

TRINITY – VESTRY

October 1st, 2023

1. Prayer – Led by Fr. Peter

2. Confirm Quorum & Secretary-

Vestry members present were Fr. Peter Johnston, Bill Cober, Dave Buckless, John Guillory, Sam Hawkins, David Brammer and Scott Comeaux. Dana Duhon was absent.

Quorum confirmed and John Guillory agreed to be acting secretary in Dana Duhon's absence. August 20th minutes were presented and reviewed. Scott motioned and Sam 2nd the motion. The motion was approved with no objections.

The October 1st Agenda was presented to the vestry and a motion to accept as presented was made by Scott to accept and 2nd by Dave. Approved with no objection. Dave asked that we do our best to get the minutes and agenda to the vestry members as soon as possible.

3. Rectors Warden-

- A. **Deanery** - The Deanery has been shut down operationally since Sept. and will remain dormant until the Bishop determines its future.
- B. **Campus Communion** - Campus Communion has been moved to the Diocesan office and \$15,000 have been transferred. Trinity will continue to accept funds for Campus Communion during Sunday services and send to the Diocese.
- C. **Sanctuary Amplification** - Bill presented a quote from Pro Audio Solutions for additional amplification of the Sanctuary and the Narthex. The total for the work needed is \$7,413.56. He suggested that we consider a dedicated fund for this expense. After discussion Scott motioned that we set up a dedicated fund, Bill seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

4. Peoples Warden –

- A. **Work Day** – Dave thanked Jibran for his help with the grass and also thanked everyone who helped with the workday.
- B. **Family Center Proposal** – Dave explained the difficulty of having meetings that require more space than a single classroom provides. He asked what the vestry thought of the possibility of removing an interior wall between two classrooms to provide a medium sized space. John suggested the possibility of a center partition wall which would provide more flexible use. It was agreed that Dave would get quotes to see what a cost might be and determine if we would like to consider his suggestion at a later meeting.

5. Outreach Reach Report - The previous Outreach committee meeting was held on Sept. 11th. The Care Guild met for LEM Training with Fr. Peter on Sept. 17th.

We are presently collecting supplies for Acadiana Animal Aid and will continue thru Oct. 15th. We are considering having a Trunk or Treat on Oct. 29th but not yet finalized. Next month we will begin Operation Christmas Child. Next Outreach meeting is tomorrow Oct. 2nd at 6:00 PM.

6. **Finance Report** – There will be a Finance Committee meeting to finalize the 3rd Qtr and will begin the budget process for 2024.

The Finance Committee will meet at Trinity on Oct. 14th at 10:00 am

7. **Rectors Report –**

A. **Childrens Ministry** - Peter stated that he will not name a Childrens Ministry Coordinator until the new year. A discussion was held on what Children's Ministry coordinator duties would entail, what hours would be needed to perform the duties and what costs would be incurred. John asked of the possibility of having a meeting with young families to help determine if there were any problems with the current classes and if any change in criteria or curriculum was warranted. A decision was made to determine, during the budget process, if a paid position was possible for the upcoming year. Peter gave a history of how Sunday School classes have progressed throughout Trinity's history. Sam asked why we could not have Sunday school during the service like many churches do. It would accomplish, children's religion classes while also reducing the distractions in church. Possibilities were discussed.

8. **Old Business** - Peter presented the By Law changes that were sent to the Chancellor for approval. A Grandfather clause was added for the original voting members that signed the Trinity Covenant of 2016. John motioned that we consider the By Law changes at the next meeting, seconded by Sam. Motioned carried with no objections.

9. **New Business - Pastoral Directive, Addendum & Clarification.**

There was much discussion concerning all the Sacred Pastoral Directives presented by Bishop Clark Lowenfield. Members who were brought into the conversation late were upset that they were not included earlier. Dave became upset and left after being accused of withholding information from other vestry members. After further explanation of Daves involvement and insistence that the vestry be included from early on, forgiveness was asked of the vestry and the vestry was informed that Dave would be reached out to personally to ask for forgiveness. Most thought the Bishop Clark was overstep his authority with both the vestry and Fr. Peter. It was stated that the Bishops Clarification letter was important to begin clarifiying our roles and responsibilities from his perspective and ours as a vestry. There was consensus that Bishop Clark should be more precise with his explanation as to how Fr. Peter is not following his directives and how he has determined that Carla should not be allowed to lead Christian Education. There is a feeling that there is too much communication between the Bishop and Trinity members when there is a problem. If there are problems that exist we are called to solve the issue with that person first. If not or uncomfortable we should seek a brother to assist us, then go to the Priest, then the Bishop, and only as a last resort.

B. Notification of Council – Due to the severity of the Directive and the tone of the Bishop's last Directive and Clarification letter. It was determined that an impasse exists between Bishop Clark, Fr. Peter and Trinity Anglican. Fr. Peter has concerns that Bishop Clark has targeted him without due cause and specific examples of concern and is seeking council and mediation.

The vestry is concerned that because of this possible impasse and with regard to our spiritual, legal and fiduciary responsibilities we also need to seek council. For these reasons a letter of Intent to seek Council was drafted and will be sent to Bishop Clark. A motion to approve the draft, with changes, was made by Bill and seconded by Sam. Motion approved without objection.

C. Next Vestry Meeting – October 29th

D. Closing Prayer – Fr. Peter