

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew – New London, NH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

3 December 2020

Present (via ZOOM): Jay MacLeod, Aaron Jenkyn, Bruce Avery, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Barbara Smith

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer for Advent.

**October minutes** were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Worship:** Jay noted that we received a grant from the diocesan Mission Resources Committee in support of our pre-recorded and innovative InSpirit services; those funds will provide some assistance to Jack in putting those services together. Going forward we will continue with two pre-recorded services with full choir and the InSpirit service featuring Jay, Jack and Aaron each month. Jay seeks feedback for InSpirit, with the suggestion made that it has lacked an organizing structure.

With the virtual InSpirit service planned for Christmas Eve (far different from the usual high-attendance three services in church) Aaron shared possible plans for an outdoor story-walk that would allow kids to experience the mystery of Christmas throughout Christmas Eve day and evening.

**Finance:** Mike noted in his **monthly report** that, as before, revenues are somewhat behind but pledges continue well. Any loss of income is offset by closely contained expenses with the month's tally showing a surplus.

We also discussed the **2021 draft budget** that Mike had provided earlier by email. Mike noted revenue has been set about \$12,000 lower than in 2020 reflecting anticipated lower receipts from (for example) grants and the Thrift Shop. Under expenses, Jay had voluntarily reduced his own salary by \$20,000 in part to be more commensurate with the salaries of what he termed the exceptional staff team here at St. Andrew's, as well as to reflect similarity to other diocesan clergy salaries. This reduction was met with opposition by several vestry members and argument was made that there were other places within the budget that the \$20,000 could be recovered, as well as optimism about Stewardship receipts.

In other discussion, Greg asked about the line item for Buildings and Grounds Projects on behalf of the Art Committee that is considering replacing flooring and chairs in the parish hall. We also discussed the core outreach (line 7700) as distinct from Last Sunday and Greg asked about our contribution to KREM and that we consider responding to hurricane damage in Honduras from that line.

Jay, Mike and the rest of the Vestry Executive Committee will continue discussion of the draft budget at a later time and will return to the Vestry for a vote to approve a final budget later this month.

Mike also noted that the Finance Committee met to discuss **planned giving**. He will put together an outline of the strategy, emphasizing that it is not an event but an ongoing core communication with the congregation and financing. Jay said it is an essential undertaking for a congregation of our size and hopes it will be in place by summer.

**Stewardship:** Bruce sent a PowerPoint prior to the meeting showing progress toward the 2021 goal of \$400,000, with 53% of those responding increasing their pledges, 43% staying the same and only a fraction reducing their pledges. With all but \$55,000 to go, Bruce noted that those who have not yet responded to the appeal can perhaps contribute as much as \$93,000 based on their pledges in 2020. In addition there may be some new pledges coming in. Those who have not yet responded will be contacted.

**Annual Meeting and Slate:** Marni said that the three vestry members whose terms expire in January – Lin, Morris, Alice – have all agreed to serve a second term. A new Warden will need to be nominated to replace Bruce whose term ends in January. Karen Floyd Shepherd has agreed to continue as delegate to Western Convocation with no response from Bobbi Hambley who has served as alternate. Bruce and Lin were asked to serve as a nominating committee where we are entitled to four delegates and alternates. The Vestry Executive Committee will plan the required January Annual Meeting, with decisions to be made in light of the need to hold the meeting virtually.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Chris reported that the shed roof has been replaced and that parish hall windows will be treated in mid-December with the same film as recently installed in the sanctuary. Gutters and drainage are also on the B&G agenda to be considered. Chris said the Green Committee has been discussing programmable thermostats that may cost about \$2500. Jay complimented the committee for its rigorous way of assessing temperatures throughout the building in advance of installing new thermostats.

**Lay License Renewals:** Alice presented a list of nine candidates for renewal of Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lay Eucharistic Visitor licenses from Anne Hall: Marni Eaton, Janet Miller Haines, Anne Hall, JoAnn Hicks, Nola Jordan, Alice Perry, Theresa Quinn, Karen Floyd Shepherd and Greg Vogt. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve renewal**.

**Housing Allowance – Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved stating that \$35,000 of Jay's 2020 salary is designated as Housing Allowance.**

**Other Business:** Lisa made us aware of a youth project to acknowledge the more than 530 New Hampshire residents who have died from COVID-19 this year. With help already provided by members of the Craft Group and more anticipated from other parishioners, cloth squares are cut out, decorated and strung together as prayer flags to memorialize and provide public awareness. She said the youth are hopeful that they might find a wider audience than the church family, perhaps from the town or even the diocese. Thanks were offered to the youth group for their interest and commitment.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

***Note: The next vestry meeting (on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 21 January --***

<https://zoom.us/j/92836394912?pwd=OXMyenlKOWR6YmtlZ2VqdmlqSWY5QT09>

Meeting ID: [928 3639 4912](#)

Passcode: 640636