

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 February 2021

Present (via ZOOM): Jay MacLeod, Aaron Jenkyn, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Joe Daly

Jay opened the meeting with the collect for the Thursday after Ash Wednesday.

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

Christian Formation: Aaron reported that the Stations of the Cross art walk is up and looks stunning with the prayer flags. Group walks (properly masked and distanced) are planned for each Friday at 2:30 PM throughout Lent with a virtual Good Friday service planned that will allow those unable to visit to see the display. Fifteen artists supplied illustrations for each station, each illustration a form of prayer. Jay noted the wonderful response and the wonderful experience for each artist and thanked the whole crew involved in preparing and erecting the stations.

Aaron also noted the story walk at Epiphany featuring the book *Make Room*, a child's guide for Lent and Easter. The story walk emphasizes the idea to pray in color and a workshop with Roger Hutchinson, *Faces of God*, is planned virtually for 7 March.

Jay spoke of the planned dialog circles for Sacred Ground, with Lucretia Jevne, Susan Schweizer and Jay as group leaders on Zoom. He encouraged the vestry to participate and to encourage others as well, noting the topics of race, racism, white supremacy and our faith are so current in our country. The program offers an historical perspective. Marni spoke of the program on PBS this week featuring the Black church and other good resources are available during this Black History Month.

Finance: Mike submitted statements by email prior to the meeting, noting that in this first month of the new budget year it is hard to draw conclusions from the figures but that we remain strong.

Worship: Jay referred to questions he had sent by email, focusing our attention on the second one, noting that vestry input as well as staff is needed for the parochial report.

1. What were the primary opportunities, innovations and challenges in conducting worship during the pandemic? What did you learn?
2. What are the primary opportunities and challenges your church is facing as it plans for the future?
3. What three things have changed the most in how the church conducts its ministry?

Marni spoke of her concern that people may have become accustomed to staying home and Barbara indicated eagerness to get out of the house and back to church. Jay asked us to share those elements of pre-pandemic church that were most compelling.

Sharing worship with others	Being led in prayer	Talking together
Sharing the peace	Singing with congregation	Laughter
Shared silence	Serving in various roles	Encountering God
Sensory things like kneeling, walking to altar		Live communion

From that, Jay spoke of the challenge, when we get back to in-person worship, of being a little different from “before” using what we’ve learned in the last two years from experiences like Messy Church and Common Church and virtual worship during the pandemic. We spoke of perhaps having a smaller congregation but with streaming as an attractive option along with other worship options such as Washington National Cathedral. We also spoke of “word artists” in place of singing when protocols are still in place as well as outdoor worship away from Gould Road, but aware of accessibility issues.

COVID-19 Protocols: Marni had spoken with Joe about the already established protocols and said they would remain as they have been. She has prepared colorful signs to reinforce the importance of hand sanitizer when entering the building along with masking and keeping six feet apart. There is some concern about contact tracing as more people get vaccinated and weather improves, prompting more people to visit the church office. We will stress clear communication of the protocols via parish email, newsletter and website as well as staff modeling appropriate behavior.

Pastoral Care/Calls: Alice referred to the spreadsheet that had accompanied the emailed agenda, noting that everyone’s list (except for Nonie, replacing Bruce) was largely the same as the one we used in the spring to call upon parishioners. A few names have been removed and a few added. Aaron has revised and updated the guidelines and prayers to use when calling upon parishioners and the new guidelines will be distributed with the minutes (discard those attached to the agenda).

Art Committee: Greg reported that the committee has received paintings by Alison Vernon and a counted cross-stitch tree of life by Becky Rylander. He also noted that a rotating art exhibit, perhaps with “hope” as its theme, will be put into place once the building is fully open.

Any Other Business: Alice reported on behalf of Anne Hall, Safe Church Minister, that the parochial report must include a report on the status of vestry members not in compliance with Safe Church guidelines. For Anne, Alice noted how important it is that the Vestry be aware of all the Safe Church practices and policies in case an incident is brought to their attention or is observed by them. Anne will be in touch with Nonie who as a new member is not yet aware of the need for a background check and Safe Church training. According to Anne’s records, Chris and Michael have not attended the live training and also need to finish modules. Joe needs to finish two modules. The next live training is 18 March, the details of which can be found

at <https://www.nhepiscopal.org/safe-church>. Please contact Anne with any questions. Thanks to the rest of the Vestry for keeping their training current.

Aaron closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting (on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 18 March --
<https://zoom.us/j/92836394912?pwd=OXMyenKOWR6YmtlZ2VqdmlqSWY5QT09>

Meeting ID: [928 3639 4912](#)

Passcode: 640636