



Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2008

Present:

Gates Agnew	Gretchen Horlacher	Murray Robinson
Mary Jo Barker	Anne Jones	Debbie Satterfield
Mary Ellen Brown	Marilyn Keiser	
Steve Chambers	Mary Ann Keko	Jane Martin - guest
Father Charlie Dupree+	Pat Martin	Hal Taylor - guest
Virginia Hall+	Betty Rose Nagle	
Stanley Hamilton	Connie Pepler	Steve Hale - clerk

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

**Approval of Minutes from October 22 Vestry Meeting** - Anne Jones moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Stanley Hamilton seconded. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report** - Murray Robinson presented a statement of operations for October and year-to-date as of October 31, 2008 and a balance sheet. For October, expenses exceeded income by almost \$40,000. For the ten months ending in October, expenses exceeded income by about \$226,000. This is \$125,000 more than the budgeted shortfall of \$101,000. Most of the expenditures in October were for administrative items that included an extra payment to the Diocese to make up for a payment that was missed in September and payment of \$8000 in interest on our construction loan. Much of the budget variance to date is due to cost associated with moving the church office during the construction period.

We are still pursuing refinancing our construction loan with the Diocese at a lower interest rate. We are still talking with the Diocese about refinancing the loan to get a better interest rate.

Budget meetings with the commissions start tomorrow. There will be a budget sheet for each commission to clarify lines of responsibility. The sheets will indicate the purpose, timing and quantity of funds each commission expects to spend next year. Once the budget is final expenditures must agree with the plan or be approved by an authorized person with an indication of which account will be used to cover out-of-plan expenditures.

Stanley Hamilton moved to accept the treasurer's report. Gretchen Horlacher seconded. Passed.

Jane Martin presented a recommendation for Trinity's endowments and bequests that was reviewed by the finance commission. The commission's recommendation is that Trinity's endowments and bequests be invested with a goal of long term growth instead of spending available funds to pay off debt. Mary Ellen Brown asked that the finance commission provide more specific numbers that would indicate the expected costs and benefits of investing versus paying off as much of our debt as possible. Jane agreed to do this. Murray Robinson suggested that Vestry needs to feel comfortable enough to explain the recommended changes to other parishioners before accepting them.

The Vestry accepted Jane's report with thanks.

**Rector's Report** - Fr. Charlie+ reported that he is planning a staff retreat for December 13<sup>th</sup> that will include a facilitator. He may have also found a person to be the facilitator for the Vestry retreat on February 13th and 14th. Jacque has a form for people to use when requesting meeting rooms. The Vestry commissions liaisons need to be sure the commissions use these forms.

**Assisting Clergy's Report** - Virginia Hall+ reported that she is a grandmother for the second time. She took time off for a continuing education seminar in Chicago. She asked that people wanting to participate in the upcoming Christmas party provided by the Jail Ministry fill out the required form.

**Deacon's Report** - Connie Pepler reported that there were deacon ordinations at the Diocesan Convention for the first time. Deacons work for the diocese so this is a significant change. The coat drive was successful with over 1700 pieces distributed. She is making mission strategy visits and is working on the deacon formation curriculum for the next year.

**People's Warden's Report** - Anne Jones reported that she is grateful for the continued clarity of our financial reporting.

#### **Miscellaneous Reports -**

Marilyn Keiser reported that Lessons and Carols will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> and Winter Star is rehearsing on Tuesday nights. There is a possibility of doing a pops concert sometime in February as benefit for the Daniels Music Fund. Marilyn expressed her gratitude for Charlie+, Virginia+ and Connie.

Virginia Hall+ reported that we have 120 pledges as of today. The stewardship commission is following up with phone calls and letters.

**Worship Commission** - Stanley Hamilton reported that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January we will have a celebration of Fr. Charlie's+ ministry. There will be a social function afterward with Bishop Cate+ and guests. Fr. Charlie and Marilyn Keiser will plan the liturgy. Gifts will be presented that are representative of our community. Invitations are typically sent out to the Diocese and others. There needs to be a committee appointed by the Vestry to get started on preparations. Gates Agnew, Gretchen Horlacher, Anne Jones, Mary Jo Barker, Debbie Satterfield and Mary Ann Keko volunteered. Those Vestry members absent from the meeting are also invited to participate. Fr. Charlie+ pointed out that this is a celebration of "our" ministry. The volunteers were accepted with gratitude.

## Old Business

**Homeless Ministry Update** - Fr. Charlie+ provided some background on providing a homeless shelter. This is an idea that has been around for years. It is just now becoming a reality in past few weeks due to efforts by Virginia Hall+. There is a lot of passion behind the idea on the part of a lot of people. We had a great Forum at church.

The Vestry discussed several questions that have arisen about providing a homeless shelter at night from December through March in the Great Hall in partnership with the Shalom Community Center. Fr. Charlie+ said he would be part of a committee to negotiate a protocol with Shalom that would provide guidelines to address these questions.

Virginia Hall+ presented an email from Fred Swing of the Church Insurance Agency stating that Shalom's insurance appears to be adequate. A copy of the email is attached to these minutes.

Gretchen Horlacher asked about working in conjunction with other churches. Since the immediate need for money has been addressed by the mayor and Shalom we have stopped talking about this. With churches pooling resources it might be possible to rent a house for a shelter. Virginia+ said that the mayor supports working toward having a permanent facility in the downtown area. Gretchen thinks that this requires a letter to the congregation. Fr. Charlie+ agreed.

Mary Ellen Brown said that it is very important that whatever we do we write a thorough account that provides the rationale for providing the shelter at Trinity. This will help bring people up to speed with the idea. It is important to not romanticize.

Connie Pepler said that we have abundance and these people do not for various circumstances. These questions being discussed are reasonable. It is important for these people to know there are others who care about them. We can try this and see what happens.

Gates Agnew said it would be useful to know where this is being done elsewhere in the Diocese and to learn from other churches.

Mary Ellen Brown said that we must raise the question of cost as we are already operating in a deficit. Fr. Charlie+ said that there will be some extra cost for the buildings and grounds commission. We must have a weekend sexton to do this. Further discussion on the weekend sexton was postponed until the subject of the shelter was settled.

Stanley Hamilton moved that the Vestry embrace the concept of establishing a homeless shelter beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup> of this year subject to negotiation and confirmation of details by a committee working with Shalom. Gretchen Horlacher seconded. Passed.

**Hiring a Weekend Sexton** - Anne Jones moved that Fr. Charlie+ hire a weekend sexton. Debbie Satterfield seconded. Virginia Hall+ said there could be a special fund established to help offset the cost for this person for a 4 month period. We could solicit donations or write a grant. Pat Martin said that it is important that we find a way to pay this person. Fr. Charlie+ said that he would consult with the personnel and finance committees. Stanley Hamilton called the motion to question. Passed.

## **New Business**

**Proposed Change to Bylaws and timing of letter to parish** - Fr. Charlie+ said that he met with Mr. Linda Johnson+, showed her the existing bylaws and explained the spirit behind the Vestry's intent to change Article IV. Mr. Linda+ said she agreed with this change.

Stanley Hamilton moved to remove the text in parentheses from Article IV of Trinity's bylaws as shown below:

### ARTICLE IV - VESTRY

1. Number and Term. The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal shall consist of fifteen persons (one of whom shall be a representative of University Ministry,) and shall include a Rector's Warden and a People's Warden. (The University Ministry position shall be for a three year term and shall be filled by election of members of University Ministry.) The Rector, who shall serve ex officio, shall preside at all meeting of the Vestry. Each Vestry member shall be elected for a term of three years and may not be re-elected after serving a full three-year term until a period of one year has passed since the end of that term. In accordance with the rotating vestry system provided by canon law, five members shall be elected at each annual meeting. All qualified voting members shall be eligible, and at least two-thirds of the members of the Vestry shall also be confirmed adult communicants in good standing.

Mary Ann Keko seconded. This change will need to be confirmed at the next annual meeting. Passed with 1 abstention.

**Clergy housing allowance resolution for 2008 & 2009** - Fr. Charlie+ explained that for tax purposes a portion of his income must be reported as a housing allowance. To meet IRS guidelines a resolution is needed to confirm this allowance. Fr. Charlie+ asked the Vestry to approve two resolutions for this purpose.

Resolution 1 for 2008

Whereas the Rev. Charles Dupree is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, IN, which does not provide a residence for him, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Charles Dupree, that \$21,600 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

Gates Agnew moved to approve Resolution 1. Anne Jones seconded. Passed.

Resolution 2 for 2009

Whereas the Rev. Charles Dupree is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, IN, which does not provide a residence for him, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Charles Dupree, that \$23,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. This resolution is effective for the year 2009 and all other years unless otherwise provided.

Gates Agnew moved to approve Resolution 2. Stanley Hamilton seconded. Passed.

**Motion to adjourn** - Gate Agnew moved to adjourn. Pat Martin seconded. Passed.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Meal assignments for December 17<sup>th</sup>:

Set up - Debbie Satterfield

Beverage - Mary Ellen Brown

Salad - Gretchen Horlacher

Entrée - Mary Ann Keko

Dessert - Betty Rose Nagle

Clean up - all