

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

23 September 2021

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Lin Potter, Nonie Reynders.

Jay opened the meeting with a collect for the Feast of St. Matthew.

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

Finance: Mike reported that we continue to outperform budget and that the balance sheet is in good shape. Detailed reports were to be distributed after the meeting by email.

Prior to the meeting Mike had distributed a draft of the new endowment policy that Jay also shared with the diocese. Mike noted that the language of the policy is advisory rather than specific, calling it a living document that can change as needed. The goal is to keep a balanced portfolio with all funds currently with the Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF). Language has been added to reflect this use as well as a review of this practice within a year by the endowment committee. Alice supplied “cosmetic” edits to Mike by email and also spoke of those at the meeting; as well, Jay offered new language as suggested by the diocese to clarify examples in Appendix A. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the draft policy including amendments just referenced.** *The policy will be reviewed and voted on a second time at a later meeting of the vestry.*

Jay expressed his gratitude to Mike and the finance committee for their work on this and congratulated the vestry for accomplishing this important goal for the sound future of the church. We will need to constitute two committees, finance and endowment, with membership distinct from the vestry.

Christian education and spiritual formation – Jay spoke of his proposed regular weekly bible study to be led by Christian colleagues and Jewish rabbis, and laity, along the I-89 corridor from Concord to Hanover, to be offered via Zoom beginning in January.

For the intergenerational pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Jay recently successfully reached out both via diocesan email and in personal visits to local families to recruit additional participants, with numbers at this date approximating 17 out of a goal of 20. Upcoming activities designed for the participants including a Zoom call, things to read and films to watch, will be open to anyone interested.

Stewardship: Russ reported response so far to the recent stewardship letter to be 56 pledges totaling \$174,444. He anticipates a possible 145 pledge units in all. Jay will begin writing thank you letters as responses come in.

Worship: Jay noted that new Music Director Will Ogmundson has played at three funerals and Jay praised his competence and flexibility. Sunday worship with Will at the piano and organ begins 3 October with choir plans in progress. Until the 10 AM service moves indoors, Will must play at both the 8 AM (recorded) and the 10 AM services. He will be less busy once the 10 AM service is the one recorded for online viewing.

Any other business: Jay described a “Faith and Blue” event slated for 10 October. At the two worship services we will offer prayers of gratitude and petition for first responders. Following the second service there will be a barbecue to encourage conversation and relationships with local police.

Joe suggested we consider purchasing two tents for use April through October as the pandemic may yet be with us for some time.

Also on the subject of the pandemic, Marni mentioned an article about “they’re not coming back,” and we were pleased to note that St. Andrew’s seems to be an exception to that trend.

Jay closed the meeting with our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 21 October -- In-person in the parish hall!