

Trinity Vestry Meeting Minutes

Vestry Meeting

August 26, 2026/Labyrinth, Trinity

Present: Sarah Thomas, Keith Cobell, Claude Garciecelay, Michael Neal Arnold, Alex Thomas, Lucy Bell, Jean Lange-Davis, Jay Casbon, Fred Williams, Sarah McCarter, Carol Ann Manzi, Clare Carey-Pesani

Absent: Elizabeth Molitors, Brian Bargiel, Michelle Petty

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 following a devotional provided by Fred Williams.

Agenda Approval, Financial Overview, & Social Media Update

The vestry approved the evening's agenda following a motion by Jean Davis and Ellen Whittet.

Clare shared that she is helping to facilitate a more robust social media presence on the Trinity website. She is working with Betty Wenzel and Abby Selzler to create more reels and posts on Instagram and Facebook in the hope of increasing church engagement, specifically among younger demographics. There has already been a dramatic jump in viewership because of the new reels, as well as the use of hashtags.

Keith presented the June and July financial results, noting a summer lull in in pledge income that resulted in July being "underwater". While year to date actuals remain above water, he emphasized that total investments stand at \$4.1 million, with a reminder that this includes restricted funds. There was a general discussion about potential economic pressures such as inflation and uncertainty affecting fixed income members.

The vestry reviewed and approved the Audit Committee Certificate, which revealed only minor administrative issues such as ensuring all credit card statements are signed weekly.

Building and Grounds Update

Michael provided an update on several projects:

Pew Cushions: An estimate to replace the pew cushions and covers, (leaving the plywood base in place) was obtained from a Los Angeles company for approximately \$35,000 to \$43,000. The committee is continuing to look for local alternatives and estimates.

Windows: A three-year phased project is planned to repair the State Street and Micheltorena windows and add Lexan protective coverings. The first phase is estimated at \$40,000, with the total project projected at approximately \$120,000

Additional Items

There was discussion about a potential windfall gift that could fund a special project such as replacing the current altar platform. A landscape architect has been retained for restoration project.

There was also discussion about the potential for drainage issues due to the projected heavy rainfall, (El Nino), this winter. There are plans to check all systems and sump pumps. Cudos were given to Carlos, (Trinity sexton), for his diligence in faithfully checking on the church at all hours during heavy storms.

To date there are several things that have been repaired including the drinking fountain in the hallway outside the guild hall, fixing the men's urinals and the door to one of the stalls in the women's restroom.

Leadership Retreat Debrief

Members shared varying perspectives on the recent financial strategic planning retreat put on by community trust while others felt the session lacked specificity regarding financial direction. It was noted that there may have been some confusion about the confidentiality of the survey which may have contributed to the low response from members of the congregation. The retreat was part of a larger process to align financial decisions with church values. A formal report/strategic plan is expected sometime in early October.

Annual Giving Campaign

Sarah outlined the timeline for the annual giving campaign, including the kickoff dinner on October 10. Vestry members were requested to assist with tasks such as envelope labeling and coordinating thank you notes as well as participating in the dinner. The upcoming campaign theme is "Loaves and Fishes", featuring a Mediterranean potluck dinner.

Consent Agenda and Upcoming Events

Jean Davis moved to approve the agenda, financials, and receive the reports. Lucy Bell seconded the motion followed by unanimous vestry approval.

Compline service will begin again September 13, to be followed on the first Sunday of each successive month.

Bishop Franklin Ruckhart, (sp?), is scheduled to visit on September 20th for a service involving 18 confirmations.

The next executive committee meeting is September 15, followed by Vestry meeting on Sept. 23.

Following compline, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted by Sarah McCarter, vestry clerk