

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

September 13 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]

HOLY EUCHARIST

Regrets: Eileen DeMings, Cat Reith-Lowery

Present: Jean Frost, Susan Howland, Lynn Garland, John Grant, Robin Yates, Nancy Waugh, Loraine Brumskine, Lana Pieczynski

OPENING BUSINESS

Acceptance of Minutes: August 9, 2023, **A motion was made to accept the minutes, it was seconded and carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh A written report was sent out, with a summary by Nancy. There were no questions. **A motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded and carried.**

PRIEST'S REPORT

Pastoral Care Check-in

Review: Adult Spiritual Formation: Fall, 2023

New Ecumenical Discussion Group: *The Chosen* Participants are Bethlehem Lutheran, Federated Church in Sturbridge, and us. Decisions will be made about where the meetings are held. Robin will facilitate the discussion. Discussions will be held on the last Wednesday of the month, starting this month at Bethlehem Lutheran.

New Daytime Formation Group: Lunch & Learn at 11:30 am, meeting at Holy Trinity, Mary Magdalen is the topic of discussion. This group will meet monthly beginning this Thursday from 11 am - 1 pm.

Daughters of the King will be doing a study themselves.

Preview: New Intergenerational Formation:

Sleep Out 4 Homelessness: October 7th or 14th, being organized by Family Worship, those who do not sleep outside will prepare breakfast for those that do sleep out. Must be between the 1st and the 21st of October per St. Luke's Guest House.

International Dinner & Cabaret: November 11 [Rose Reith & Lorraine Brumskine]

Advent Evening with Bethlehem Lutheran: November 29 – The plan is for it to be similar to the Lenten one in the Spring. Ideas include to put together an Advent Bag, maybe a scavenger hunt to find the contents of the bag.

Weekly Prayer Partners – Since there are more names than there are people in the congregation on any one Sunday the names will replenished once a month.

Update: All Saints Sunday – November 5th

Update: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: Tuesday November 21st @ First United Methodist Church, Anne offered to help if there was to be an ecumenical choir.

John asked a question about whether or not there will be Coffee Hour on Christmas eve morning, the answer was no.

What have we done well? VBS night, Prayer Partners,
What could we have done better? – Backpack service logistics

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal: Upgrade sound system – John Grant - There have been a few comments about not being able to hear sermons or other important things if you are sitting behind the altar. Placing speakers farther back behind the altar facing toward the altar might be the best option. Having a Handheld microphone or wireless microphones for individuals who are part of a presentation was also discussed. John estimates \$4-500. Mother Judith's microphone sometimes works, sometimes cuts out. She says battery does not last longer than 1 session. **A motion was made to authorize John to spend up to \$500 for adding speakers to altar space, making sure we have a microphone stand, microphone and wireless connection. John will make an effort to use items we already have. The motion was seconded and carried.**

Joe DiSalvatore's clarinet quintet would like to give another holiday concert. **A motion was made to accept the offer.** More discussions will need to be undertaken to work out the details, including a reception after the concert.

Planning: Response to Refugee Resettlement in Sturbridge – until we know more we can continue to put the information out there, and direct people to drop items off at the Federated Church.

Planning: UTO Sunday – October 15th

Review: Building Inspection Report – Jean Frost - a written report was sent to the Vestry – Susan looked back at Building Report from 2016 and adding outlets would require rewiring the church which would be very expensive. Susan sent out other building reports prior to the meeting.

Review: Building Use Proposals – Jean Frost reported on her meetings with Gabriel McCarthy and his son, John. There were many ideas, JF will speak with Lisa Prince about the possibility of Holy Trinity housing the Meals on Wheels program for TriValley Inc.

Planning: 2022 Stewardship Campaign & Ingathering: Pledge ingathering will take place on November 19th along with a Coffee Hour breakfast provided by the Vestry.

Update: Preparations for New Ministry -

Plans for Parish Meeting on September 17, 2023 The presentation went well and was well received.

Plans for Zoom meetings with other Vestries & clergy The subcommittee would like to choose some dates to give to other churches, there was a proposal to have the Zoom meetings with more than 1 church, rather than 5 separate meetings – move building, share a priest, bi-vocational priest. Mother Judith thinks having just one meeting would be valuable, offer some dates Sunday afternoon (all but Cat), We will give options of Sunday the 22nd and Wednesday Oct 18th

Plans for Parish Meeting on October 15, 2023 – Lana will be giving the presentation, Susan Howland was asked for assistance in making the power point slides, if Lana needs help. Susan agreed, as long as she did not have to come up with the content.

MINISTRY REPORTS

- Finance – Susan Howland Susan reported on her negotiations regarding our copier. **A motion made to accept new copier lease, it was seconded and carried.**
- Communications – Susan Howland Continuing to work with Chris McTigue.
- Praying Hands Ministry – Susan Howland There were some knitted/crocheted baby bibs donated to be blessed and distributed to Marie's Mission at St. Michael's on the Heights.

- Building Committee – Tamsin Lucey Report on False alarms, the pole sensor in parish hall is faulty, now offline. Will be replaced when the part comes in, it is on backorder
- Cooking for Life – Tamsin Lucey – no report
- Landscaping Committee – Lynn Garland – stumps are gone, Chris Briere recommended grinding the stumps \$175 for all the stumps. Mowing rotation, volunteers are aging out, allergy issues, raining on the day when people were planning to mow.
- Family Worship/Faith Formation – Eileen DeMings – Going smoothly, made it up for communion last Sunday. They need to work on a rotation for who will lead and deciding which Sunday in October. Faith Formation group meeting went well.
- Daughters of the King-, Robin Yates, Lorraine Brumskine – Friday starting new membership classes, via Zoom. There is a 12 weeks discernment process. Prior to COVID they did Christmas cards for the troops, Robin would like to start that again. There are certain requirements for what can and cannot be in the cards. The cards need to be in the mail by the end of October. Start on first of October, have materials out.
- Stewardship – Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland report they are starting to think about it.
- Hospitality – Cat Reith-Lowery

CLOSING PRAYER: John Grant at 9:20 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Frost, clerk