Open Discussion on the Effects of Jenny’s Absence | Jack Gilpin |
|  | **Notes:** Thanks to the groundwork Jenny laid in our office administration and Carrie and Kate’s great work, we have been able to maintain stability while Jenny has been out.  |  |
|  | Review Priest in Charge (PIC) Goals | Jack Gilpin |
|  | **Notes:** Jack reviewed the PIC Process Timeline and what we are doing now. Currently in Phase 5 (Check IN 2: Goal review & mutual discernment). Discussed how to keep the Parish up to speed on the process and keep them onboard with our decision. Decided to conduct a forum to bring the congregation up to speed on the process before the summer.  |  |
| 8:00 – 8:30 | **Doing the fiduciary work of the Church** |  |
| 1. | Consent to the minutes of the February 2019 vestry meeting | Beth |
|  | **Notes:** Approved by consent. |  |
| 2. | Consent of February Treasurer’s Report | Patrick |
|  | Notes: Laurie wondered about a flower fund. Patrick said that we didn’t have that any longer. Note that there is a choice between donating to Easter Flowers or Brass on the envelopes in the pews.Approved by consent. |  |
|  | Approve Parochial Report | Patrick |
|  | Notes: We have an opportunity to amend until June once Jenny returns. The Parochial Report was approved by consent.Patrick let us know that we will be doing the audit in May. |  |
|  | Safe Church Training Update | Laurie |
|  | Notes: ECCT says that we can have the training here. If everyone does the online portion on the website first, we can just have a half-day session here in the fall. Once you sign up for the training, you will receive a link to do the online portion of the training.  |  |
| 3. | Communication eNews | Laurie |
|  | Notes: Communication is very important. If you don’t see something happening or if something that should be happening isn’t, especially while Jenny is gone, bring it to Laurie and Dennis’ attention. It’s important to read the e-news either online or the hard copies that are in the back of the Church on Sunday.The letter that was read from Jenny wasn’t heard by many in the Parish (due to weather), so Dennis and Laurie will ask about putting it in the e-news. Jenny sent us a note to say that she asked Cate if she would stay on here for her Senior year as Seminarian and Cate agreed. The Vestry was delighted Cate would be continuing with us. |  |
| 3. | Spring Training Update | Laurie |
|  | **Notes:** We have a large group going. If you registered, you should receive an email with a pdf attached. Scroll down and get your ticket and print it out. We will be carpooling from here. Look for an email from Kim on March 13.  |  |
| 4. | Upcoming dates, Holy Week Schedule | Dennis |
|  | **Notes:** There’s a lot on the Website. If you don’t see your meetings on there, communicate with Kim. Laurie handed out a print out of the calendar for us to review. |  |
| 8:30 – 8:50 | Vestry Covenant | Dennis |
|  | Notes: We reviewed this at the Vestry Retreat. It’s divided into 4 sections, Promises to God, Parish Family, Each Other on the Vestry, and The Wider Community.To God: no changes.To Parish Family: no changesTo Each Other on the Vestry: change to, “We promise to support all Vestry programs.” “We will respect the decisions of the Vestry.” “We promise to treat Vestry information and deliberations with the appropriate level of confidentiality.”To the Wider Community: Remove the Millennium Development Goals. Continue our commitment to and engagement with the with wider community.The revised Covenant reads:*OUR PROMISES TO GOD*We promise to …* love one another as God loves us
* pray individually and together
* pray for each other and all God’s creation
* strive to discern and trust in God’s will and act accordingly
* help build a loving, faithful and sustainable community in Christ.

OUR PROMISES TO OUR PARISH FAMILYWe promise to …* demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our church by our example and witness
* support enthusiastically our clergy, staff and ministries
* listen to the needs and concerns of the parish community, and communicate/respond to them appropriately
* be faithful stewards of all the gifts that God has placed in our care
* continually discern what is best for our parish community, and adjust our goals and ministries accordingly
* appreciate and embrace diversity and respect our differences.

OUR PROMISES TO EACH OTHER ON THE VESTRYWe promise to …* respect, care and pray for each other, with God’s help
* to value our time on the vestry as an opportunity to offer our gifts and nurture the gifts in each other
* listen and try to understand with an open, non-judgmental mind the words and ideas of the others in our church and on the vestry
* discuss, debate and disagree openly in vestry meetings, expressing ourselves clearly, honestly, and respectfully, so that we are certain that the vestry understands our point of view
* respect the decisions of the vestry
* support all vestry programs
* treat vestry information and deliberations with the appropriate levels of confidentiality
* fulfill our commitments to each other, by sharing all pertinent information, meeting deadlines and being available to each other as needs arise.

OUR PROMISES TO THE WIDER COMMUNITYWe promise to look beyond our Trinity family to …* seek an understanding of others
* foster mutual respect and tolerance
* serve others in God’s name
* evangelize and invite others to experience Trinity as a community of welcome and solace
* continue commitment to and engagement with the wider community.
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|  | New Business: Finance Committee was wondering if there would be requests for funding for the Sesquicentennial in 2019 and 2020 |  |
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| 8:50 – 9:00 | **Fed by Word and Sacraments** |  |
| 9. | Compline |  |
| Connected to the Wider Body of Christ |

*IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP:*

*Saturday, April 6—Property Clean Up (April 13 is the rain date)*

*Wednesday, April 10—Next Vestry Meeting (so as not to conflict with Holy Week)*

*Saturday, April 27, 2019—ECCT Spring Training – Meriden*

**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**