

Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Present

Stewart Abbot – Senior Warden
Judy Gregory – Treasurer
Julie Matt – Clerk
Lisa Blank – term ends 2025
Jim DeMersseman – term ends 2025
Margaret Grant – term ends 2025
Linda Haley – term ends 2026
Sean Miller – term ends 2026
Brandon Wright – term ends 2026
Jan Branham – term ends 2027
Rachel Manring – term ends 2027
Sheryl McBride – term ends 2027

Also Present

Rachel Thompson, Trinity Bookkeeper
Meg Gallegos, Family Ministry Coordinator

Meeting **called to order** by Stewart at 6:30
Meditation offered by Sean

Visitor Recognition

Rachel Thompson and Meg Gallegos were welcomed

Brandon Wright was introduced as our newest vestry member

The VPOD schedule was circulated

Ministry update

Meg reports Sunday school is a joy and she continues to love it. The teachers are great. Parents are getting more involved. Two fifth graders are graduating, and Meg is hoping to get the youth group going again, beginning with sixth graders. Rhonda Alexander has expressed an interest in assuming that responsibility. Linda and Lisa thank Meg for all her incredible efforts. Brandon suggests the church have a youth day to honor the kids in our parish.

Business

Employee Retention Credit

Rachel T. explains the Employee Retention Credit is a program whereby we could be reimbursed by the government for the time we were shut down during COVID. Our shut-down time by executive order was March 5, 2020 to April 16, 2021. We would need to file a Form 941X. According to James P. Jordan, the presenting CPA at the webinar presented by the

Episcopal Parish Network, we would qualify for a total of \$60,497. The IRS put a moratorium on the program until the end of 2023. To date, the moratorium has not been lifted. The Federal Legislature has been attempting to put legislation in place so that the program is in effect over. If we file the appropriate paperwork and receive the funds, the CPA firm (Mr. Jordan's firm) will charge us \$5,000. Jan made the **motion** that we submit the paperwork to get the Employee Retention Credit. Brandon **seconded**. **Motion carried**. The CPA is James B. Jordan, PO Box 82508, Atlanta, GA 30354.

Financials

Judy gave an overview of the financial documents submitted and made explanations. The diocesan and regional contributions were inadvertently not made but will be reflected in the March report.

The report comes from the finance committee as a **motion** to accept. Jim **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

Jim suggests we document the volunteer time in some way. Brandon will check an application he is aware of to make this easier.

Stewart made the **motion** to approve the **minutes** from February 27. Brandon **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

Discussion/Decision Topics

Listening gatherings – Stewart would like to start having these sessions after Easter. He would like to see two vestry members at each meeting; one would be Stewart or Judy and the other would be a vestry member, perhaps in a recording mode. The vision is that the meetings would be held in homes and at the church. Judy has a list of topics to discuss. The gatherings will be held between Easter and Pentecost.

Building Use

The NA group would like to come back on Tuesdays. The Narthex (nka The Café) is where they will meet on the Tuesdays when we have Vestry meetings. They have offered to give us 25 percent of their love offering. The consensus of the group is that we accept 25 percent of their love offering for their use of the building.

Judy presented a written document from Wee Love. They currently are paying \$600 per month and believe they can pay \$900 a month. In the playground, the sandbox area has a rotting piece that needs to be replaced. They will pay for it but may need assistance with the physical replacement. The lawn outside the playground needs to be replaced and they would like to have their floors buffed and polished. They will pay for both the playground and the buffing and polishing of the floors. Jim mentioned that in his opinion there may be a conflict of interest with Judy on the Wee Love board. Margaret **moves** to accept Wee Love's proposal to pay \$900 per month effective the school year beginning in September '24-'25, and the repairs delineated in their document. **Second** by Lisa. **Motion carried**. Judy abstained; two votes in opposition.

Roundtable

Sheryl – Sheryl asked about the name of a member of the choir.

Rachel – Rachel has been looking at bringing the property to the south into a natural area. She is learning a lot about the process and will continue to investigate.

Judy – Judy reports that the finance committee is looking at increasing columbarium and memorial plot fees. When online pledges are paid online, there is a fee which has gone up. They want to pass that on to the users. Judy was present during the organ maintenance. The maintenance for 2024 and 2025 are paid for. Flies are a problem in the organ and will likely need to be addressed. Stewart and Judy will be gone April 28th. Sean will learn the sound system so that he can troubleshoot any issues that arise.

Margaret – Margaret likes the fun new energy.

Brandon – Brandon thinks the congregation needs to take some steps and measures to help newcomers feel like they're part of the community.

Linda – passes

Julie – Julie clarified the process of the minutes being corrected and published.

Lisa – Lisa gave a Pentecost update. That will be Fr. Scott's last day at Trinity. We will have a potluck and Lisa would like to have chicken and ask the congregation to provide sides. She would also like to have us think about a gift for Fr. Scott. Stewart will contact Gayle to see if she has any ideas.

Sean – Sean feels that Fr. Scott has had a great impact on us and he feels that God brought him to us. Sean wants to make sure we leave the door open for Fr. Scott to come back here if he wants to.

Jan – Jan gave an update on her acolyte training. She says it is difficult to find older kids who can sit and learn the process. The ones who are learning now are doing great. She would like to have some older kids as well.

Jim – The helpers for the funerals are telling Jim they are getting too tired to help. He's trying to get a list of potential helpers for funerals. A funeral committee needs to be formed. Jim will make a list of potential people to help and present it at the next vestry meeting.

Junior Warden – Mark reports via Stewart that it will cost a little over \$550 to replace windows in Rachel's office and Wee Love. Philip Strain replaced some things on the compressor. Mark was grateful. Mark has set the Day of Raking as April 20th. He would like to remove the cement stops to the south of the handicapped spots in the parking lot.

Senior Warden – Stewart reports we were given a very short time to cancel our contract with Waste Management, but because we went past that time, we have moved into another year. Cancelling our contract with Waste Management will go back on the calendar for January 2025. Stewart will attend a webinar on April 3rd, Financial Positioning the Church for the Next Quarter Century. Stewart will set things up in the library and all are invited to attend. Pentecost is Fr. Scott's last week. Fr. Bill will supply the following Sunday. Beginning in June we will have two supply priests per month. Terrie Abbot will have completed her training by then and will be able to distribute Eucharist on the Sundays we don't have a supply priest.

Stewart closed with Ogden Nash's "Untitled Poem."

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Matt, Clerk of the Vestry