

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 January 2024

Present: Jay MacLeod, Billy Kelly, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Finance:** With the monthly report available only earlier today, Mike will send spreadsheets and a written summary for December soon. He noted that we exceeded our projected 2023 pledge income, with more details to come.

Mike walked us through the draft 2022 audited financial report, sent earlier by email, page by page. We must accept that report before updates can be made to the 2023 accounting records. After noting the need to correct the spelling of “pilgrimage” on page 4 and to change the label from “Rector’s” to “Vestry’s Discretionary Fund” under Note 8 on page 17, it was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the draft 2022 report as a final report.**

**Montessori Preschool:** Nancy noted that she with Jay, and other task force members Billy, Fifi and Harvey Best met with Liz Niehaus recently, and out of that discussion asked Liz for a business plan. This was provided to vestry by email in advance of the meeting. Noting that financial information was unavailable in the business plan at this time, the vestry discussed a variety of questions – beyond financial ones -- that will need to be answered while at the same time seeing the proposed preschool as one that overlaps with our mission as an Episcopal church.

It was decided to have Liz address the congregation briefly during announcement time at both Sunday services on 4 February (when the youth choir will also be present). This is a time for Liz to introduce herself and her dream, and the uniqueness of Montessori schools, to the congregation. She will also be available at both coffee hours but this will not be the time for her to answer the “hard” questions.

Meanwhile, Nancy will write to Liz outlining those questions, seeking answers to them a week before the 15 February vestry meeting, which Liz is also invited to attend (on Zoom). The vestry is encouraged to submit any questions beyond those asked today to Nancy, and we thanked Nancy for chairing the task force.

**Worship and Formation:** Jay spoke about the new service music Will has found for the Eucharist at the 10 AM service. The first appearance of the new youth choir at our first-Sunday-of-the-month All Age Eucharist is set for 4 February. While Jay may occasionally jettison the readings set for that first Sunday to better fit youth, the Candlemas readings will be heard on 4 February.

Jay will resume offering Monday meditation beginning on 19 February as a Lenten offering. Holy Week services will be as usual. A dawn service on Easter will be scheduled for 30-45 minutes before sunrise on 31 March, and 8 and 10 AM services will also be held. It seems likely that The Chosen will not be available for streaming until after Easter so rather than a Lenten discussion with Kathleen Rusnak, it will likely take place in Eastertide.

**Announcements coordinator:** Lin reminded us that as she steps down from the vestry a new person to solicit volunteers to do announcements each Sunday will be needed. Lin will send out an email for 11, 18 and 25 February, while Jay will take responsibility for announcements on 4 February when Liz Niehaus is here.

**Any Other Business:** Alice reminded all of the two attachments not part of today's agenda, but accompanying it: dates for vestry exec and vestry meetings through January 2025; and report about OSA maintenance issues to be considered at a future meeting. These and other information will be shared with incoming vestry after their election on 21 January.

Karen spoke of the need to speak to newcomers at coffee hour, and Jay asked that when we meet someone new to let him know who they are and where they live, by email or text.

Jay noted that no one has yet responded to his request for volunteers to house interns from Voorhees next summer, emailed last week. He spoke of the need to travel to Voorhees to conduct interviews of interested candidates and is seeking someone to accompany him.

Jay closed the meeting and together we offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting will be 15 February 2024.**