

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

20 August 2020

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

Absent: Aaron Jenkyn, Mike Quinn, Barbara Smith.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Finance: Mike emailed financial reports in advance of the meeting, providing both comments as text and ledger to budget and balance sheets in pdf format.

Because the Outreach Commission will not be targeting KREM as a recipient this year, Jay asked that we provide \$4000 from the core outreach budget for that organization. It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to approve those funds.**

It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to approve Sue Eslick to membership on the KREM board to replace outgoing Jennifer Giles.** It was also moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to approve Christine Kellett to the Outreach Commission** to fill a vacancy.

Worship: We discussed the difficulty hearing broadcasts of recorded live services. Jay will problem-solve with Suza Lambert Bowser before the next outdoor service on 30 August. Through 27 September we will continue alternating pre-recorded and live-recorded services. Jay noted the 23 August pre-recorded service will be a little different due to youth group involvement in terms of photos and animation, and Suza will be putting the service together in Jack Barben's absence.

Looking ahead to October, Jay called on Joe to describe indoor seating possibilities. Keeping the required six feet apart, Joe suggested about 34 people could be seated in the sanctuary. Perhaps additional people could be seated in the parish hall but Jay noted that presents problems with consecrating bread that people are bringing for themselves, where they would not be physically present to the presider. Aaron will investigate how other churches are addressing indoor services.

Jay also spoke of four seasonal services that will be produced for online viewing in collaboration with West coast churches, St. Luke's in Renton, Washington, where Jack previously served, and St. Andrew's in San Diego. The services will be offered at the two equinoxes and solstices, with the first slated for Tuesday, 22 September as "Re:Turn." These services will be prepared with people who are "spiritual" but not "religious" in mind – reaching out to people beyond our congregation -- and will include poetry, photography, readings and music. Besides collaborating with the West coast churches and drawing on Jack's expertise, Jay will enlist the help of Cindy Johnson who has a degree in creative liturgy and Peter Bloch who takes area photos with a drone. Jay said he expects the 2020 budget to meet the expenses for the

different people involved but that funds are necessary for ongoing programming. Jay has provided these links for more information about these new services:
<https://stlukesrenton.org/seasonal-liturgies/> (general information on the seasonal liturgies)

[\(1\) Re-Turn: A liturgy for autumn's equinox - YouTube](#) (our own link to the September service)

Jay is also seeking information about diocesan practices for home communion and reserved sacrament during this time of pandemic.

Building Use: Marni presented by e-mail prior to the meeting a proposal for re-opening the thrift shop. Both Jay and other vestry members have concerns about space and social distancing. Jackie Thompson and JoAnn Lyon will be invited to the September meeting when the vestry expects to make a decision. Meanwhile it is hoped the thrift shop will continue to offer outdoor sales through September.

Stewardship: Bruce spoke about the need to start our 2021 stewardship campaign and offered to perform the number crunching and forecasts that he has done in the past. Jay praised our past stewardship chairs, Morris and Jeanne Edwards and before them, Rink and Nonie Reynders, but is considering an approach without such an elaborate campaign modeled on the pattern in England where the Rector could send out a letter and expect parishioners to respond appropriately with pledges. Discussion of this streamlined approach was positive.

Buildings and Grounds: Chris reported that Huckleberry Oil & Propane of Boscawen will begin work on 25 August for the boiler replacement project. They expect it to take 7 to 10 days.

He also reported on several completed tasks including a new sign post at the thrift shop entrance and a newly-cemented-in-place sign at Gould Road. The swing set has been refabricated and secured, and work has been done at Old Saint Andrew's where trees fell during the recent hurricane. More exterior painting is on the agenda when cooler weather arrives.

Jay asked about the bell relay that needs to be fixed. The company responsible offered to provide a costly automated system but Jay's goal is to have the manually-operated bell that signals worship to simply function properly.

Other Business: Greg, with Alice and Marni, spoke of the work of the new Art Committee. With two meetings on Zoom behind us, we offered thanks for Katrina Wagner's calm, quiet leadership. As members learn from one another, they also recognize the need for input from the entire parish as changes are contemplated. At the start, the committee will consider art work for bathroom walls.

Jay noted that fatigue during Zoom meetings can be reduced by eliminating one's own photo from the screen – an option by clicking on the three dots in the upper right of your photo.

Jay also announced there will be a pre-recorded memorial service for Rob Freitas to air on 30 August at 4 PM. That will be followed by a Zoom reception hosted by Karen Zurheide.

Jay closed the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting (probably on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 17 September. --
<https://zoom.us/j/92836394912?pwd=OXMyenKOWR6YmtlZ2VqdmlqSWY5QT09>