

Vestry Retreat Report – February 29, 2020

Twelve members of Grace and Holy Trinity's Vestry, along with Bill Queen and Kim Reinholz, met for the day. We had three times for Devotions, using Luke 13:6-9, 20-21, Luke 6:12-16, 8:1-3, Luke 9:12-7, and the three Prayers for Mission from the *Book of Common Prayer* pp. 100-101. Our discussions followed our having individually reviewed the notes from our Mini-Retreat, and looked at preliminary ideas about adjusting our structure in order to prepare in a more focused way for the new Rector's arrival.

We discussed last year's Vestry responsibility areas, which were divided along the lines of the original three Strategic Plan Areas. We compared those with our three Mini-retreat focus areas and the SWEEPPS model, which was used at GHTC before the Strategic Plan was in place. This helped us identify these groupings, dividing our responsibilities into eight Teams. Vestry members volunteered for Team responsibilities. We spent the rest of our day brainstorming ideas for each team to pursue. Several representative ideas are listed for each.

Hospitality, Parish Life & Fellowship

Jodie Pully, Lisa Dawson, Bev Eggleston

(for parishioners & community: coffee hours, receptions, Lent dinners, etc.)

- better coffee and food at coffee hour; variety, potluck, different sponsor groups; holiday themes
- non-Sunday fun gatherings
- all ages
- start planning 100th Anniversary 2024; 6/1/1924 was 1st combined Grace Church & Holy Trinity Church worship service

Small Groups

Nancy Trego, Kathleen Thomas

(Adult Forum, Bible Study, Foyer Dinners, Community Engagement, Service/Outreach, etc.)

- Sunday morning study groups – can have more than one at once
- offsite activities; weekdays, Saturdays; with babysitting
- expand “foyer groups” to include restaurant groups
- example groups: Bible study, zip code, service

Newcomer & Visitor Welcoming

Thomas Ewers, Todd Pawson

(ushers & greeters, follow up)

- visitor table every Sunday
- newcomers dinner/party
- FAQs on Episcopal Church
- clarify & extend how to follow up with visitors

Volunteering & Engagement

Carl Blackwell, Glenn Moore

(including reaching out to lapsed members)

- every Member Canvass to reach every member, during interim time
- list of volunteer opportunities; like A to Z, but easier organized
- make use of updated lists of people, active and lapsed
- designate an annual Homecoming Sunday with special activities

Children & Teens

Lara Wulff, David Hetherington

- day of conversation open to all with Kim as facilitator
- identifying candidates for involvement in worship
- Red Door outreach & evangelism
- hire a staff Youth Director

Young Adults

TBD

- need leadership (due to TBD, above)
- include Campus Ministry & VCU; perhaps combined Steering Committee
- Vestry nominations and voting procedure to include at least one of newly elected under 40
- both inclusion and outreach

Communication

Barbara Derry, Elaine Quinn, Rosalie West

(internal & external)

- provide support for Barb via a Communications Committee
- highlight activities, successes, and new members, via stories
- younger input, possibly VCU intern
- breakfast with a Vestry member; identifying sign; for people to talk, ask questions, etc.

Information

Bill Perkins, Martin Erb

(full use of existing technology to support staff, Teams, Committees, etc.)

- clean up data using Parochial Report review
- additional data: next of kin, emergency contacts, jobs/skills, interest areas
- training & cross-training for ShelbyNext system
- add metrics: attendance at all activities

Each team is tasked with seeking additional parishioner volunteers, prioritizing tasks and activities that may make a difference before the new Rector's arrival, and giving updates at each Vestry meeting. Each Team will also lead the Adult Forum and be held up in prayer in worship services at one of the Sundays during the Easter season, serving as an extended weekly Ministry Fair.