**Vestry minutes: February 4th, 2024:**

Present: Michael Minor, Ritchie Arthurson, Rob Loudfoot, John Koroma, Zilla Jones, Ross Steer, Joan Steer, Karen Klassen Bender, Helen Holbrook (observer), Louis Ricciuto (observer), Sandra Bender (observer & minute taker)

Regrets: Evelyn Fondse, Shola Ojeleye

Mike led with a land acknowledgement and an opening prayer.

Approval of agenda: Karen moved to accept, seconded by Zilla

Updates:

Long-term leadership update: the corporation met with +Geoff and Simon to discuss the three options of:

1. trying to preserve/extend the life of the building
2. dissolution
3. finding a buyer for the building

**Discussion:**

-we will revisit long-term ministry options in June, towards the ends of Bishop Don and Rev. Helen’s 5-month terms

-it was shared that the Diocese wishes to directly appoint a priest, currently working in the diocese. This priest was first approached with the proposal of a 5-year contract and was not given an accurate idea about the viability of Holy Trinity. He has now been brought fully up to speed by Michael. He is nonetheless open to visiting and seeing what the congregation thinks, and would not accept an appointment unless directly invited by the parish.

-it was asked why the parish is not being given any say over its own future and leadership and why the executive archdeacon is seizing control of this process. It was requested that the corporation convey to the Diocese that the parish would like and should be permitted to host its own formal hiring process, beginning with an update to the parish profile, which is considerably out of date, and continuing with a candidate search wherein anyone would be welcome to apply. The vestry was in firm agreement that the parish would like to choose its own leadership and that Rupert’s Land canon law permits this.

**\*\*Expansion on Canon 10** from Sandra (not shared during the meeting):

This article stipulates that:

* upon accepting the resignation of the incumbent, the Bishop may appoint an interim priest or term position to fill the immediate needs of the parish
* that parishes operating under the mandate of Local Collaborative Ministry (which does not apply to Holy Trinity), the Bishop may directly appoint a new incumbent
* that otherwise, according to section 4, a committee consisting of two wardens and the lay delegates to Synod will form a committee to search for and present a candidate to the Bishop
* if said committee is unable to locate or choose a candidate within 3 months of the closing of the application deadline, the Bishop may then directly appoint an incumbent

Source: <https://dq5pwpg1q8ru0.cloudfront.net/2021/09/20/15/45/44/34870443-bd70-4c3c-b982-df6c487b2f70/Canon%2010%20-%20Appointment%20&%20Maintenance%20of%20Incumbents.pdf>

-it was raised that the congregation should be given information about how important the coming AGM is. It was also pointed out that the people who aren’t showing up to meetings and stepping up to fulfill responsibilities can’t complain if decisions are being made without them

-a fourth option was proposed: amalgamation as a way to double resources (people and financial) and avoid involuntary dissolution

-it was raised that the questions of the future of staying in the building/what to do with the building is entirely separate from the question of leadership

1. Correspondence: none to report
2. Financial report: our overdraft is now at -$219,000, which is an improvement, but also due to the fact that bills are going unpaid because of a lack of administrative capacity
3. AGM planning:
4. Proposed budget: It was moved by Zilla J. that the Diocesan apportionment be decreased from $52,000 to $32,000. Seconded by Rob L. Motion passed unanimously. Some discussion was had around certain small items, but nothing of major significance. Rob moved to accept the budget as amended, seconded by Ritchie. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Assembling documentation & reports: still waiting on a couple of reports for the AGM
6. Vestry nominations:

The slate of nominees as submitted so far include:

For vestry positions (two-year terms):

Zilla J.

Gwen G.

Janice H.

\*Ritchie A. was nominated during the meeting

For Synod delegates (one-year term):

Ross S.

Karen K.B.

\*Zilla J. was nominated as deputy delegate during the meeting

For People’s Warden (one-year term):

Sandra B.

For Deputy People’s Warden (one-year term):

Bob B.

-The nomination deadline is Feb. 10th at the very latest

1. Building & ground funding: Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund payment paperwork is now submitted. Rob met with Rina Ricci about the historical designation of the building. It is definitely designated federally and municipally. The issue with demolition would be with the city. Rina has offered to help with the process of helping us to apply for preservation funding, which we have been negligent in trying to find.

(Rob was obliged to leave at this point)

1. Morning Star Refugee Support Group: the vestry took note of the update from Evelyn’s written report

Minutes of this meeting were shared by Sandra. Joan moved to accept, seconded by Karen.

Next vestry meeting will take place after the AGM (Feb. 18th, 2024) on March 10th

Karen moved to adjourn, seconded by Joan. The vestry recited the doxology as a closing prayer.

\*\*Thanks were given to Ritchie for ordering lunch!