

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH****VESTRY MEETING Minutes****June 14, 2023***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: in person** – Jean Frost, Eileen DeMings, Nancy Waugh, Mother Judith, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, John Grant, **via Zoom:** Lorraine Brumskine, Robin Yates, Cat Reith-Lowery

Regrets: Lana Pieczynski

**HOLY EUCHARIST****OPENING BUSINESS****Acceptance of Minutes** May 3, 2023 - **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Vestry Meeting.****Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Waugh - Financial data was sent with a summary via email.  
**A motion was made, seconded, and was carried to accept the Treasurer's report.****PRIEST'S REPORT**

Pastoral Care Check-in

What have we done well? The Teens did very well getting their things done in May, the Bishop's visit went very well.

What could we have done better? Last time the teens met there were only two there, but in terms of planning things it did not make sense to meet. Lynn was asking if we have a Plan B, perhaps have some adults to make it a point to include them in discussion during coffee hour and let them know how great it is to get to visit with them. Could we all share in helping them to feel connected?

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Family Worship: request authorization for membership in FORMA [\$59/year] -Eileen DeMings - Eileen uses this website very frequently and thinks it is wonderful. Resources have been free in the past but now they are moving to having memberships in order to have access to those resources. Eileen feels these resources are excellent. The Vestry approves of getting a membership for forma.church. Eileen will coordinate with Nancy, and Susan has offered assistance with log-ins and passwords management.

[https://www.forma.church/membership/?fbclid=IwAR3f\\_u0rw7Ea54sdOWPZP9Bzpsw6tBBNbneH8o8ysVFtyZblowLEqDGY1w&mibextid=Zxz2cZ](https://www.forma.church/membership/?fbclid=IwAR3f_u0rw7Ea54sdOWPZP9Bzpsw6tBBNbneH8o8ysVFtyZblowLEqDGY1w&mibextid=Zxz2cZ)

Update: Preparations for New Ministry

How can we expand participation in the work of the committees beyond the Vestry?

Debriefing: April 30<sup>th</sup> Parish Meeting & Timeline for Table Talks (Lynn, Eileen, Jean)

Conversations to explore the insights from the CAT survey - Lynn shared that she spoke with some people last Sunday. She realized that the conversations were not about the CAT results, those results let us know that we are ready to address the challenges we face as we move forward. The challenges of the building and challenges of finding a new model of ministry are what we need to talk about with the congregation. As discussed in the Executive session, asking people to join a committee if they are interested would be appropriate. We are

strong together so whether we stay in the building or not we work together well. People seem to be willing to talk about the building. There may be some interest in joining a committee if they are invited. The feeling was more positive than Lynn expected – what we can do as opposed to what we can't do.

What are the core gifts of the Holy Trinity community that will thrive even if we leave this building?

Update: Plans to explore alternative models for ministry (Lana, Robin, Nancy) They are still gathering information so that meetings can be set up with the churches Cannon Simpson sent to them. These meetings will be with our whole Vestry, on Zoom. Gathering questions to ask, doing research as to who to contact at the diocese. Mother Judith recommended getting info from the diocese about who to contact at each parish. Susan suggested having a "profile" of the parishes we are going to meet with – what they did (what model) and how they did it, what was their challenge and how did they proceed. The committee has come up with some questions that are in line with what Susan was asking.

What do you want to learn from other congregations?

What questions do you want to ask?

Update: Review of building data (costs and investment opportunities) (Susan, John, Cat) Susan added a tab to the Members Page – CAT committees – Susan has added a lot of data to the Building Tab. With all the information gathering that Susan has done over the years she estimates that the building maintenance yearly is about 20,000. Cat spoke up and indicated she is on the committee because she wants to figure out how to stay in the building, or if that is not possible then how do we explain it to the congregation. The three of them, John, Susan, and Cat, need to sit down and go over all the information and for John and Cat to ask questions.

Question – do we skip the July Meeting? Use the time to check in on the committees or have each committee continue to do what they need to do – CAT committee to lead discussions during coffee hour, building committee to meet and go over information and update if needed, Models of Ministry committee to gather questions. No July vestry meeting but each committee to send out an email update to the rest of the vestry, by the end of July.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

- Communications – Susan Howland - Written report was sent out.
- Building Committee – Tamsin Lucey Written report sent out, a skip is a dumpster. Now that John knows Greg is available on Fridays John can bring his pick-up truck and help clean out the shed. Then the debris will magically disappear. Susan was thinking about ordering oil, the tank has not been dipped recently, Susan guesses there is about 3000 gallons of oil in the tank. The Vestry thought that was a good idea. Susan looked at the electric bill – the price per kwh has gone down from 33 cents to 15 cents. The average electricity usage has gone up over the past 7 months– likely due to renters.
- Cooking for Life – Tamsin Lucey held a class last month at the guesthouse. The grant covers funds for staff, classes likely will be held at the Guesthouse as that is more convenient and comfortable for the guests.

- Landscaping Committee – Lynn Garland – The still need more mulch, there will be a walkway put in, plants have been planted. Keeping the building looking alive is important.
- Family Worship/Faith Formation – Eileen DeMings - the group is planning for the summer, Prayer Partners was an idea from Forma as a way to keep up intentional prayer for someone outside your family, close friends, perhaps a One-day VBS for the children. A session on Praying with Beads will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Sundays through the summer at 9:15am will be Childrens Chapel – Family Sunday first of the month, 1 hymn done throughout the whole month, introduced to kids at Children’s chapel. There was praise given for the enlivened chapel. Now it really is a prayer room!
- Daughters of the King-, Robin Yates, Lorraine Brumskine - The DOK is continuing the book drive, hoping for a shipment to be sent in late summer or early fall. They are planning on shipping 2 barrels. The book drive is going well so far, and people are still bringing in more books and collecting books from wherever they can find them. St. Monica’s in Hartford has also started to collect material for Liberia. Our unused bibles will be sent also.
- Stewardship – Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland - no report
- Praying Hands Ministry – Susan Howland - A written report was sent out. It has been 1 year since this ministry started and 66 prayer shawls have been given out. Mother Judith asked if knitted or crocheted baby bibs would be an item of interest for the praying hands ministry. She has a pattern. Maybe to be sent to Mampong Baby’s Home. The idea will be discussed further at another time.
- Hospitality – Cat Reith-Lowery – The group has a meeting planned for June 21<sup>st</sup> to go through the downstairs closet. They will go through what is in the closet and put out any unwanted items on tables for anyone to take. When the books have been removed from the tables in the parish hall the unwanted hospitality items may be brought upstairs so they are more visible.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

In August Nancy will have a check for the balance of the gift from Mary Hicks’ sister, to be sent to the Legacy Fund.

Susan asked for pictures taken of the group when Bishop Fisher was here, be sent to her so she can replace the old one on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn, seconded at 8:53 pm**

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lynn Garland

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Frost, clerk