

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

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

19 December 2017

Present: Bruce Avery, Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Lisa Kelly, Jay MacLeod, Peter Ruth, Becky Rylander, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Ellen Yenawine.

Absent: Mark Kellett, Judy Wallace.

Jay opened the meeting by reading the collect from Advent 3.

The vestry wishes to thank Rosie Best for sending in her wonderful cookies for us to enjoy while discussing the works of the church!

Marni presented the **minutes** from the November 2017 meeting. There were no objections to approving them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Staffing:** Jay does not wish to hire anyone right away. He wants to keep the sacramental role in Newport and is looking for help from a lay leader familiar with the area. He is crafting the job description. Bishop Rob will continue to keep a close eye on Newport. Epiphany will contribute 10% of Jay's salary. Jay will address some other thoughts in the Network.

**Outreach:** Elizabeth Lowell will try to visit the clinic in Haiti in April. Becky will continue to oversee Outreach in 2018.

**Stewardship:** Bruce announced that we currently have \$369,128 in pledges (91.1% of our goal). Phone calls will be wrapped up by Dec. 20.

**Budget:** Peter introduced the worksheet that was sent to everyone prior to the meeting. Becky did all the hard work initially, and then Jay and Peter worked on it. Becky explained that the income is less for 2018 because there are no grants expected. She also reported that 2% had been added to all salaries. Becky also reported that she hopes we will be able to start a capital fund for future building needs.

Joe mentioned that he thought El Hogar was going to replace Haiti. Becky replied that our mission outreach plan was to increase our budget and Outreach includes support for a mission trip to El Hogar. We are able to fund this increase because we are not funding a curate's salary in 2018.

The vestry thanked Becky, Jay and Peter for their hard work. Greg made the motion to approve the budget. Ellen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Annual Report:** Marni has spoken with Shelly. Shelly would like to have all the reports the week before the annual meeting so that it can go on the website.

Jay requested that the reports be brief (1-2 paragraphs), and contain essential information that will bring people up to date. Marni will get the email addresses and send out the request.

**Annual Meeting:** Bruce suggested that the annual Meeting take place at night with a potluck dinner. The date was set for Friday, January 19 at 5:30pm. Bruce will check with Morris and Jean.

Jay asked for vestry support to apply for a Vital Worship Grant from Calvin College to support the Upbeat Choirs at St. Andrew's, Epiphany and the mountain. It was a unanimous vote.

**Elections:** Becky presented the proposed slate:

Marni Eaton – warden

Alice Perry – clerk

Lin Potter and Morris Edwards – vestry

Karen Shepherd and Bobbie Hambley – delegates to Western Convocation

Peter made the motion to accept the slate as presented. It was seconded by Joe and passed unanimously.

**Housing Allowance:** Marni reported that last year's housing allowance motion was "\$35,000 for Jay and \$30,000 for Kelly for the year 2016 and all future years unless otherwise provided." After a brief discussion, Greg made the motion to reaffirm the housing allowance for 2017. Ellen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Church security:** Bruce sent out various church security forms for the vestry to look at before the meeting. He would like to start by speaking to the police and other churches about security. The likelihood of an event is slim but not none, and it pays to think through the process and have something in place should we ever need it. Bruce hopes to find parishioners to help him and will update the vestry as needed.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Harvey reported that he had looked into the cost of a digital blood pressure monitor and a stethoscope, as recommended in November. He would be able to get good ones for about \$200. Greg moved to spend the money. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Other business:** Becky asked for clarification on the contribution basket in the Narthex and the Seeking Shalom group that would be meeting in the church. Jay was able to address both questions. The donation basket is for items that Amber Gove (who went to Taize) will take to Guatemala on a mission trip planned by another church, and the Seeking Shalom group is a group of concerned citizens in the area who are seeking new ways to make real changes in people's lives. There is an online course available from Focused Community Strategies in Atlanta at [fcsministries.org](http://fcsministries.org).

**Photo Directory:** Bruce reported that the directory is in the final phase.

Jay mentioned how helpful it was to have all the extra information needed for this meeting ahead of time. It certainly made the discussions easier.

Jay closed the meeting by reading the collect for Advent 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Eaton, Clerk