

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2024

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]

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. We began with Holy Eucharist
Present: John Grant, David Monroe, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Ryan Bousquet,
Pastor Dan Purtell, Jean Frost, Cat Reith-Lowery on Zoom
Regrets: Eileen DeMings, Robin Yates

HOLY EUCHARIST
OPENING BUSINESS

Acceptance of Minutes June 12, 2024, Jean Frost **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes from the June 12, 2024 meeting.**

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh There has been some restructuring of accounts. **A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, it was seconded, and carried.**

PRIEST'S REPORT

Pastor Dan has had about seven "get to know you meetings" with people from the congregation. He enjoyed those meetings. There were two very successful S'mores fire gatherings at BLC. Good times were had by all. He completed Safe Church training yesterday on Zoom. He and a youth contingent and chaperones will be leaving Tuesday, July 16th for New Orleans. They will be attending the Lutheran National Youth Gathering from July 16-21st. The next date for the combined BLC/HTC viewing and discussion of The Chosen will be held on August 28th at BLC from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. There will be a potluck meal. He and the Pastoral Care Committee will begin to set up home visits once Pastor Dan returns from New Orleans.

Pastoral Care Check-in

What have we done well? – game night went well, there was a respectable turnout, not quite as many as the first one because some of the youth had other activities going on; The HTC participation at BLC S'mores and More was good; working to welcome Food Share to our building was very good, all the time and effort put into trying to make it happen in 2019 and 2020 was instrumental in making it happen and happen so quickly.

What could we have done better? Cat was not asked, so she did not send out a mailchimp reminder for the second smores fire night. She asked if there was a difference in attendance between the two weeks. It was confirmed that there were fewer people for the second gathering. Cat asked if we thought it would be helpful for her to make it a regular practice to send out a reminder email the day before events and we agreed it would. Nancy asked that any emails that involve or deal with anything financial, include the treasurer from the beginning.

FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Food Share Update – Dave went through the agreement and the addendum and asked if there were any questions. **At the end of the presentation, the Vestry voted on the motion made by the sub-committee of Susan, Dave, and Jean to pursue having Food Share sign a Licensing Agreement with Holy Trinity that would allow them to continue their operation as a Food Pantry in Southbridge. The Vestry were all in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Report from Collaboration Committee – Cat Reith-Lowery reported – The members of the committee spent time introducing themselves and sharing their goals for the committee. There was a good mix of members of the committee, mostly it was a get to know you meeting. They discovered that the types of missions were similar in each congregation. The next meeting will be held on July 23rd at HTC - unless it's so hot that a/c a priority. Pastor Dan would like meetings to be held at each church, so members are comfortable in each church.
- Plans for Pastor Dan's sabbatical – Pastor Dan and Mother Judith will get together to discuss some of the things that will happen while he is away. Mother Judith will start Confirmation preparation in the Fall and will do all the Episcopal "stuff." There is at least one youth from Holy Trinity who is interested. Pastor Dan may combine the Confirmation classes from Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran when he returns from his sabbatical. There is more to do at BLC for him to prepare for his time away.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate)

- Communications – Susan Howland. Cat Reith-Lowry, John Grant – Cat has Mail Chimp on her computer, would like help getting it on her phone, Susan will help her. Dave brought up the fact that Holy Trinity is not included in the list of local places of worship in the Southbridge Evening News paper. Chris McTigue has called and asked for our information to be included. Dave will continue to work to get Holy Trinity listed. Susan is still working with the website. She puts up the weekly bulletin and the approved Vestry Minutes.
- Building Committee – Jean Frost Benoit has sold his snow clearing business and has recommended that we call Scott Bachand. Scott has done snow clearing at Holy Trinity as a sub-contractor for Bachand. Jean Frost and Tamsin Lucey will make contact in early September.
- Endowment Committee – no report
- Landscaping Committee – Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe report that things are looking good, the tree in front of the church needs some trimming and will be addressed.
- Family Worship/Faith Formation – Eileen DeMings – Cat reported that Mother Judith had been in touch with Eileen and the Faith Formation Committee asking if the youth would like to do a dramatic reading of the Gospel on August 4th. No one has responded yet, but they will be discussing it.
- Daughters of the King - Robin Yates – There has been some talk about reading a book and having a discussion at a meeting, Susan will give a report on the General Convention at the next DOK meeting.
- Stewardship – Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland – Nancy went to the TENS website looking for Stewardship materials for the Fall, but nothing has been posted yet.
- Praying Hands Ministry – Susan Howland reported that six new shawls will be blessed on Sunday, July 14th.
- Hospitality – Lynn Garland reported that things seem to be going smoothly, more people are staying longer at coffee hour, families leave early to attend other activities with their children.
- Dave and Ryan have been in touch with Heather, who is working with the youth from BLC, they are working on plans to attend a Worcester Bravehearts baseball game. The Bravehearts are a part of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England.

CLOSING PRAYER: Jean Frost

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn at 8:48 pm, it was seconded and carried.