

Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry
Of Trinity Church, September 27, 2009

Present were the Rev. Canon Erik Larsen, John Lloyd, Linda Lloyd, Pat Barton, Bob Reid, Martha Baer, Jane Canfield, Al Dorf, Roy Bickley, and Geoff Brown. Absent was Janet Walker

The meeting began with discussion with Canon Larsen, the Diocesan Canon for Clergy Deployment, continuing his remarks to the people of the parish a few moments earlier in Walker Hall. The vestry discussion initially centered on the costs of the two alternatives Canon Larsen had identified (namely, a full search with an interim Rector in place, versus designation of a Priest in Charge for a period of two years, followed by either a search or installation of the Priest in Charge as Vicar or Rector). Following discussions of the various components of the clergy compensation package, it was generally confirmed that aside from variables such as number of years ordained and whether or not the clergy occupied the Rectory or received a housing allowance, there was little difference in cost between the two alternatives.

After the financial discussion, the discussion moved to specific individuals who might or might not be available for full or part-time positions, the availability of interim clergy in the area or lack thereof, and culminated with the sense of the meeting being that Canon Larsen should ask the Bishop to appoint a Priest in Charge for Trinity, and that a particular individual be designated for the position. Canon Larsen indicated that he hoped that he would have the Bishop's decision later in the week. Due to an engagement in another parish elsewhere in the state later that afternoon, Canon Larsen then left the meeting.

Pat moved, and Al seconded a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting of the vestry be approved as circulated. The motion passed by voice vote.

John Lloyd then distributed the Treasurer's report. Questions were raised about two line items, one involving returned check fees and the other identifying an additional source of fund raising not otherwise identified. Roy moved, and Al seconded a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted pending resolution of the two items identified. The motion passed by voice vote.

Roy and Linda presented the Wardens' Report.

--Art Show results. Linda reported that the current net for the art show is \$3483.39, and that following adjustments it is close to where it will come out – compared with \$7883.72 for the art show last year. While it was generally conceded that the state of the economy was in part responsible for the show's results, and while it was generally felt that artistically the show was one of the more successful in recent years, discussion made it clear that Trinity artists, who are automatically accepted as exhibitors, do not in general carry nearly their weight in terms of setting up and operating the show – a turn sitting the show clearly being not nearly sufficient. It further became clear that the show must be administratively sound as well as artistically interesting, and that some downward management of prices of art work will be required. Roy moved that an art show committee be established for future

years that would ensure that the show was run in a businesslike manner, and Pat seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote. Martha volunteered to form an art show committee for next year's show.

--New phone system. Linda described the new phone system that has been installed, making the following notable points: (1) Crescendo now has their own line separate from Trinity (2) Trinity now has unlimited US calling. Our previous plan was inappropriate and clearly had not been reviewed in many years. (3) Trinity now receives one bundled rate from ATT. (4) Trinity now has one – and only one – phone line, (860)435-2627. There are three voicemail boxes on the phone, one for the clergy, one for general use, and one for Christine. (5) Comcast is no longer used by Trinity. Roy moved that the vestry thank John and Al for their efforts in installing the system, and Pat seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

--Crescendo administrative space resolution. In this regard, Linda reported that agreement had been reached with Crescendo to re-stack the existing volunteer's office so Crescendo has a desk at the window end while Trinity uses the end toward the door. The Lime Rock Cemetery fireproof file cabinet has been moved to a corner of the Nursery. Two smallish desks are needed; one for Trinity (to replace the large desk) and one for Crescendo.

--AA issues: Unfortunately our AA tenants have begun to leave the building unlocked and at least once have left an empty teapot on the stove with the burner on. There have been difficulties in contacting the representative of the organization, and lapses in payment by them. Efforts to resolve the issues will continue.

--Flower Committee budget: To resolve an ongoing audit exception, Al moved and Pat seconded a motion that the Altar Guild and the Flower Committee have separate revenue and expense lines in the budget when next constituted. The motion passed by voice vote. The Flower Committee has already submitted a budget; the Altar Guild will likewise be asked to do so.

Committee reports:

--Buildings and Grounds: Linda has contacted Fr. Clements about the name of the vendor he had suggested for roof repair, and hopes to receive a response shortly. Geoff reported that the B&G Chair has heard from Root Tree via Jeff Silvernale that the dead tree can remain in place until next spring. Geoff also reported for the B&G Chair that Jeff Silvernale believes it is time to have the church and rectory septic tanks pumped; he was asked to have the B&G Chair take care of having this done.

--Sunday School: The Sunday School is now meeting, with one new student. Rev. Truax has begun holding the long-planned Children's Chapel services at the side altar before the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist. Geoff reported that we should be able to put on a Christmas Pageant this year, our 67th consecutive year. Date of the pageant this year, as well as plans for Christmas services, will await the next vestry meeting, when hopefully we will know who our new priest will be.

Old business:

--With regard to the transition so far, Linda reported that Lisa Brennan is learning how to produce the weekly order of service. Pat volunteered to spend some time with her to facilitate the process. A new parish directory will be forthcoming presently. Due to previous commitments by our supply priest, the Rev. Lisa Hamilton will be the supply for the last two Sundays in October.

--Music: availability of funds for Christmas: Further information was presented viz a viz this question from last meeting. Fr. Clements had exercised his discretion and directed Christine to spend the remainder of the music budget (\$800) on musicians for the Bishop's visit, with the understanding that the funds would be made available from the Rector's Discretionary Fund for Christmas, and also for piano tuning and organ repair. To enable this transfer, John moved and Martha seconded a motion to move \$800 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to the music budget. The motion passed by voice vote.

--Prayer Garden: Martha reported on this project, noting that questions had arisen regarding the proposed placement of the garden between the church and the rectory, regarding the scope and expense of constructing the garden, and regarding ongoing maintenance of the garden once constructed. There was some sense that the focus of the prayer garden as a place where ashes of deceased companion animals could be buried or sprinkled had become lost, and questions were raised regarding possible licensing requirements. Martha agreed to revisit the proposal and bring it back to a future vestry meeting for discussion.

New business:

--Computer issues: It was reported that the present computer in the volunteer's room is not adequate (it runs Windows 2000 and has limited hard drive capacity) to run software needed for parish administration. At the same time, it was reported that Crescendo's PC has a defective hard disk drive. Several possibilities were discussed, including purchasing a new computer for the parish, moving the computer from the office to the volunteers room, or accepting the old Crescendo PC as a donation and installing a new hard disk drive. In response to a suggestion, Pat moved and Martha seconded a motion that Al and John be delegated to do whatever is needed to resolve the problem. The motion passed by voice vote.

--Birthday cards: Jane Canfield noted that she is running out of birthday cards to send the parish. In response to a suggestion, she will contact Tom Schindler, who did a nice card design for the Art Show, and ask him to produce birthday cards for the parish.

Next meeting: The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be on October 18, and vestry members were advised to remain flexible since the possibility of a special vestry meeting with regard to clergy is apt to be needed before that date.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown, Clerk