

Vestry Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 - 6:30 PM - ZOOM

Attending: Rev. Andrea Wyatt+, Noel Bellesheim, Patrick DeBrock, Gordon Dunn, Cathy Filiato, Sue Roman, Dorothy Schmidt

Opening Prayer – 6:30 – 6:40 Rev. Andrea Wyatt

Doing the Fiduciary Work of the Church 6:40 – 7:10

- Consent of the August Vestry meeting minutes– Dorothy Schmidt- approved.
- Consent of August Treasurer's Reports – Noel Bellesheim- approved.
- Report from Finance Commission – Patrick DeBrock - information covered in Treasurer's report.
- Development of 2022 Budget – Patrick DeBrock- Budget materials have been distributed to each commission's budget owner. The Finance Commission will provide support to budget owners to obtain transaction history and develop budget detail. Budget forms should be submitted by October 1st and a draft of the budget will be assembled.
- Report from Stewardship Team – Noel Bellesheim -Stewardship materials will be mailed the week of September 20th. They will also be available electronically. An electronic pledge card was suggested. Testimonials from parishioners are being worked on. An Autumn Harvest meal was suggested to celebrate pledges. The Vestry is encouraged to make Leadership Pledges by email or mail.

Forming Disciples and Apostles in God's Mission 7:10 – 7:20

New Business

- Visitation by Bishop Ian Douglas – September 19th – 8:45am meeting with those being confirmed; 9:30am Confirmation followed by Outdoor Coffee Hour, snacks and conversation. Vestry Meeting and lunch with Bishop Ian by gazebo afterward to discuss the reading:
Letter from the Birmingham Jail, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.
- Genesis II: Re-Vision and Renew – Public Labyrinth Event 9/21 & Brochure- after church on September 12th, 30-35 people came out for the first Labyrinth walk event. On Tuesday, the 21st, a labyrinth walk is open to the community. There was an article in the Newtown Bee to promote the walk, and 3 sets of signs. The hope is that there will be future labyrinth walks on special days such as 9/11, 12/14 and New Year's Day. A pamphlet will be created to help guide individuals through the labyrinth using a prayer, an intention or a mantra. There will be a meeting on the 19th with the Genesis II national leaders to discuss more exercises.
- Newcomer Gathering September 26th Noon Gazebo - Light Lunch?
- Blessing the Animals October 3 – 11:00 AM – Labyrinth/Gazebo Area

Property Commission – Gordon Dunn 7:20 – 7:30 The tenant at the Curate House is interested in renewing the lease for 6 months until April. There is a new roof on the gazebo with tensile plastic shingles that is mold resistant. A Fall clean-up is scheduled for October 16th. Volunteers are needed. There was a Fire Marshall inspection and everything passed. There is a steel liner in the exhaust area that will soon need replacing. Placing it in the property budget for next year is being considered, or we can wait until the next restoration project. In relation to the kitchen, Marcia DeBrock and Nancy Cole had a discussion with the Health Dept to get a few people certified in health and food service. If we do this, we can get annual approval from the health dept instead of having them come to every event.

Trinity Care Team/Stephen Ministry – Cindy Anderau 7:30 – 7:40 Cindy is unable to attend our meeting. New Stephen Ministers are being trained. Cindy Anderau and Laurie Trotto are working hard organizing teams for meals, prayers, and phone calling- an amazing piece of ministry re-organizing pastoral care.

Christian Formation, Youth Commission – Cathy Filiato 7:40 – 7:50

- New Children's Ministry Team - next planning meeting Wednesday 9/22 6:30 Zoom- There have been 2 meetings with parents. One of the needs discussed is to hire a coordinator for 15 hours a week. A nursery attendant is also needed for 2 hours a week. Both positions will be submitted for the 2022 budget.

October 20th Meeting Hybrid! Zoom/In-Person

Closing Prayer – Rev. Andrea

Discussion Points from Meeting with Bishop Ian:

Discussing MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail is relevant to our Vestry as it is addressed to church leaders, addressing the statement of how the activities of the Civil Rights Movement were "unwise and untimely." Justice delayed is justice denied.

Racial Injustices: reversal of Reconstruction Act "40 acres and a mule"; Jim Crow Laws/segregation

The 4 Steps of Non-Violent Direct Action and resistance to racism; embracing "tension" to bring about change

Critical Race theory- how cultures are informed by narratives, norms of order, often subtle social and institutional dynamics, rather than intentional prejudices, that cause disparate racial outcomes and racism.

White Privilege- freedom from police, being followed in stores, access to housing, schools, economic resources. CT has highest to lowest income gaps and educational achievement gaps. Website: whynewtownsowhite.info

Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in CT 2019 – The message is about raising awareness for racial healing, justice, and reconciliation, and the importance of building meaningful relationships across differences. In what ways do we see systemic racism in the Episcopal Church?