

Minutes

Vestry Meeting – April 10, 2019

Present: Fr. Richard, John Grant, Diane Nichols, Susan Howland, Lynn Garland, Tamsin Lucey, Lorraine Brumskine, Peg Nelson

Regrets: Nancy Waugh, Lana Pieczynski, Rose Reith

Fr. Richard opened the meeting with prayer and Bible Study, Philippians 2: 5-11, at 7:10 p.m.

Business

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the March 2019 vestry meeting minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the March 2019 Treasurer's report. John will contact the Pledge Secretary regarding why our pledges are under budget and to discuss putting a gentle reminder in the May Tidings. Susan will report this deficit as part of her May Tidings article on the 1st quarter financial report.

Brave Change: Courageous Churches Convocation

Tamsin reported on her presentation sponsored by the Bangor Theological Seminary:

- A \$500 honorarium was given to Holy Trinity Church with a request that the funds be used for a project toward change. Temporarily the funds will be deposited to the Mission restricted line with the intention of revisiting its possible use in about a year. To be sure that we don't lose the memory of this money, a **motion was made, seconded and approved to put the Bangor Theological Seminary \$500 honorarium into Mission restricted funds and to revisit the intended use of this money in a year.**
- Tamsin reported on the convocation and then presented her Pecha Kucha.

Rector's Items

- A major take away from the vestry retreat is that we have a part-time priest who is doing a 1.5 time job. Additionally, we have some parishioners who are putting in a great deal of energy that others of us cannot replicate. This is not sustainable. John stated that we need to accept that some things will go undone. Several have expressed interest in attending the May 11 Small Church Summit to learn how the diocesan expectations have been adjusted to accommodate part-time priests.

Upcoming Events

- Small Church Summit, May 11 – John, Fr. Richard, Nancy, Lorraine, Susan, Tamsin, and Lynn plan to attend.
- Church Anniversary celebration, June 15 and 16 – A couple of weeks before the Sunday event, Diane's two sons will let us know if they are available to serve and clean up. Lorraine will also check with her son, who is a chef. Tamsin suggested that we make available Building Fund envelopes for those wishing to contribute in honor of the building's anniversary. She will talk to Chris about this.
- Susan presented a long-range building plan, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
- Mutual Ministry Review – John spoke with Pam Mott, who has asked for possible dates. He will get back to her with 5/19, 6/23, and 6/30.

Dirlam Fund Update – Susan confirmed that the John C. Dirlam Fund has been reestablished as a donor designated fund in our Endowment Fund, which is invested with the Trustees for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. John Dirlam is pleased with the arrangement.

Building & Grounds

- Tamsin is working to replace the roof flashing. She has reached out to a contractor and to Dr. Stagias's office to learn who did their roof work, but has yet to hear back from either. This will likely have to wait until after Easter when she hopes to have access to a drone.
- Tamsin will make some contacts about who will lock and unlock the building for a May 11 rental.
- The front left door of the narthex cannot be repaired. Rather than replacing the whole door at considerable expense, we can push the bar down, put in the Allen wrench and leave it in place. This is the simple solution.
- Mark Morin will repair the threshold.
- The stained glass window in the narthex is leaking. There is no plan at this point for its repair.
- Susan Howland has contacted Jalbert Engineering about a site visit to discuss our future building use. She is waiting to hear back from Lenny Jalbert.

With regrets, Diane wants to remove herself as the Family Worship liaison. She has discussed this with Eileen.

With Fr. Richard, Tamsin will coordinate the text for a trifold. Rose will write it, Peg will edit, Chris will format, and the Center of Hope will print. This can be expensed to the Evangelism budget.

Closing prayer – Prayer for the Parish

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting May 8, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk

Long Range Building Plan

Why?

- Holy Trinity has roughly 100 “members” and 78 baptized members.
 - Average Sunday attendance in 2018 was 46.
 - The “footprint” of the building is 424 ft. with approximately 13,000 sq. ft. to maintain.
 - We have more space than we need.
 - The worshipping community finances the program and routine maintenance.
 - The capital repair and maintenance on the 150 year old building is currently out of the parish’s means.
 - We have a small saving account (~50,000) and some designated endowment income for the building, but this will not sustain the repairs in the long term
- Abandoning the building in this economically depressed area of Southbridge will leave a hole in the social infrastructure of the community.
- There is great potential for using the building for community needs.
- Those needs need to be identified and a plan established to utilize the space while generating enough income to maintain the building

What?

- The first step is to assess how the building “might” be used:
 - Zoning
 - Building Codes
 - Parking
 - Building access including handicap accessibility
- The second step is to assess the needs in the community that are in alignment with the possible use of the building, and could afford to pay a fee to occupy the space.

How?

1. Hire an Architect/Engineer to work on the first step
2. Do a community needs assessment survey, networking in town to see where our gifts align with those needs.

Who?

For #1

- Jalbert Engineering, Inc. 54 Main St # 2, Sturbridge, MA 01566 [\(508\) 347-5136](tel:5083475136) (Called 4.10.19)

- P&P General Contractors, Inc. 318 Southbridge Road Charlton, MA 01507 508-765-8700
- Polanik Architects 176 Main St #1, Southbridge, MA 01550 [\(508\) 764-0545](tel:5087640545)

For #2

- A small group of interested persons who would identify and meet with people/agencies in town.