

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

26 March 2020

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

Absent: Chris Heyl, Greg Vogt.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer for the Feast of the Annunciation, noting Mary to be a wonderful model for us during this health crisis.

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

Worship: Aaron noted that 22,000 people watched the 15 March service at the National Cathedral with Bishop Curry preaching, and that more than 400 people tuned in to Bishop Rob's service from Diocesan House on 22 March. Hearing of an interest in a truly local service, Jay, Susa Bowser and new Music Director Jack Barben have been working to create a pre-recorded service for a combined Epiphany/St. Andrew's congregation which will be aired on 29 March at 10 AM via several on-line channels.

Jay spoke about attendance at midday prayer on ZOOM and was thrilled by the response to the recorded Stations of the Cross, first aired on Facebook on 20 March and watched by 150. Sunday coffee hours are also offered via ZOOM.

Looking beyond the service we have prepared for 29 March, Bishop Rob will offer services during Holy Week with St. Andrew's focusing on Good Friday. Jay also noted other parishes throughout New Hampshire are providing access to online worship in this period of no in-person worship. He asked the vestry to explain and encourage others to partake of available resources.

Morris asked if there might be a way to provide daily sermons that would enhance a feeling of community.

Finance: Mike reviewed ledger to budget figures for the year to date.

Jay noted we are working on how best to implement online giving and that Mary Eysenbach will integrate the process into our website. ACH payments are preferred over credit card due to fees associated with the latter.

Parishioners can send weekly offerings to St. Andrew's post office box and Last Sunday offering has been suspended for the time being. Agencies identified for March and April will be postponed.

Jay also spoke about the once-active Finance Committee. It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to reconstitute the Finance Committee to serve as a council of advice to the treasurer and vestry.** In addition to former members George Jamieson, John Tilley, Bill Sloan

and Charlie Forbes, new members Alison Seward and Nonie Reynders will serve with Mike Quinn and perhaps another vestry member will join at a later date.

Pastoral Care: Aaron has been doing everything in this regard in Newport. Jay sent postcards to approximately 30 parishioners on the St. Andrew's pastoral care list and those people are also being contacted regularly by the pastoral care committee (Barbara Smith, Gail Goddard and Ginny Register) to ensure they are getting the care they need and to offer prayers.

Aaron spoke about using Facetime, ZOOM and/or Facebook for providing check-in opportunities in Newport, with plans to offer Messy Church "to go" packets along with volunteers to send postcards to individuals with prayer support and resources.

Because of physical distancing, Jay has asked vestry members to divide up the member telephone list for regular contact with parishioners. After those receiving contact from the pastoral care committee have been removed from the list of all members, Alice will identify each vestry members' portion of the list to contact. Alice will send a spreadsheet out Monday along with possible script, guidelines and prayers to use.

Partnership with Epiphany: Aaron spoke of extensive efforts of community outreach in Newport in light of school closings and layoffs. In addition to a volunteer working with the food pantry there, Epiphany is working closely with Got Lunch Newport and the Claremont soup kitchen.

Jay noted that God has a way of bringing goodness out of bad situations: With stay-in-place orders, our relationship with Epiphany is becoming closer. For example, most e-mail contact from Jay will be addressed to both communities, resulting in a modified tone and balance, and the recorded 29 March service includes readers from both congregations.

The diocesan Our Kids Commission is providing each congregation with \$500. Jay will place this into his discretionary funds in order to allocate as needed.

Jay closed the meeting with a prayer and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting on ZOOM will be at 5 PM on 16 April.