

Minutes of Trinity Special Meeting for Youth Worker
Sunday 4th May 2017 at 11.00 am

Present: 44 members, x non-members, 3 apologies

Chair: Andrew Rixon

Minute secretary: Chris Edgar

Jon Salmon gave a short overview of where the church had got to with regards the raising of the necessary fund pledges for the employment of a youth worker. Jon also confirmed that the church council and trustees had voted on the matter and had approved that Trinity go ahead with the advertising of the youth worker post subject to a vote of approval at church meeting.

David Ramsden voiced his concerns around the cost over and above that of the running of the church and stated that the treasurer had advised that there were not enough funds for the normal running of the church. He was personally against the employment of a youth worker.

Jon Salmon advised that by using nationally set salary scales for the youth worker, an approximate cost of £25,000.00 per annum was expected based on a similar role in Tilehurst.

Andrew Rixon advised that the church had requested pledges over and above normal giving for the funding of the youth worker. This new role will be funded out of the current pledges and will not impact on the current budget of the church. The pledges received had put Trinity in a healthy position to proceed. He stated that the current church finances will go through a formal process of audit and a report will be tabled.

Nigel Holloway asked if there was a motion to proceed with the youth worker vote.

Andrew Rixon pointed out that the motion and statement of intent had been projected on the screen.

Sandy Catchick confirmed that she had not been involved with the pledge and funding process.

Jon Salmon advised that the funding for the youth worker will be from a separate account solely for the youth worker.

Nigel Holloway stated that Trinity should stay within their remit, minus the 10% gifting and would be at risk if funding fell short.

Andrew Rixon advised that as chair of trustees he was aware of the budget issues being tabled. He stated that as this funding was extra and specific to the youth worker, we should have faith in doing this as it had inspired people to commit finances over and above their normal giving. It is also in line with the church vision.

Sarah Brayshaw advised that she had a question for the church. She stated that her daughter wanted to come to church but can we constantly rely on volunteers in the church? If the church cannot meet the basic needs of her child, how could she stay at Trinity? The church needs to think of the bigger picture.

Karen Green stated that it is important that the youth get a grounding in their faith and hoped that the church would support the youth worker. We must have the support network in place to build up the youth in Lower Earley.

Helen Rixon advised that this is an investment in the church.

Lisa Waite advised that she was passionate about the youth and youth work in the church. The youth are the life of the church and we needed a permanent youth worker.

David Brayshaw stated that a lot of effort had already been put into getting the youth worker and that the church should support those who want to take things further. We need to trust in getting the funding.

Andrew Rixon advised that the motion to proceed with the youth worker will be updated to include the support system within Trinity.

Catherine Jackson advised that there seemed to be concerns that the people that had reservations over the church finances did not want to take this forward. This is not the case but it is an ongoing commitment and we should not see these church members as blockers of the process.

The motion wording was modified (following Karen Green's comment – see above) and agreed as the following:

- We (Trinity Church) agree to move forward with the recruitment process for a Youth Worker (advertising, interviewing, offering of a position), as recommended by Church Council and Church Trustees. The Church commits to providing a nurturing, supportive and caring environment for the Youth Worker, along with appropriate and necessary resources and funding. This is with the intention and vision to “build up youth” in Lower Earley

Andrew Rixon then put the motion to the vote:

Vote: For 39 Against 2 Abstention 3

Andrew Rixon stated that the motion is carried forward and thanked all those present.

Meeting closed at 11:25am