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Epiphany, 2021

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Annual Meeting of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church will be held virtually on January 17, 2021 beginning with our Sunday service at 10:00 A.M. We will pause during the middle of the service for the meeting, and then return to the service. This service will be a service of the word only. The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with parking-lot distribution will continue the following Sunday.

Yes, this is odd. No doubt about that. The meeting will be conducted with the assistance of ZOOM a wonderful service that allows two-way communication via smart-phones, tablets, laptop's, desktops with camera and microphone and telephone. The link to the meeting is included in this mailing. If you cannot get on-line, you are welcome to call the number listed on your telephone at about 10:45 to participate in the meeting.

WE MUST MEET QUORUM. Even though we are conducting our meeting in an unusual way, we are required by our by-laws to meet our quorum which is 37 people. When you arrive at the meeting either via your computer (internet ready smart phone) or telephone, please check-in with Maggie Gonzalez our parish administrator. She will be keeping attendance and will let us know when our quorum is reached. Documents for the Annual Meeting are available on-line at www.holytrinitywyoming.org.

If you do not have an Internet connection, documents will be mailed to you, but you must call the office and request that we send them to you.

Information about our Commons project is also included in this letter.

Please be present for the Annual Meeting. I promise it will be brief due to the circumstances.

Blessings to every member of our community. I am praying for you all every day, and I look forward to the day when we can be together again. Please practice safe distancing, wear your mask and wash your hands. We will all get through this with God's help and each other's.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don +", is located at the bottom left of the page.

Information to Join Annual Meeting

By Computer or Internet Ready Smart Phone

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2743125376>

Meeting ID: 274 312 5376

When you arrive, please send an email (or use the chat feature) to notify Maggie that you (and all the members in your household) are present for the Annual Meeting.

By Telephone

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 274 312 5376

The Commons

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters,

At the 79th (National) Episcopal Convention (2018), Resolution D053, the Stewardship of Creation with Church-Owned Lands was approved. It states that all dioceses are to use their church land for regenerative agriculture and biodiversity conservation projects and collaborate with other, similar, agencies to follow God's Care for Creation. A direct result of that resolution is a new ministry/outreach program initiated by the Diocese of Western Michigan and Bishop Hoagland's office called the Church Lands pilot cohort.

Since the beginning of 2020, Rich Dykstra and Debbie Murphy have been participating in this pilot project. Meeting virtually during the past year this program brought together church leaders providing them with a platform and a community to help move the church's diverse land holdings towards wiser use. The goal of this project is to help churches all across America to relate to their land holdings in a way that is more faithful to the Gospel, integrating discipleship, ecology, justice and health.

Because we have 10 acres of land, Holy Trinity has a huge role in this endeavor. We are inviting you to learn about our land and explore its future uses and promote our Care for God's Creation.

OUR HISTORY

We have made a video that explains the history of our land. Stretching from the time that native Americans lived here in the Grand River valley, the video includes an actual copy of the deed we received when Holy Trinity acquired this property in 1959. Here's the link:

<http://www.holytrinitywyo.org/index.php/about-holy-trinity/history/>

THE COMMONS

Prior to the COVID19 shutdown this past March, we met with the Vestry to explain the purposes & goals of the Church Lands project. The Vestry agreed to attach a significant name to our property: from now on, our land is known as THE COMMONS. So named because we are a diverse group of Christians who come from many different places, with different backgrounds & different life experiences - but this is our common ground where we all worship together.

FIRST GOAL

Our first goal is to invite all church members to discern and discuss the future uses of our land. We want all members to interact with the land and each other, as well as explore how our interaction proclaims our faith in God.

We are inviting you to attend and participate in the future of Holy Trinity. We will be holding a DISCUSSION FORUM in the near future via ZOOM to discuss the history and the future of THE COMMONS. No matter where you are located throughout the nation this winter – Florida snowbirds included – you can have a voice in planning our future together.

This process will be intentional and with a purpose. We'll discuss:

- The history of our 10 acres and the features of the land: trees, soil, water, boundaries, zoning, etc
- Brainstorming future possibilities: how can we minister to the community?
- How do we utilize THE COMMONS to restore the connection between God, our people, our places?
- What funding sources are available for the variety of possible projects: grants, donations, etc.

We are asking you to share your ideas, thoughts, past experiences. Don't be shy. There are no bad ideas.

When the weather is favorable, we invite you to walk THE COMMONS to get a better sense of its size and its wonder! THE COMMONS is one-quarter mile long from end to end. There are a lot of possibilities here!

“To take the first step in faith, you don't have to see the whole staircase” Martin Luther King Jr.

Rich Dykstra and Debbie Murphy