

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN-PERSON VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

Present: Mother Judith, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Jean Frost, John Grant, Lana Pieczynski, Robin Yates, Peg Nelson

Regrets: Eileen DeMings, Lorraine Brumskine

Mother Judith began the meeting at 7:02 P.M. with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist and reflection of five scripture passages: Mark 2:22, Matthew 25:40, Isaiah 43:19, Isaiah 61:1 and Psalm 119:105. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that we adopt Isaiah 43:19 as our motto and guiding principle for the year: *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.***

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January 12, 2022, vestry meeting minutes.**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January 2022 Treasurer's report.** Nancy reported that we are in the queue for Steve Hasbrouck to conduct our parish audit.

Rector's Report

- Review: 2021 Parochial Report – Susan and Nancy have prepared and circulated among the vestry the 2021 Parochial Report. Thanks were expressed to Susan and Nancy. While our finances have been stable, our parish congregation losses were primarily from death. Answers to the narrative questions should include:
  - *We invite you to tell stories of how you have spent the last year naming, addressing, and dismantling the injustices of racism in yourselves, congregations, and communities.*
    - A lay-led social studies book study was offered for a couple of months. Six participants used White Privilege curriculum offered through UCC.
  - *Looking toward the future, what changes do you hope to see in your faith community? What does your community need in order to bring about these changes?*
    - Our immediate concern is to provide opportunity for the children to be involved in our church services. We hope to re-engage the young people so that we can recapture the fellowship of the children and build on their spiritual and emotional growth.
    - Our emphasis on working with the Southbridge community is on hold for now.
- Planning for a Vestry Retreat – We are looking toward a Saturday morning retreat in either June or July. Details will be worked out by the following committees:
  - Venue – Lana, Nancy
  - Agenda/ Topics Materials (a version of mutual ministry review) – Mother Judith, Jean, Susan, Robin
  - Food – John, Robin, Peg
  - Liturgy/Prayers – Mother Judith, JeanLorraine and Eileen can add their names to one or more committees.
- Beginning with the March meeting, closing prayer will be offered by: March – John; April – Lana; May – Robin; June – Jean; July – Nancy; August – Peg
- With Governor Baker lifting the mask mandate as of February 28, 2022, **a motion was made, seconded and approved to lift the mask mandate starting March 1, 2022, for being inside the church building.** Masks will be available for those who want them. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to return books to the pews and remove seating restrictions as of March 1, 2022, while maintaining social distancing.**
- Mother Judith shared that in January 2022 she spent her time in meetings and ministry as follows:
  - Pastoral Visits – 2

- 1/6 & 2/3 Southbridge Ecumenical Clergy
- 1/20/22 Episcopal Migration Ministries Webinar: Welcoming Afghans
- 1/22/22 Diocesan Webinar: Bending Toward Justice
- 1/19 & 1/26 Deanery Clericus
- What have we done well?
  - Getting the kids back into church.
  - Communication about the snow storm.
- What could we have done better? No response

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Susan circulated a vestry contact list for verification of information and updates. This list will be provided to the diocese.
- **A motion was made, seconded and approved to appointment the following Standing Committees:**
  - **Finance Committee: Susan Howland, Chair; Nancy Waugh, Treasurer; Josh Spooner, and Peg Nelson Pledge Secretary: John Grant**
  - **Endowment Committee: Susan Howland, Chair; Bill Pieczynski, 3rd term expires 2023; Jean Frost, 3rd term expires 2024; ex-officio: Priest and Treasurer**
  - **Parrettie Committee: Lynn Garland, Sr. Warden; Susan Howland, Jr. Warden; members: Lana Pieczynski, Barbara Kalber, Tamsin Lucey; ex officio, Priest and Treasurer**
  - **Pastoral Care Committee: Priest, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Tamsin Lucey**
  - **Stewardship Committee: Lynn Garland/Nancy Waugh**
  - **Building and Grounds Committee: Co-chairs: Tamsin Lucey and Susan Howland; Jean Frost, Brian Canty, Nate Lowery**
  - **Mission and Outreach Committee: Susan Grant, Chair; Suzanne Sharp Daughters of the King**
  - **Hospitality Committee: Susan Grant**
  - **Communications: Susan Howland**
- The vestry agreed to continue to hold our monthly vestry meetings in person at 7 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month.

#### **MINISTRY REPORTS**

Communications – Susan reported that she has renewed our Zoom subscription. She has been updating the ministry scheduler, and she is updating the website but she would appreciate eyes on the website to assist with the update. Tamsin and Susan will review what gets posted to FB. Currently, anything from the Episcopal Church and the diocese is permitted.

Mother Judith reported that the deadline has been extended for application to the Parish Administrator's position. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is also looking for an administrator. If their budget is approved, they are open to a joint situation. A different model would be to have the technical work done remotely and have a team of parish volunteers do the hands-on work here at the church.

Building Committee – Tamsin's report was emailed. Susan added that the building certificates have been issued. Susan will contact Tasse's about a bulk oil buy because Greg reports that our tank has about 3,500 gallons.

Family Worship/Faith Formation – Lana reported that Family Worship met through Zoom. Once a month the children will be participants in the service. Possibilities for resuming VBS this year were discussed, including perhaps partnering with other churches. The Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner is scheduled for March 1 from 5:30-6:30. The Alleluia banner will be available on Shrove Tuesday and the following Sunday for adding children's artwork. Although a confirmation class has been tabled for now, Mother Judith and Eileen will develop components for confirmation for 13-14 year olds; e.g., community service, worship at another church, a Holy

Communion class. We will have a Holy Communion class on May 14, the day before the Bishop's visit, for ages 5-7.

Neighborhood Ministries – Susan Howland presented Tamsin's proposal to conduct nutrition and cooking classes in the church kitchen for the guests at St. Luke's Guesthouse and those who are part of the Finding Hope program. This would be a ministry of Holy Trinity. Tamsin will put together a formal proposal to present to the vestry at the March meeting.

Daughters of the King - Robin Yates reported that 2 barrels and a large bucket were shipped at a cost of \$300. A \$3,000 grant from the Daughters of the King has been approved, and we are awaiting the check. The funds will be used primarily for shipping and to supplement needed supplies.

Contributions for the JP2 Food Pantry will resume. Bill Nelson will deliver to the pantry.

Susan Howland offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting March 9, 2022 @ 7 p.m., in person

Respectfully Submitted, Peg Nelson, Clerk