

**APPROVED**

**Minutes  
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
Zoom Vestry Meeting – August 11, 2021**

Present: Fr. Richard, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Eileen DeMings, Lana Pieczynski, Rose Reith, Robin Yates, Peg Nelson.

Regrets: Lorraine Brumskine, Josh Spooner.

Fr. Richard opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with prayer and Bible study: John 6:51-58.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the July 14, 2021, vestry meeting minutes.**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the July 2021 Treasurer's report.**

**Rector's Report**

Fr. Richard read his letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2021. Vestry members shared memories and offered comments of thanks and support. The diocese has been informed, and Lynn and Susan have met with Canon Simpson regarding next steps. Lynn will email the staff tonight, and Fr. Richard's letter along with a letter from the wardens will go to the congregation tomorrow. Canon Simpson said that Judith Lee, an interim minister who recently finished work at Trinity Church in Milford, happens to be moving to Southbridge and may be interested in another interim position beginning in January. Lynn and Susan have been in touch with her and will meet with her at the church on August 19. Canon Simpson will conduct the September vestry meeting, and Fr. Richard will have the night off. Vestry members may attend in person or via Zoom.

Covid Pandemic Issues

- Fellowship Hour Update – Susan Grant and Lynn have been alternately hosting fellowship serving just beverages for the last 3 Sundays. Masks are required in church, and we will watch the Covid numbers to determine the future of fellowship hour. There is no word from the diocese on how to proceed.
- A committee will be established to consider how and when we might return to on-line services. One suggestion: Use funds that had been allocated for bookkeeping (our Treasurer is now doing the bookkeeping) to hire a high school student to come in 2-3 hours each Sunday to perform the tech duties. Lynn, Eileen, and Nancy have agreed to serve on the committee and John Grant and Cat Reith-Lowery will be asked about their willingness to serve.

**MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES**

Communication Report

Susan reported that Greg and his wife had a baby boy. Greg will be back at work on August 16.

Emily continues to clean up and organize the office, and all is going well with her temporary employment. Tamsin, Susan and Eileen have agreed to service on a committee to find a permanent secretary. Kathy Boyer, who had expressed interest in the post, is no longer interested in the job.

Anne plans to play on August 22 and continue for a few months. She will take vacation on a couple of Sundays. She would like to take one Sunday a month off during the next few months. If that is too difficult for her, she will give us a 90-day notice. Susan believes that if Anne is willing to stay on twice a month we can manage with the help of the parish musicians and perhaps Lana.

#### Building Committee

Tamsin emailed her report. The one item that the vestry acted on was to agree to take up a collection for a gift card for diapers as a gift to Greg.

#### Family Worship/Faith Formation

The Blessing of the Backpacks is scheduled for August 22, but Eileen will check with parents to learn whether August 22 or August 29 would be better and where people would be more comfortable. Eileen would prefer not to have a return-to-church party. It was agreed that a party in the back yard done in conjunction with the blessing of the backpacks would work best. Lynn told Eileen that she should take a break and let us do the food prep.

#### Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will be taking Julia Duncan Cassell to lunch to learn what she will present on Sunday, August 15.

Marilyn has asked for permission to use her baklava at fellowship hour on Sunday, and the vestry agreed that this will be fine.

Lynn will ask John Grant if he can get one of the PA systems working, and Fr. Richard will see if there is a way he can safely remove his mask while speaking.

#### Social Studies Class

The class will reconvene in September. Lynn is asking for thoughts about using Beloved Community. The class is looking for curriculum recommendations.

#### Stewardship Committee

The TENS theme this year is Every Perfect Gift. Nancy is looking for people to do a stewardship minute on gifts. We'll be considering alternative ways for personal sharings to be made.

Nancy thought perhaps Phoebe, Colleen and Anna would be interested in doing interviews with older parish members. It would be a great way to engage those kids. Perhaps one interview a month could be included in the Tidings. This could be a part of their confirmation curriculum or done in conjunction with stewardship—gift of long-term members. Eileen liked this idea.

Closing prayer – Prayer for the Parish

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting September 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Peg Nelson, Clerk