

Minutes of Holy Trinity Church Vestry Meeting August 14, 2025

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

Present: Eileen DeMings, Jean Frost, Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowery, Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe, Nancy Waugh, Nancy Waugh, Robin Yates, John Grant, Pastor Dan Purtel.

Regrets: Ryan Bousquet

OPENING BUSINESS

- Acceptance of Minutes: July 9, 2025, Jean Frost **A motion was made to accept July minutes, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to amend the June minutes by removing Tamsin Lucey from the Building Committee, it was seconded and carried.** There was a misunderstanding. Tamsin had indicated she would be willing to return to the Building Committee in January 2026, but not before then.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh There were two items brought to Nancy's attention after she sent her reports out – clarification was given regarding the expense for the cleaning out of church for junk removal. The expense was just for removing the junk, not for the cleaning, that was done by volunteer parishioners. Nancy pointed out that we have 2 Mission lines, one for donations and one for the Mission plate collections. The Mission Donations line was started when the YMCA was renting our classrooms. Nancy **made a motion to use 10% (a tithe) of the Mission Donations to Sponsor a Hole in honor of Bishop Fisher at the upcoming Annual Golf tournament.** The proceeds from the event will go to Human to Human, a mission of our diocese.

- Pastoral Care Check-in
- What have we done well? / What could we have done better? - we are doing well checking in on people; we passed the building inspection; with the deletion of announcements and God Moments during the service, the worship service flows more naturally, and people appreciate the shorter service. At the same time, people who found it meaningful to share their own, or hear other's, God Moments during the worship service feel the loss of that opportunity. The other options available have not been used with any regularity.

PRIEST'S REPORT –

Lorraine will be preaching on August 24th. There will be a Shared Service at 10 am on August 31st at Holy Trinity, with a blessing of the backpacks. There was a good turnout a month ago for the S'mores campfire in July, and a smaller group this month. The next Pub hours will be on Sept 22. Julie Carson is the Dean of Southern Worcester Episcopal Deanery, she came and introduced herself to Pastor Dan recently. BLC will be having an outdoor Bluegrass service in Sept. The Collaboration Committee has met and discussed a few items. Pastor Dan inquired at Camp Calumet about available long weekends for a HTC/BLC joint parish retreat. There is an available weekend during the winter, he will check with the BLC Council to see if that works for them. Faith Formation with The Chosen season 4 will resume on Sept 17th 5-8 pm.

FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Food Share decided not to pursue their idea of creating a raised bed vegetable garden in the back yard for a variety of reasons. Dave Monroe spoke with Karen, head of Food Share, about keeping the hallway clear per the instructions from the Fire Inspector. No tables, boxes, chairs, etc.
- Update of plan for anti-choking certification –the new Town of Southbridge ordinance requires at least one person at any gathering where food is being served, with anti-choking training. There is someone who will come to the church, \$25 per person, and train a group. We will pay for people in leadership positions who are willing to serve as an anti-choking person, up to 10. The hospitality hosts and partners and vestry members will be offered an invitation first.
- Center of Hope will resume straightening items in the pews.
- Lynn went to the town hall and received permission for us to rent the kitchen to a woman who is looking to start a bakery business. She will be using the ovens. No foods that generate grease may be cooked on the stovetop.

NEW BUSINESS

- Plans for our Vestry and Family cookout in September - there is some concern about doing something like that in the middle of the week, with school in session. August would have been a better option. Going out for ice cream on a Sunday afternoon in September was proposed as an alternative. Discussion will continue electronically.
- We are going to include a link in our eNews to sign up for a weekly newsletter from the Episcopal Church's Office of Public Affairs. Anyone who is interested in receiving the latest information from the Episcopal Church can do so. **"The Episcopal Church Weekly"** arrives once a week and contains news, events, and resources from all Episcopal Church Center mission programs and offices.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate)

- Communications: Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowery, John Grant – John reported that we need a new head mike. NADY is compatible with our system. We will get 2 of them with free shipping, it's more cost effective. John will be stepping down from the Vestry at the end of this year, and possibly also as Pledge Secretary.
- Building Committee: Jean Frost written report
- Endowment Committee: Susan Howland no report
- Landscaping Committee: Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe. No report
- Family Worship/Faith Formation: Eileen DeMings no report
- Youth Program: Dave Monroe and Ryan Bousquet no report
- Daughters of the King: Robin Yates no report
- Stewardship: Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland
- Hospitality: Lynn Garland no report

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Dan**ADJOURN** A motion was made to adjourn at 8:29 pm

Respectfully submitted

Jean Frost, clerk