

# Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Retreat

March 29, 2023

APPROVED

## Minutes

*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. (Isaiah 43:19)*

**Present:** Lynn Garland, Susan Page Howland, Nancy Waugh, Jean Frost, Eileen DeMings, Lana Pieczynski, Robin Yates, John Grant, Cat Reith-Lowry, Mother Judith

**Regrets:** Lorraine Brumskine

**OVERALL GOAL:** To set priorities and a timeline in 2023 for the transition to new ministry

**5:30: Opening Prayer: Lynn Garland**

**5:45 - 6:25: Dinner and small-group focused conversations**

**5:30-6:05:** Share your “take-away” points from the gathering with Rich Simpson & organize a list of priorities from the CAT results

- importance of the visibility and participation of children and youth
- we are mission-focused
- we are both flexible and adaptable
- we are theologically diverse while sharing deep relationships. We respect and value our diversity
- we attend worship not out of obligation but because our faith is important
- worship strengthens our faith and our mission
- the survey showed our readiness to begin preparing for new ministry
- we are ready to explore alternative models for ministry

**6:05-6:25: Review the answers people provided to Question 103 about the building.**

- The congregation named very few values that are dependent on this building
- “Our church is not a building.”
- “The building is a home for our Spirit”
- It is a location for many activities and memories
- The lack of parking is an insoluble problem
- The building is not at the core of our identity as a congregation

### **Purposes for the building:**

- 17 mission
- 17- place for fellowship and community
- 11 spiritual home and resource
- 9 history, memories
- 8 site for spiritual formation

### **Barriers to building use**

- Parking
- Maintenance costs
- Accessibility

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## **Minutes**

**6:30 - 7:00: Priorities for 2023**

1. Learn about alternative models for ministry
2. Examine the costs of the building and educate the congregation about these costs
3. Continue current programs for spiritual formation
4. Increase our publicity and learn new ways to invite the public to events and worship

**7:00 - 7:15 BREAK**

**7:15 - 8:30: Planning priorities for 2023**

**How do we share our review of the CAT with congregation in a way that allows discussion?**

What is the important information to be shared?

Statistical report on responses

Review the True/False statements to show what assumptions we bring to reading the results

We are spiritually healthy.

We are unique in not identifying areas for improvement or healing, and in not naming the need to attract families with children as our top priority (they are already at the center of our ministry)

Contexts – other Episcopal churches, quadrants identifying church types

The importance of learning about alternative models for ministry

Theological diversity & flexibility: We are non-judgmental listeners who respect and value diversity

We are mission-focused

Format:

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – we will meet for an Annual Meeting-style gathering, with worship in the Parish Hall and a presentation/discussion of the CAT results and the meeting with Canon Simpson, followed by table discussions during coffee hour. On subsequent Sundays we will have “CAT tables” at coffee hour where Vestry members will facilitate discussions and answer questions. We may also include possible bullet points for discussion in bulletin inserts

Logistics and timeline: Beginning April 30th, and subsequent Sundays through the spring & summer as needed

**What other churches and diocesan resources do we need to access in order to learn about alternative models ministry?**

What alternative models do we need to learn about?

Bivocational priests

Partnerships between Episcopal churches

Partnerships between Episcopal & Lutheran churches

Range of models for building use and combining financial resources

Format: Zoom meetings with Clergy, Wardens, and vestries together

Logistics and Timeline: Summer – Deadline: August 31, 2023

**How can we update our knowledge about our building in order to inform our decision about whether to continue to be here?**

What do we need to learn?

Specific costs of maintenance, repair, and use

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## **Minutes**

Costs of investment for repurposing rooms, with information about cost/income balance

Format – review and update the spreadsheet for costs and needs

Timeline –Summer: Deadline: August 31, 2023

- |             |   |                    |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 8:15 - 8:30 | Appointment of Vestry subcommittees           |                    |
|             | A. Sharing information with the congregation: | Lynn, Eileen, Jean |
|             | B. Learning about other models for ministry:  | Lana, Robin, Nancy |
|             | C. Updating our knowledge of our building:    | Susan, John, Cat   |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Compline – Led by Jean Frost                  |                    |