

## Minutes of Vestry Meeting January 8, 2025

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]

CALL TO ORDER 7:10 pm

**Present:** Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe, Cat Reith-Lowery, Eileen DeMings, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, John Grant, Pastor Dan, Jean Frost, via Zoom – Robin Yates, Ryan Bousquet

**Regrets:** None

HOLY EUCHARIST

OPENING BUSINESS

- Acceptance of Minutes: December 11, 2024 Jean Frost **A motion was made to accept Minutes from December 11, 2024 meeting. It was seconded and carried.**
- Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh **A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded and carried. A motion was made, at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to move \$4000 from sabbatical fund to the savings fund. It was seconded and carried.**
- Approval of final 2025 budget – A few late pledges came in after the December Vestry Meeting, so the budget approved (with a \$10,000 deficit) last month was amended. The Finance Committee was very happy to report that subsequent pledges not only made up the deficit, but provided enough money to increase a few budget lines:  
Family Worship, Adult Christian Formation, Leadership Development, Hospitality and increase the utilities to reflect more use of our building. **A motion was made to accept the amended budget for 2025, it was seconded and carried.**
- Pastoral Care Check-in
- What have we done well? - According to the notes from the Mutual Ministry Review we are doing very well. Christmas Eve service at Holy Trinity was very well attended, and thanks to Nancy for asking Tamsin to help out as an additional EM. The Children's Sermon was amazing, the kids were asking one question after another. The Lessons and Carols service on 12/29 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church was also great. The food after the service was special, too. It was wonderful having such a good turnout for Boyd's last service as BLC's Music Minister. Holden Evening Service and the Blue Christmas service also went very well. The Epiphany play went well, they appreciated having time before the service to rehearse. The late service on Christmas Eve at BLC was very well attended.
- What could we have done better? Any grandparents that have kids involved we want to make sure that they can be connected. Pastor Dan could have told his parishioners that there is only wine, no grape juice at communion at HTC.

PRIEST'S REPORT

- Confirmation/Reception: How is it going? Thursday Jan 30th, will be the first combined Confirmation class, at BLC. Pastor Dan is putting together logistics for a retreat, to be held March 7-9 at Camp Calumet in NH. The Retreat is just the confirmands, not the mentors. There will be other adults there with Pastor Dan, to comply with Safe Church guidelines. In the past Pastor Dan has done a Retreat for his confirmands in conjunction with a group from Manchester,

CT. Led by another Lutheran Pastor and friend of Dan's. This year they will be attending as well. Who is being confirmed? Colleen, Teddy, Violet, Paige, Jack and Emilyn.

- Update on plans with Rosilda's Kitchen – There will be a meeting on Friday, Pastor Dan will not be present, he has another commitment. The meeting will be after the usual Friday night dinner. Lynn and Susan have been invited to look through equipment that the Methodist church has to see if there is anything we might want. Dave mentioned that Food Share would be interested in any spare refrigerators or freezers. Susan will write up a letter of agreement for this endeavor. It's the first time we have taken on a ministry as one of our own, where the volunteers are from another congregation. Nothing has been decided yet. Dave mentioned that the youth are planning to be there on the 7th of February to volunteer. Eileen suggested that we speak with the Rosilda's kitchen organizers and ask if that would be helpful, rather than tell them what will happen. On Sunday information about this ministry will be shared with the congregation, and emails will go out to our email mailing list.
- Report from collaboration team - there was a meeting last night and Minutes of the meeting were handed out this evening. There was a lot of information discussed at the Collaboration Committee meeting. Some of the events being planned include: Pancake supper shared with BLCon March 4th. Ashes to Go, services on Ash Wed – noon at HTC, 7 pm at BLC March 5th. Possible Game night on March 29. A Youth trip to Cathedral in the Night on March 16th. Cathedral in the night is a Lutheran ministry, run by Pastor Steph Smith, in Western MA. They serve a hearty food for a meal after a 4 pm service. It serves a homeless population mostly. Shared service 10 am at Holy Trinity on March 30th, the 5th Sunday of the month.

#### FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Update on repair of the retaining wall – as per the report from the Building Committee, the next step is to contact the neighbors about the possibility of having access to their parking lot during the time the work is being done. The Building Committee recommends going with the least expensive option using the small Landscape blocks to be the facing on the Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) retaining wall.
- Staff reviews will be scheduled in January
- Safe Church and Worship leaders: Susan Howland is working to organize the certificates that we have and locate certificate that we don't yet have. Susan is willing to be the Safe Church officer for Holy Trinity, Pastor Dan approves.
- Christmas decorations have been sorted, there are Christmas Tree decorations from when Holy Trinity used to decorate trees. They will be put out for people to take what they want and leftovers will be donated. Rose Reith and Lynn Garland will look at the remaining greens in September and refresh them as needed. Cat mentioned that there are big discounts at Michaels on Christmas greens now.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Review Annual Meeting details (January 26) with snow date February 9th, expanded coffee hour. **A motion was made to have the service in the parish hall and the annual meeting afterwards also in the parish hall. It was seconded and carried.**
- Report on the Mutual Ministry Review – the meeting held on December 16<sup>th</sup> with members of the leadership of Holy Trinity's Vestry and Bethlehem's council, members of the Collaboration Committee from each parish, Pastor Dan and Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Western MA, Steven Wilco, was not the typical Mutual Ministry Review we are used to having. Nancy

thought Cannon Steve should have met with the Holy Trinity Vestry prior to the meeting since this was our first introduction to him. The people from the Diocese and the Synod, when we entered into the partnership with Bethlehem, are not the same people that are in those positions now. The new Interim Cannon to the Ordinary (in the Episcopal Diocese of WMA) is a Lutheran Pastor. Mutual Ministry Reviews may be different in the denominations. The meeting itself was very good, more about the Covenant we signed with Bethlehem and Pastor Dan. Susan mentioned that we should have a Mutual Ministry Review with Pastor Dan and the Vestry in June, as is written in the Letter of Agreement between Pastor Dan and Holy Trinity. June will be 12 months from when we started working with Pastor Dan.

- AA meetings at Holy Trinity – There will be a meeting at the end of this month to discuss details about hosting AA meeting at Holy Trinity 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. Monday – Friday from 12 to 1:15 pm, they can meet in Parish Hall, Saturday 12 – 1:15 pm and Sunday 2-4 pm they can meet in the undercroft. They have a filing cabinet for the materials. They may need another so they can have 1 upstairs and 1 downstairs. They are not in a hurry to start meeting here.
- Continuing the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 9<sup>th</sup> (Also snow date for annual meeting) There is interest – is there a person willing to be a point person? Cat is willing, and she will speak with her mom, Cat will send out mailchimp, have a sign-up sheet for soups.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate) skipped due to cold temperatures in the PH and lateness of the hour

- Communications: Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowry, John Grant
- Building Committee: Jean Frost
- Endowment Committee: Susan Howland
- Landscaping Committee: Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe
- Family Worship/Faith Formation: Eileen DeMings
- Youth Program: Dave Monroe and Ryan Bousquet
- Daughters of the King: Robin Yates
- Stewardship: Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland
- Hospitality: Lynn Garland

CLOSING PRAYER – Lynn at 9:16 pm.

ADJOURNMENT motion made to adjourn at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Jean Frost, clerk