

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Vestry Minutes
September 22, 2016

The following are the members of the 2016 Vestry. Names marked with an asterisk were present.

Vestry:

April Allen	*Robert Key
*Wallis Bond	*Bill Matthews
*Allison Cox	Ryan Newton
*David Danforth, Junior Warden	*Chris Ray
*Emma Dean	*Peter Shand
*Susie Dibble	*Andy Slaughter
Walter Edgar	*Judy Cotchett Smith, Clerk
Margie Heggie Estefano	Jonathan Vipperman
*Norah Grimball, Senior Warden	*David Wolff
*Rocky Hughey	*Belton Zeigler

Ex-officio:

Curtis Ott, Chancellor	*Joie Ray, Daughters of the Holy Cross
*Jack Godbold, Past Senior Warden	David Sojourner, Trinity Foundation
Ed Hickman, Still Hopes Representative	Liz Summers, Treasurer

Staff:

*The Very Rev. Timothy Jones, Dean	The Rev. Canon Patsy Malanuk
*The Rev. Canon Charles Davis	The Rev. Ira Houck
	*Donald Benson, Canon for Administration

I. Opening Prayer

Dean Jones called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. sharing a reflection on gratitude and how it's good for people, often leading to better health and kindness. He concluded with a prayer.

II. Approval of the August Minutes

The minutes were approved after correcting the site for the new kneelers to be in Seibels Chapel.

III. Discussion – SHIFT

Senior Warden Norah Grimball described the introductory session of the Mark Tidsworth program recently attended by Dean Jones, David Danforth, Allison Cox, Rocky Hughey and herself. The session explored the historic shifts in church culture that seem to occur about every 500 years as described by author

Phyllis Tickle. The church may be in a midst of a culture shift in the 21st century, moving into what the authors of SHIFT call the Postmodern period. The challenging part of church planning is in understanding the cultural shifts and how they will affect us. Norah asked the Vestry to engage in a brief discussion of the kind of questions we should be asking ourselves and how we might begin to package our messages to remain current in this changing environment. Our questions might change from “How do we get new members?” to “How do we follow what Christ has us do?” Are people more interested in the organizations vs. organisms? Membership vs. discipleship? Institutions vs. relationships?

Conversation included moving from an “attractional” church to a “missional” church, from not just Sunday morning activity to working all week. While there is caution about not becoming a “big screen church,” Tim noted that this process did not imply changing how we worship but more about what we are putting our emphasis on. One question posed was how to embrace a movement forward while there are those committed to the ways of the hierarchy of the National church. What does it mean to be less concerned about holding on to old ideas versus how to be more a disciple of Christ? Messages need to be consistent, authentic, not watered down. The session recently attended was a “teaser” toward a more in-depth study and Vestry members are invited to participate in the future.

IV. Report of the Executive Committee

A. Stewardship Report

Wade and Lannie Stinnett were introduced and applauded for their planning for the 2016 Stewardship Campaign. Wade provided an analysis of the current pledging status: 37 ½ percent of Trinity family units made a pledge in 2015; pledge totals presently cover only 85 percent of the church’s budget. This year’s goal is for pledges to reach 100 percent of budget. The Vestry is encouraged to achieve 100 percent participation with a presentation of its pledges scheduled for Oct. 2. Emails will go out to the parish weekly, and brochures will be mailed to homes and placed in pews weekly. Additionally, there will be a 24-hour prayer vigil, speakers during Sunday services, possibly a Sunday celebration with food trucks, etc. Wade asked for the Vestry to consider being part of a calling committee after the final deadline to secure last minute participation. The Parish Council was suggested. Wade and Lannie complimented Addie Thompson for her excellent preparation of material.

B. Senior Warden’s Report

- a. The Diocesan Convention will be held November 5, 6. Vestry is invited to attend.
- b. There are 44 people enrolled in Financial Peace University.

- c. The Property Committee reports progress on the following: conversations continue with an architect about the Trinity Center, though work will likely not begin until the first quarter of next year; drafts of possible ways to redo the kitchen are being received; new lighting was installed in the Library, with thanks to Karen Menge for her help there; interior signage is in fabrication; key fobs will be available soon for track and weight rooms.

C. Homeless No More

Norah reported that because Trinity Housing Corporation is being absorbed into the organization called Homeless No More, changes have to be made by the Vestry to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Trinity Housing Corporation so the new organization can apply for grants that it would not be eligible for as a church-related organization. Norah recommended the Vestry consider approval of a Resolution that provides for those changes. When it became apparent that the related documents had not been previously distributed to the Vestry in advance of the meeting, a recommendation was made to defer approval until after the material was distributed and reviewed. Following a lengthy discussion of the merits of the request and the time constraints of meeting an early October deadline, a motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution by electronic ballot by Tuesday, September 27, following distribution and review of the documents, and to authorize the Senior Warden and Clerk to execute the documents. Following further discussion, the motion was approved.

D. Nominating Committee Report

Jack Godbold reported that as Past Senior Warden he would be chairing the Nominating Committee for selecting nominees to serve on the Vestry in the Class of 2017. Serving with him will be Senior Warden Norah Grimball, Junior Warden David Danforth, former wardens Cravens Ravenel and Frank Brunson, and current members representing their respective years of election, Emma Dean and Bill Matthews, Ryan Newton and Wallis Bond, Susie Dibble and Robert Key, and Joie Ray for the DHC. Nominees must be baptized, confirmed Episcopalians and their names will be submitted to Donald Benson to be vetted.

V. Committee and Other Reports

A. Finance Committee

David Wolff reported that Jed Johnson met with several members of the Finance Committee and was receptive to the idea that a portion of funds raised by the Friends of Music could be invested in an endowment for organ maintenance. The Budget Committee will be meeting with ministry heads in preparation for their committee meeting next month.

1. Report of the Treasurer

In Liz's absence, David provided an overview of August financials. Expenses exceeded revenues, resulting in a \$16,711 loss for the month.

It is important that contribution levels increase between September and December in order to finish the year at breakeven or better.

Balance Sheet

Total cash on August 31, 2016 was \$124,005. Restricted funds continue to provide cash for operations, as the Operating Cash account was in a negative position (\$214,583) at the end of August. The Trinity Bookstore owed the Operating Fund \$56,313 as of August 31, \$10,068 more than it owed in August 2015. Trinity Learning Center owed the Operating Fund \$137,978 as of August 31, 2016, an \$11,267 improvement over what it owed in August 2015. The \$1,000,000 line of credit had a balance of \$240,577 on August 31, 2016. The balance on the line was reduced to \$0 in early September, in accordance with the motion passed at the August Vestry meeting.

Income Statement

Income for August was higher than what was collected in July. Total Revenues were \$83,940 behind the same time last year; \$72,473 of the decline was related to lower Contribution Revenues. Expenses in August were \$161,623 lower than same time last year; \$129,562 of which is due to lower Employee Expenses related mostly to positions that remain unfilled or were unfilled for some portion of the year. If all vacant positions had been paid from January through August, the year-to-date loss would have been \$109,658 at August 31, 2016.

Restricted Funds

There was little change during August in the Restricted Accounts. Assistance to flood relief accounted for \$12,248. Total Restricted Accounts balances have fallen by \$104,423 (23%) since January 1, 2016.

B. Children's Ministries

Emma Dean reported the children's program is a tremendous, vibrant ministry. Children and parents are happy and engaged. Twenty children attended the last Wednesday night supper. Bibs has developed a children's stewardship component modeled after the "Gratitude and Growth" vision for the cathedral. She is helping children and parents come together with a greater understanding of the message. Emma noted that the calendar of events is testimony to the good work being done by Bibs.

C. Stewardship

Bill Matthews had nothing more to add to the previous report by the Stinnettes.

D. Trinity Learning Center

Rockey Hughey reported that the TLC continues to thrive. Fundraisers are underway. TLC purchased a used Dodge Caravan, computers and have had to replace two AC units. Enrollment is above 2016 predictions and the afterschool program continues to thrive. Positive reaccreditations and re-licensings have been obtained.

E. Youth Ministries

In April Allen's absence, Tim called attention to April's submitted report and added that Eleanor has made a strong start in engaging the youth. There are 50 youth in formation each Sunday and an active group of 11th graders are participating in Confirmation classes.

F. Security

Peter Shand reported the new Security Committee engaged in an hour-long walk-through of the church with a Sheriff's outreach deputy assigned to churches. He provided a complex overview of all the potential security weaknesses that our church and most downtown churches have and the changes that would be recommended to reduce potential hazards. He noted that the police department is training for "bad things to happen" in downtown churches and while no one wants to see changes in our welcoming atmosphere or comfortable setting, gradual change may be required. The Security Committee will continue to evaluate potential solutions to some of the more significant problems and make recommendations to the Property Committee. Two of the first recommendations will be 1) move the center of the campus to the Welcome Center, and 2) move Sunday breakfast to the Trinity Center. As for the latter, kitchen renovations in the future will require that change. He concluded that change at Trinity is difficult, but increasing safety is worth the difficulty.

VI. Dean's Report

Tim's effort in finding clergy is proving difficult but he continues to follow every lead. His Search Advisory Committee will meet next week. There are options of redefining specific clergy/Canon titles/duties based on individuals who are available; finding the right person is more important than finding the first person. The search for a development officer continues with help from Michelle Hardy and members of the Trinity Foundation. No hard deadline is set. Ira Houck will increase his hours of service especially in pastoral care. Wayne Kenyon, former chaplain at Still Hopes, may help in the short term until the end of the year. Wine and Cheese events are underway. More will be held through October. Tim invited Vestry to attend a workshop on suicide prevention that will be offered Oct. 25. He has engaged Jill Zook-Jones, who has training in the area, to conduct it. Betsy Wolff and Janie Ravenel are conducting a support group on depression called Solomon's Porch.

Joie Ray reminded the Vestry of the Bazaar on Oct. 15 and the preview Bash on Oct. 14.

VII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Tim closed the meeting with prayer at 8:48 p.m.

The Vestry adjourned into Executive Session and then returned to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting of August 25, 2016