

Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington Indiana
Vestry Minutes
January 25, 2023

In attendance: Rev. Matt, Deacon Connie, Earl Singleton, Todd May, Adriana Madiol, Susan Williams, Andrea Martinie-Eiler, Jim Skomp, Georgia Parham, Daniel Lentz

Guests: Nancy Hutchens, Randy Keko

Opening prayer: Rev. Matt

Motion to approve November minutes:

Motion: Jim Skomp

2nd: Adriana Madiol

Passed unanimously

Kirkwood Street Closure Question: Nancy Hutchens

Kirkwood St closure is planned for the summer to allow seating in the street. Nancy proposed a resolution to be sent to the City explaining Trinity's objections to this plan. Issues are handicapped access to the church and the fire hazard posed by the alley being clogged with traffic. We discussed the related traffic issues.

Motion to approve: Todd

2nd: Georgia

Passed unanimously

Outreach Presentation: Deacon Connie

Report on outreach funding and disbursement by Connie to inform the Vestry. Money comes from tithe and some designated pass through funds. She explained the difference between program expenses and grants. Program: regular yearly contributions to certain organizations, no commitment. Grants: based on applications each year. Discretionary funds: first Sunday loose offering in plate, used to assist people with rent, etc. We talked about how each part works, the difficulties with payments last year and the plan to make sure that payments are made in a timely way in the future. Outreach will report to Vestry in April this year on how the new system is working. Cash flow issues are still something we may need to work out.

Reproductive Freedom Task Force: Jack and Meagan Collins

The Reproductive Freedom Task Force is part of CPR. Their focus is on the impact of the Dobbs case on Indiana. They drafted a statement to be issued by Trinity that is aligned with the General Convention statement on reproductive freedom, recognizing the complexity of the issue. They want to organize a study group (including buying some books). The Vestry will take up the statement at the February meeting. Motion to support the idea of the study group.

Motion: Susan

2nd: Adriana

Passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Randy Keko

1. Review of December Financial Report

Discussion of the details to understand the higher administrative costs that month.

2. 2023 budget

Budget – everything has been cut. We had a cash crunch because of unexpected expenses last year. The money we expect to receive back from the federal government sometime this year is not included in the budget – we might get \$125,000 from that in 6-9 months. We owe about \$38,000 to endowment for loans taken out in 2022.

The Vestry wanted to thank Randy for all his work on the budget.

Todd pointed out that the problem is that we are reducing everything we care about most: outreach, education, discretionary spending (which is direct aid to people in need).

The Vestry discussed the fact that we have more money coming in than in earlier budgets and yet are not able to support the programs we want to support. This situation is not sustainable. We need to reassess the underlying budget categories in detail. Jim suggested asking Canon Brendan to help with the detailed budget review. Randy pointed out that, in the past, each Vestry member was responsible for working with one commission on its budget. We need to think about long term building costs – maybe a capital campaign?

Rev. Matt offered a spiritual view: everybody feels like they don't have as much as they need to do what they want – this is normal for a church and God trusts us to find a way.

Deacon Connie asked the Vestry not to move to a designated envelope system for the discretionary funds, but to keep discretionary funds as the 1st Sunday offerings. The Vestry agreed with that. The issue is that the draft budget has only \$3500 designated to be used for discretionary funds, when in the past the first week's loose offering has totaled around \$8000.

Rev. Matt suggested shifting money from Contingency and Administration to return Discretionary funds to the old level. Todd made a motion: reduce Contingency category in 2023 budget to 0, moving \$4145 to discretionary funds (bringing it to \$7645) and take the remaining \$355 from Administration to bring discretionary funds total to \$8000 for 2023.

Motion: Todd

2nd: Adriana

Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the budget as amended.

Motion: Todd

2nd: Earl

Passed unanimously.

Report Reviews (Rector's report, Deacon's report, BG&G report, etc.): Approved without discussion

New Business

1. Candidacy for ordination: Cory Irwin. The Vestry members all signed the candidacy form.
2. Need for a clerk: Todd will announce the need for a Clerk at the Annual meeting. If no one comes forward, we will form a committee of vestry members to recruit a clerk.
3. February meeting is moved to March 1.

Closing prayer: Rev. Matt