

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

20 May 2021

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

Absent: Chris Heyl

Jay opened the meeting with the collect for the seventh Sunday after Easter.

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

Finance: Mike submitted statements and written comments by email prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the vestry.

Staffing: Informed by Jay last month that Aaron Jenkyn is to focus on ministry at Epiphany and the wider Newport community, he noted that Bishop Rob is taking time to define the new arrangements and how Epiphany will move forward under Aaron's leadership and with diocesan support.

Jay intends to look at his letter of agreement with Jack Barben and proposes to increase his hours at St. Andrew's in support of Jack's engaging young people in a weekly instrumental program and in support of digital worship services. With Mike, Jay will look to see where savings exist in the current budget to cover the increased hours, as we are no longer paying Aaron's salary. Future support of Jack's role will be part of routine budget and stewardship campaigns.

Worship: Referring back to the staffing discussion, Jay reiterated plans for a **children's music ministry**. Jack, with support from Nicole Densmore, will lead a weekly instrumental program for young people in grades 3 to 5 and ultimately to older students.

Interest in continuing **digital worship** services even after we return fully to in-person worship has been expressed by many. Recognizing that we also have a wider congregation via those services, and with possible collaboration with the Diocese, Jay envisions four to six digital worship services annually plus the four seasonal (solstices and equinoxes) services.

Pattern of worship beginning 23 May is to offer weekly in-person indoor 8 AM services with pre-registration, masked and four-foot physical distancing. These will be live-streamed with both live and virtual music (no congregational singing). Weekly 10 AM services outdoors with worshippers masked and spaced six feet apart will include congregational singing. There will be opportunity for fellowship outdoors after services but no coffee hours (no food and drink). In addition, there will be an outdoor service at 5 PM on Saturday weekly at Epiphany.

Beginning 24 May, noonday prayer will be led by Jay in the church Monday through Friday with Thursday as the healing service; midday prayer on Zoom will continue daily, except Thursday, under the leadership of Lucretia Jevne and Anne Hall.

Stewardship: Mike described the work being done by the Finance Committee to establish a planned giving program. With information from the Episcopal Foundation, the group now has language to develop policies relating to quasi-endowments, size of donations, limits on use, non-cash bequests and so on. The new program slated for a fall kick-off is to be an embedded part of St. Andrew's financial ministry, not a separate campaign.

Jay thanked the committee for their work, noting the importance of planned giving for the future of St. Andrew's.

Any Other Business:

Greg read aloud from a letter he had emailed to Jay prior to the meeting, announcing his resignation from the vestry due to his planned move to Keene in July. We all thanked Greg for his service to St. Andrew's in a wide variety of ways and Jay plans to offer a prayer at a Sunday service closer to Greg's departure.

Alice reported that she had received a call from Shelly asking for clarification about use of the building by outside groups (specifically PEO and AIL). While Jay is not averse to groups who will abide by CDC and our own guidelines, he will also ask Shelly to learn what other area churches are doing as he would not be comfortable if St. Andrew's were the only church offering space.

Asked if we would be comfortable with in-person vestry meetings, and recognizing the convenience of Zoom, we decided to meet in-person on alternate months beginning in June.

Jay closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 17 June -- In-person in the parish hall!