

TRINITY CHURCH PAWTUXET
Vestry Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2022

Vestry members present: Margaret Thomas, Donna Blue-Tobin, Ann Walter, Wayne Barnes, Gail Anderson, Barbara Chartier, Dawn O'Hara, Nancy Plumb, Maureen Mooney

Members not present: Don Raleigh, Cynthia MacCausland

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

There were no corrections to the meeting minutes of February 14, 2022.

A motion was made to accept the minutes noted above, seconded and approved.

Correspondence

Margaret acknowledged a thank you letter received from Marilyn Place of the Church of the Transfiguration in Cranston thanking Trinity for several donations to the food closet.

A thank you letter was also received from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for the donations made in honor of vestry members Bill Caldwell and Jeff Weaver, who went off the vestry last year.

We also received a thank you letter from the Community Cat Care Center for the donation made by the Sunday School youth from the Pennies for People collections.

Senior and Junior Warden Reports

Senior Warden, Margaret Thomas presented both reports as Junior Warden Don Raleigh was not able to attend.

Transition Update:

- Margaret provided an update on the transition process for the Priest in Charge of Trinity Church. She commented that Canon Dena's presentation at the parish meeting on March 6th was an overview of Trinity's ministry over time. Margaret commented that parishioners offered valuable observations about former priests who served at Trinity over the years.

Margaret mentioned some of the questions asked by the parishioners since the search began.

- In response to a question raised about the current clergy shortage – “do we have to take whomever?” Margaret responded that we could hold out and wait for the best fit for Trinity.

- One question asked if Bruce Beattie could lead the service. Margaret responded that he is not able to lead the service. She also mentioned there is a shortage of Deacons.

- One parishioner asked if Father Mitch could come back to do special services like the Gaspee Day Ecumenical service. Margaret explained that was not possible but the new Priest in Charge at Trinity, once he/she is here, would be able to invite Father Mitch for special services if requested.

Margaret mentioned that the supply Priest (or Priest on Call) at Trinity during the transition period is available for funerals and emergency needs.

Margaret reported on other items that have been completed or in progress:

- Parochial report is due March 1st and almost completed (she is working on this task)
- Diocesan report is completed.
- Delegates to the convention have been chosen.
- Contract work is done.
- Provided information on church savings bond which will be cashed in, noting it will be sent to the U.S. Treasury which is the process.
- Church mailing list has been updated.
- New England-Stained Glass Company will provide an overall assessment and estimate of the big window and all other windows. Assessment could be \$80,000.
- Another option for stained glass windows is to have a small business fix the window in place.

Margaret noted that both companies indicated Trinity's stained-glass windows are not in bad shape for the age of them. She also mentioned that some window frames may need repair.

Donna Blue Tobin noted there are spare windows in one of the closets that may match up.

- A/C condenser on flat roof leaks and an estimate is to be obtained.

•Pastoral Care:

There was a discussion about pastoral care provided to parishioners when needed. Parishioners with serious illness (cancer for example) will receive get well cards. For parishioners who are dying, it was suggested to revise the sunshine club cards to thinking of you. Gail Anderson is the vestry liaison to the prayer chain/healing/quilter/sunshine club. It was suggested to ask volunteers to help with the cards. Another suggestion was made to send cards to be in touch with parishioners who cannot get to church. Other methods of pastoral care such as the prayer chain and church prayer list were also mentioned.

- The contract and service call reports for the Canon copier are being reviewed.
- Trinity website is being managed by Sarah Young; Cathie Beattie supplies the photos.
- Margaret mentioned the Grocery Card program and that Maureen and Barbara Chartier could help with this for the 8:00 a.m. service.
- A gift of \$1000 was donated on behalf of the Shirley Halverson family. Margaret contacted her children to inquire if they have a preference for how the gift should be used.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Walter presented the Treasurer's report:

- Line item 4020 – pledges are ahead by \$2700 noting some pledges are paid upfront.
- Line item 4120- non pledge donations are up.
- Snow removal costs are up since the last report. Margaret asked if anyone had anyone had ideas on a cheaper cost (current is \$50 per hour) to let her know.
- Boiler service inspection happens every two years. There was a small gas leak (carbon monoxide). See Treasurer's report for safety and inspection budget line.
- Budget appears to be behind by \$1231.50 – but it's early in the year.

Ann mentioned that any additional pledges could change the annual income received.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

Old Business

Memorial Garden: Margaret reported that the section concerning ashes was changed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the memorial garden policy.

New Business

1. Rental space

Margaret reported that Congregation Or Chadash will be leaving by the end of the month. The space they were renting was \$500. The rent will most likely stay the same.

Several suggestions were made regarding the future rental of this space:

- Ask Girls on the Run if they are interested in renting the space.
- Place a sign on the corner indicating rental space is available
- Diocese could assist with office space rental
- Consult a realtor

It was suggested that in seeking an occupant for this space to be conscious of the comings and goings of the prospective occupants. It was also suggested to consider community space.

2. Active Threat Training

This training will be offered by the Diocese on Saturday, April 3rd at a location tbd. It was suggested that the ushers may want to attend. This training is offered to all vestry members.

Margaret noted that the transition teams need to be approved by the vestry.

Profile team:

- Canon Dena leads
- Updates will be listed on the Trinity website throughout the process.
- Team member consideration includes strong writing skills
- Represents church accurately, diversity, length of time at church, involvement with church
- Team will meet weekly after April 3rd

Appointed members:

Cathie Beattie, lead
Donna Blue-Tobin
Scott Avedisian
Wayne Barnes
Jeff Weaver

Search team:

Appointed members:
Margaret Thomas- lead
Nancy Dorsey
Katie Duncanson
Don Raleigh (Bruce Beattie, back up)
Angela Butler
Vance Morgan

Backups: Dawn O'Hara
Kelly Elderkin

Motion was made and seconded to accept the membership of both transition teams.

In closing, Margaret reminded vestry members about the scheduled April 3rd input session with the parish, led by Canon Dena.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Next vestry meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2022