

## Minutes of the Trinity Lime Rock Vestry Retreat held 9/12/08

Present were: Fr. Clements, Bob Reid, Al Dorf, Jane Canfield, Geoff Brown, Martha Nesbitt, Martha Baer, Mary Anne Carley, Thomas Schindler, Linda Lloyd. Absent was Roy Bickley

Fr. Clements opened the Retreat, held at St. Michael's Church in Litchfield, with prayers and a Bible reading.

Linda moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as circulated, and Jane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Vestry also formalized approval of the withdrawal of \$5000 from the Harwood Fund with a motion by Martha Nesbitt that the Treasurer be empowered to withdraw \$5000 from the Harwood Fund for operating expenses of the parish. Bob Reid seconded the motion. The Vicar noted that Roy Bickley had withdrawn the "nay" note he had cast online when the motion was initially approved via internet. The motion passed unanimously.

Martha Nesbitt presented an update to the most recent Treasurer's Report with the following:

- The Art Show appears to have earned approximately \$6400, better than budgeted.
- The new copier is now in place and is, after some delays, operational
- It appears that the insurance claim will cover all the expense associated with the wind damage with the exception of removing the remainder of the tree next to the church. Fr. Clements will follow up with the adjuster to see if this can be included as well.
- Financial statements for the Diocese will be a little late; we should have them by the next meeting.

Fr. Clements led us in an exercise where we discussed what our first impression was of Trinity, and subsequently, why we actually paid our first visit to Trinity. Virtually all in the room indicated that first on our list for both questions was Liturgy, including music. Second was the coffee hour and the friendliness of the parish.

The the Wardens' Reports, Linda commented on the success of the Art Show, noting that much of the financial success was attributable to the sale of one comparatively big-ticket item. With regard to Buildings and Grounds, the Vicar requested that we revisit creating a second heat zone for the Rectory at the next meeting. Also a matter for attention is a reported difficulty with the Rectory furnace. The Vicar and the Buildings and Grounds chair will discuss this matter off line. The Vicar noted that the hole in the roof will be fixed, the carillon will be fixed, and the lawn will be enhanced via specific donations.

The Vicar then led the Vestry in a discussion of program opportunities at Trinity. An enumeration of the programs Trinity offers revealed that we have significant opportunities to grow in areas that we are already strong, including liturgy and music, hospitality, and sports. We have a good growth opportunity in the area of Sunday School; the Vicar will contact various seminaries and report back on whether any students might be available to serve internships at the next Vestry meeting. Areas in which we also may have potential for growth include the art show, Quantum Theology, and the Children's Pageant. There are areas in which we have no intention of attracting new members but which we feel are important to include, such as

outreach, ECW, and EFM. Finally, there are two areas which bring new people to our house but are not oriented toward attracting new members, namely AA and Crescendo.

At Noon, the Vicar officiated at Diurnam, followed by lunch, and a brief sanctuary tour for those who were interested.

When we resumed, the Vicar introduced us to the concept of Covenant Stewardship, telling us of three different approaches to stewardship and the relative results. He then described the process of Covenant Stewardship. Following his presentation, a short discussion ensued, after which the Vestry concluded that this appeared to be a viable approach. The Vicar will order the books about this, which will be available for the Vestry Thursday or Friday of next week.

Discussion of incidental items followed. It was concluded by the Vestry that we ought to bring the Animal Memorial Garden project to fruition before undertaking larger-scale long range planning. Martha Baer and Jane will be available for “a conversation” following the 10:30 service on September 21 to discuss next steps in regard to this.

It was requested that the Clerk re-circulate the draft minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting to the Vestry so all could review the recommendations for the field received at that time.

There being no further business to come before the Vestry, and all scheduled activities for the day being completed, the Vicar closed the Retreat with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown  
Clerk