



Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2008

Present:

Gates Agnew
Mary Jo Barker
Mary Ellen Brown
Steve Chambers
Virginia Hall+
Stanley Hamilton

Mary Ann Hart
Gretchen Horlacher
Kim Hurley
Mary Ann Keko
Anne Jones
Pat Martin

Connie Pepler
Father Ken Ornell+
Murray Robinson
Debbie Satterfield

Steve Hale - Clerk

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Approval of minutes from June 25 Vestry meeting: Steve Chambers moved to approve the minutes as presented. Fr. Ken+ seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Murray Robinson reported on an operating statement for the church that was distributed to the Vestry last week after being reviewed by the finance commission. This statement contains the year-to-date financial information for Trinity with comparisons to our budget. Murray asked the Vestry for feedback on ways to make this statement more useful.

Murray reported that there was an agreement to add ranks of pipes to the organ and the work has been done. \$9600 is due. Murray needs Vestry approval to pay this invoice. Elbert did not sign the agreement with Tom Wood. Stanley Hamilton moved to approve the payment. Mary Jo Barker seconded. Passed.

Mary Ellen Brown asked that the minutes reflect that all decisions committing Trinity's funds should be approved in advance by the Vestry based on an estimate.

Murray reported that signatures on the church's bank account include Fr. Ken+, Murray Robinson and Elbert Johns. Murray recommended that Steve Chambers' Fr. Charlie Dupree's+ names be added. Stanley Hamilton so moved. Anne Jones asked to amend the motion to add Randy Lloyd's name as well. Stanley Hamilton agreed. Kim Hurley seconded. Passed.

There was discussion about hiring a bookkeeper. Mary Ellen Brown moved to affirm a prior Vestry decision that the bookkeeper must be a non-member of the Vestry. After discussion Anne Jones called the motion to question. The Vestry agreed to vote. Motion was passed. Murray Robinson asked to be able to hire a bookkeeper as soon as possible. He will bring a person's name back to the Vestry for approval.

Gretchen Horlacher asked Murray about the large negative number in the financial statement. Murray replied that we will not have a balance budget this year. Pat Martin asked Murray to provide a summary of our current status and what steps are needed to improve. Gates Agnew noted that it is important for the Vestry to understand this matter since Fr. Charlie+ will be at the next meeting and Murray will not. Much discussion followed.

Interim Rector's Report: Fr. Ken+ reported he has asked Steve Chambers to be the rector's warden until the end of this term and Steve has agreed. We now need to decide about how to fill the people's warden position. After discussion the Vestry agreed to contact Steve Chambers with names of nominees.

Fr. Ken+ said that this is the first time in 15 interim assignments that he has served until the day until the new rector arrived. He usually leaves a month before. This has been awkward. It has been interesting and good to be at Trinity. For work done during the past week Fr. Ken+ gave particular thanks to Jacque McCaffrey for doing the bulletin and to Mike Pepler for help on Friday and Saturday. He also thanked the people who worked at the receptions and people on the pastoral care and parish life commissions. Fr. Ken's last remark was to thank the Vestry for their support during the last 20 months.

Assisting Clergy's Report: Virginia Hall+ also gave her thanks to all who helped at the receptions this month. We are having a sample session for Education for Ministry (EFM). The Tri-Parish Coalition for Ministry is having an event at Waycross. Next Sunday is the last for the Lambeth Conference. There are suggested prayers of the people for Lambeth and the Millennium Goals.

Deacon's Report: Connie Pepler reminded the Vestry that the next Habitat for Humanity build starts this Friday. The Deacon's Formation Program will meet in August.

Rector's Warden's Report: Steve Chambers reported that he has accepted the call to be the rector's warden with caution and deep humility. It will take a team to fill Elbert Johns' shoes. Steve said that he will need to be more of a consensus builder in this new role. He will use principles to guide his actions as rector's warden. The first principle is openness and transparency in communication. He will err on the side of too much information. The second principle is love as in the verb rather than the noun.

Steve reported that he had an opportunity to communicate with Fr. Charlie Dupree+. Fr. Charlie+ has sold his home in New York and is closing on a home in

Bloomington next month. Fr. Charlie asked Steve to relate that he is trying hard to be rector of one parish at a time and requested that all communications be passed through Steve Chambers or Jacque McCaffrey. Fr. Charlie said that he would be very happy to have Virginia continue in her position as he needs time to better understand Trinity's needs before formulating a plan for filling the assisting clergy's position in the future. The next ECM meeting is schedule to happen on the second day after Charlie+ arrives. He has asked to cancel this meeting to allow him time to assess the situation.

Steve closed by recognizing that this is Fr. Ken's+ last Vestry meeting. Steve said that the interim rector's job requires a lot of grit and self assurance. Working with Fr. Ken+ has been a rewarding experience. Fr. Ken+ has lavished love on this parish. The Vestry gave Fr. Ken+ a standing ovation.

Commission Reports:

Outreach: Betty Rose Nagle reported that Jennifer Lloyd has agreed to chair the commission. Mary Ann Keko showed a poncho and coat made with money from Outreach. They have enough money to make 30 coats. There will be more work days in August.

Parish Life: Debbie Satterfield reported that this Sunday's Lemonade on the Lawn will be dedicated to thanking Marie Shakespeare thanking for her role in Pinnacle. On August 17th there will be a light lunch for Fr. Ken+. On Friday August 29th there will be a welcome back cookout for students in the afternoon. Debbie is following up with Darlene Cook on where to make a donation in her name.

Old Business:

Update on Marie Shakespeare's position and Fall Forum planning - Fr. Ken+ reported that there are meetings underway involving Ross Martinie Eiler, the new director of adult religious education, to finalize arrangements for Forum.

New Business:

Discussion of how to respond to questions about Fr. Charlie+: Steve Chambers has discussed this with Fr. Charlie+. We need to acknowledge he is gay and has a partner. Fr. Charlie+ said that he does not make a big deal of this. Stanley Hamilton said that he has no issue personally but has heard concern from a member of the parish. Connie Pepler reminded the Vestry of the charge from Fr. Don Jones+ that we must be sensitive to all the ways people think in this parish. Gretchen Horlacher said that she has heard concern about alienating our partner parishes. We do not want to loose those relationships. Virginia Hall+ said that this is an opportunity to ask people to share their concerns. Fr. Ken+ reminded the Vestry of our trust in the search committee to find the best possible person to meet the needs of this parish.

Motion to adjourn: Betty Rose Nagle moved to adjourn. Mary Ann Keko seconded. Passed.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Meal assignments for August 27:

Set up	Mary Ellen Brown
Beverage	Mary Jo Barker
Salad	Anne Jones
Entrée	Stanley Hamilton
Dessert	Mary Ann Hart
Clean up	All