



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
5333 Clyde Park Ave SW
Wyoming MI 49509
(616) 538-0900
contactus@holytrinitywyoming.org

March 23, 2017

Subject: Town Hall

Called to order: Melissa Puzan called the Town Hall to order on March 19, 2017 at approximately 11:30 am.

1. Allen led the congregation in prayer.
2. New Building
 - 2.1. Melissa Puzan: Although the sale of the property fell through, we are still open to opportunities that may come along.
 - 2.2. Ron Tiller: Amongst other benefits, a new building would provide more efficiency and a better heating system than what we currently have.
 - 2.3. Tim Anderson: A bigger building would allow the parish to grow. However, before considering a new building, we need to pay off our mortgage as part of the process.
 - 2.4. Scott Morton: A new building should be contingent on budget, calling a new rector, and the need for more members.
 - 2.5. Discussion included a need to target young adults.
 - 2.6. Action Item: We need to confirm where the funds from the purchase of our property would go.
3. Values: In response to this slide, the congregation aspires to these additional values:
 - 3.1. Christian Education
 - 3.2. We have members who need to be confirmed: place more emphasis on building a curriculum for Confirmation.
 - 3.3. We need to reach out and get more involved in the community.
4. Goals
 - 4.1. All thought the goals were good goals.
 - 4.2. These are big goals that will encourage us to take bold steps.
 - 4.3. The vestry will be as transparent with information as possible.
5. Partnerships
 - 5.1. How do they work?
 - 5.2. Example: Holy Trinity has the opportunity to partner with local businesses such as Culver's. Culver's and other companies host opportunities that allow us to raise funds.
 - 5.3. Example: The Van Andel Arena has opportunities for volunteers to work concessions with a portion of the proceeds going to the Church.



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6. Rector Search/Search Committee

- 6.1. Maggie, Emily, and Carolyn volunteered to join the current slate of volunteers.
- 6.2. Search Committee will complete our parish profile after getting to know each other.
- 6.3. Dennis Klumpp: Discussed the need for making sure any potential candidate knows what our parish truthfully wants and needs. Transparency to potential candidates is important. We need to take care to communicate our practical needs as a whole and not to label our parish one way or another. (Background: These comments stem from our hiring a previous priest under false pretenses. The former priest was told by a parishioner that Holy Trinity was very conservative and was not looking to grow.)

7. Visual/Identity

- 7.1. There is a need for t-shirts (signage) that we can wear to show the people we are serving that we're from Holy Trinity (HT branding).
- 7.2. This is one way to invite the people we serve to check out HT.
- 7.3. Jennifer Luurtsema and Maggie both said they would be willing to price out t-shirts.

8. Communication

- 8.1. We are interested in promoting the Labyrinth and Stations in The Pines more.
- 8.2. Dennis: Mentioned the Labyrinth is on the national registry -> <https://labyrinthlocator.com>
- 8.3. Discussion also involved hosting an event that would incorporate use of and promotion of the Labyrinth.
- 8.4. The parish is encouraged to use hashtags in their social media accounts so that HT pops up more on Internet and social media searches.

9. Hospitality

- 9.1. Scott Morton: Brought up the idea of having a "point person" for reaching out to visitors.
- 9.2. Discussion highlighted that making visitors feel welcome is everyone's job.
- 9.3. Currently, visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book. If they sign the guest book, Beth sends a handwritten note to them within the next week.
- 9.4. We need to move toward an "It's everyone's job" movement in which every person in our parish needs to be invested in our parish life and well-being.

10. Finances

- 10.1. We explained to the congregation that there is one General Account. If monies go in pledge envelopes, that money is placed into the General Account.
- 10.2. To earmark funds for other purposes, parishioners need to place a separate check in the collection plate and include a notation of its purpose.



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11. Development

- 11.1. New vestry members need better (and formalized) training. Nothing exists currently.
- 11.2. We need to believe that Holy Trinity will be here in 100 years. Hope and faith are the opposite of fear!

12. Ministry/Committee Fair

- 12.1. Carolyn suggested we host a “Ministry/Committee Day” where leaders of ministries and committees are available to sit and talk with parishioners in a non-threatening way.
- 12.2. This would give parishioners an opportunity to get to know what each ministry and committee is about, sign up to participate in a ministry and serve on a committee, and get more invested in the Church.
- 12.3. Bill Longhurst: There are 5,000 lots being developed within a 5-mile radius of HT, and this presents an opportunity to introduce HT to new residents.

13. The Town Hall was closed at approximately 12:40 pm.

Thank you to Melissa Puzan, Beth Smith, Lisa Nelson, and Jennifer Gradnigo for contributing their notes to compose these minutes.

If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, concerns, or any other feedback about these minutes, please contact Allen Gradnigo by emailing allen.gradnigo@holytrinitywyoming.org or by calling or texting (616) 583-2448. You can also contact any member of the vestry.

Thank you.

Blessings,

Allen Gradnigo

Allen Gradnigo
Vestry Clerk