

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Holy Trinity (HT) Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2013

Attendance

Present: Rev. St. Louis, Tom Sykes, Nikki Clowers, Nick Short, Petey Nettles, Karen Beck, Trish Ryan, Bonnie Branham and John Horrocks (Treasurer). Vestry members absent: Rick Anderson, Karl Finley, Ken Wenzel, and Ed Lewis. Others attending: Karen Sharp.

The meeting opened with a prayer. We then held a brief check-in, with each person sharing how they were feeling, what was going on in their lives.

Discussion topics:

Book Discussion: Given that not everyone had received copies of the book (*Beyond Business As Usual*), Rev. St. Louis suggested that we begin discussions next week. She asked us to look at pg. 42 and think about doing this next year. We are asked to read pages 1-57 for the next Vestry meeting.

Finance Report: John presented the May finance report, which showed actual pledge giving is higher than budgeted pledge giving. We paid a final payment of \$2,800 to caterer for 300th Anniversary reception. Maintenance and repair budget line items were where we would expect them. John reminded the group that we have a \$26,000 budget surplus that we do not see in this report (because is it the payment from the school and is not in the operating budget, but rather in our account). The Finance Committee met with our Smith Barney advisor regarding the investments. Tom Lackey had some good questions for the advisor and the committee is considering changes based on the advisor's recommendations. Also, the committee plans to look at one or two other banks for comparison purposes but at this point it seems like moving to Old Line Bank makes sense. Trish asked is we are funding the reserves and we are. Rev. St. Louis sent info to John Reger regarding the expenses for the 300th Anniversary and for \$200,000 for the Rectory. The money should be coming shortly. Bonnie asked about the organ fund and the balance is reported to be just under \$17,000. Karen Sharp asked about an update on Berkowitz Trust. No action has been taken on the certificates of deposit.

Committee Reports:

- **Mission committee:** Karen Beck discussed that the mission committee is now a smaller group (compared to the first meeting) and that the group met last Wednesday. Bev Brown will create a survey and there was discussion about transitional housing, smart sacks, improving coffee hour (to make it more welcoming), a greeting committee, and giving honey has a welcome gift to new comers from our beehives. Bonnie proposed a BBQ fundraiser using KBQ Barbeque. Holy Trinity will sell tickets for BBQ for the 4th of July and every Saturday in July from 11am to 4pm. The vestry discussed the pros and cons of the proposed fundraiser.

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Motion: Trish made motion that Holy Trinity Church hire KBQ for onsite fundraising events in July to include July 4th and the 4 Saturdays in July and such proceeds will benefit Rectory renovations. Nikki seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Rectory committee:** Tom Sykes reported that the first meeting will be on Thursday at 7pm in the Rectory. They may change the name to reflect that this group oversees all of the grounds and other buildings.
- **Governance committee:** Nikki reported on this committee. Sue Croft sent an email that Bonnie Branham be approved as a trustee for the Berkowitz Trust.

Motion: Nikki made motion to nominate Bonnie Branham to be a trustee for the Berkowitz trust. Petey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nikki reported on the Clydesdale Trust Addendum. John had some questions on some of the wording. These were three minor changes to the proposed text.

Motion: Nikki made motion to accept the Clydesdale Trust Addendum with the minor changes. Karen Beck seconded the motion. Motion passed. This will be signed after Rev. St. Louis returns from vacation.

Nikki asked that the date of the Annual Meeting be set because other deadlines are determined by the date. She recommended that the date be Feb. 23 or March 2. John said that the Treasurer cannot get information on investments until around Feb. 15 at the earliest.

We decided to accept Feb. 23 as date for next Annual Meeting.

- **Minutes:** Prior to the meeting, Nikki had shared copies of the May vestry meeting minutes. Bonnie and Trish wants it recorded that they called in on a conference call for the May vestry meeting and should not be recorded as absent.

Motion: Karen Beck made a motion to accept the minutes with recording Bonnie and Trish as calling in. Bonnie seconded. Motion to accept minutes with changes was passed.
- As part of the governance committee, Nick presented a report on the state of our IT and where we want to go. He gave us power point presentation slides to follow his presentation. He recommends using the Cloud. We can put our membership on the Cloud, vestry documents, and other church documents; the cloud will allow us to share information with the entire congregation while also protecting private, sensitive information by adjusting the security settings/limiting access. Google Docs can connect website design for a fee of only \$29 per month to keep and use website template. We can do podcasts and put sermons on the site. Bonnie did mention that Rev. St. Louis' sermons are her property and we cannot sell her sermons. We need better equipment to do a podcast. Recommendations were made to look at server and redesign member database-handout paper to update the information. Karen Beck recommends a buddy system to help ensure all members of the congregation who do not use

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email get needed information about the church. Nick will try this technology with Governance Committee and then later with Vestry members.

Other:

- **Flower Ministry:** Rev. St. Louis recommends having a Flower Ministry to breakdown the altar flowers and give them out .
- **Parish Guide:** Following up on the discussion at the town hall meeting, we discussed creating a parish guide for newcomers and current members. Nikki agreed to work on this project.
- **Next Meeting:** July 22 at 7pm
- **Executive Session:** An executive session was held.
- **Meeting adjourned.**