

# Trinity Church Vestry Meeting Summary

## October 2025

The Vestry met on Tuesday, October 21, at 5:30pm in the conference room at Trinity Church. The Rev. Amy Peterson and four members joined virtually. No members were absent.

The Rev. Dr. Scott White opened the meeting with a reading from *Meditations for Vestry Members* on Matthew 28:19-20, followed by prayer requests and prayer.

The consent agenda was considered and approved.

The Creation Care report was discussed as there was some concern that the grounds weren't looking tidy and people were wondering who was responsible for grounds maintenance. Amy clarified that the Garden Guild dropped off after COVID and in its place, we now have the Creation Care Team. They schedule professional landscapers to come twice a year, and are organizing volunteers grounds clean-up days in between. There was reassurance that one of those clean-up days would happen after the leaves were all down and before Bishop Johnson's funeral.

Jan Hildebrand, Director of Finance, made comments on the financial reports through the end of September, which continue to show a surplus with revenues over budget and expenses under budget. The stewardship campaign is still underway, but Jan reported that she has received 227 pledges so far, totaling \$816,000, which includes \$49,000 from ten new pledging households. The budgeting process for 2026 has begun, which includes a pledge to the Diocese of Western North Carolina. This is calculated as 10% of revenue spent in 2024. A motion to approve this pledge was made and seconded, and the Vestry approved unanimously.

Scott reported that the Appreciative Inquiry process began earlier today with a staff workshop. The staff will meet one more time next week for the final part of the staff workshop. A whole-parish process will roll out afterwards.

Scott reminded the Vestry of the Annual Meeting on November 16 at the 10:45 service and encouraged all members to attend if possible. The December Vestry meeting will be at Scott and Missy's home and will have a limited agenda containing the 2026 budget if it's ready. The 2026 Vestry will begin with a retreat at Lake Logan on January 9-10.

Tom Williams, Senior Warden, shared that the nominating committee, made up of the senior class, had three confirmed and two probable nominees for the Vestry class of 2028. There was a discussion about how to update the nomination process in following years, so that the Vestry is able to get to know the nominees better before having to vote. The solution seems to simply be starting the process earlier to allow confirmed nominees a chance to submit their bios prior to voting. A

brief Zoom meeting will be scheduled soon so the Vestry can discuss and approve the slate of five nominees.

Tom also gave an update on the parking situation. The property behind the church, towards Coxe Ave, which is for sale has an offer, and has already been permitted for apartments to be built. There is another lot that the county has plans to turn into housing, but that is dependent on them receiving some amount of federal funding or tax-credit. Civil Design Concepts has, in the meantime, affirmed the feasibility of a 3 or 4 level parking deck on either the south side of the church or the lot across the street. They are continuing their work and will provide a more thorough report in the coming months.

A couple safety considerations were brought up, but it was decided to push the conversation to a later date. One concern was unhoused people getting into the building, which might be alleviated by having a security guard on Sunday mornings. The other was the egress of the children's and youth areas, and the suggestion was made to have a safety code study conducted by an architect of access.

There was a brief moment of off-the-record time.

The Rector requested the meeting move to an executive session, which was motioned and approved.

The meeting adjourned.