

**Minutes of Vestry Meeting  
February 27, 2024**

**Members present:** John Merullo, Andy Durham, Eric Beam, David Villareal, Samantha Rainman, Tony Huffman, Pamela Lawson, Jeanne Sommerfeld

**Members absent:** Mary Matteucci, Gladys Valles, Brent Chambers, Andrea Shiloh

**Officers present:** Larry Laubach, Treasurer; Steve Lee, Assistant Treasurer; Ben Blanding, Clerk

**Clergy present:** The Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero, Rector; The Reverend Luz Montes, Associate Rector

**Clergy absent:**

**Guests:** Barrett Hess

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After determining a quorum, the rector called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

Property Status – We have received a grant to renovate the Smith Room and plans have started. Renovation will include technology improvements.

We have some trees touching the building and got a quote for tree pruning. City of Houston dug up close to some trees and may have damaged them.

There are a number of issues with HVAC system. Problems with both chillers. Estimate is \$3,000 and \$4,000 for each chiller. Chiller #2 has a leak. The estimate for the leak is \$2500. New refrigerant will be \$1500. Total estimate is \$14,995.

It is believed that more of the Holman block will be closed soon for construction. There is concern that we will not have handicap parking available.

It was noted that Trinity will likely not be able to serve as a voting location because of “undue hardship” for access to the building for handicapped voters.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

In Common Conference – Held at Camp Allen from March 15 – 16<sup>th</sup>. The event including accommodations and meals is free. There are a number of different topics and Vestry and Ministry heads are encouraged to attend.

All Church Retreat – Held at Camp Allen from April 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>.

Jazz Fest – We are partnering with St. John’s and they are hosting the Friday evening event. Rajun Cajin is going to cater the Thursday dinner and will be hosted at Trinity Church and will cost \$28/head. Event is scheduled from July 18 – 21<sup>st</sup>.

Effective Communications between meetings – It was suggested that we create a Vestry group chat.

## **RECTOR’S REPORT**

Stewardship – Stewardship has leveled out in the last few weeks. Vestry members are needed to drive the Stewardship campaign including reaching out to former and non-pledgers, writing thank you notes, etc. We currently have 97 pledgers.

Status of Partners for Sacred Places – Contract start date was scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> but this will be postponed. Some small changes need to be made to the contract. Church has not received the check from the diocese. Rector is hopeful the Asset Mapping Event will happen in early June.

Lent/Holy Week Schedule – We have a booklet for Stations of the Cross and a full week of events including Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services. Due to the construction on Holman St, a different location will need to be selected.

Reproductive Freedom Congregation – There is a booklet “People of Faith: Reflections on Women & Reproductive Issues”. It was proposed that Trinity join the Reproductive Freedom Congregation. We will have a link to their website on the Trinity website. We also can/will put up posters around the Church that state “we respect women”.

Churches for Middle East Peace – Some lay leaders and the Reverend Henry Atkins have crafted a statement that asked for a ceasefire in Gaza. Our Good Friday offering is going to the Arch Diocese Jerusalem. A parishioner, Nabila has invited Trinity to join “Churches for Middle East Peace”. There is an event on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Inter-Faith Ministries. There is a link in the Weekly Window.

Staffing – Semenca is the kitchen coordinator on Sundays. Patricia is the new hire for the nursery. We are looking for a part-time helper in the nursery. Yolanda has communicated that she would like to return to Trinity. Sam took over as part-time sexton when Robin left. He is willing/able to handle sexton responsibilities for special events but is not interested in the day-to-day responsibilities. Lauren has gotten a full-time job and has left Trinity. John Merullo has agreed to immediately but temporarily perform some of the tasks of the Parish Life Coordinator. He will work 10-hours per week through July (at the latest).

## **TREASURER’S REPORT**

January Revenue:	\$ 116,218.23
January Expenses:	\$ 96,746.98

**Resolutions:**

1. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024 as presented; second by Tony Huffman. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the estimate for the chiller maintenance up to \$15,000; second by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Andy Durham that Trinity Church join the Reproductive Freedom Congregation as suggested by the rector; second by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
4. Resolution by the Andy Durham for John Merullo be appointed to assist administratively on an interim basis and during that time shall abstain from voting on monetary matters; second by Samantha Rainman. John Merullo abstains. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Andy Durham to give Ryan Mire a 5.7% Cost of Living Raise effective March 15, 2024 subject to approval from the Finance Committee. Second by David Villareal. John Merullo abstains. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2024 as presented; second by Tony Huffman. John Merullo abstains. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by Ben Blanding, Clerk