

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

17 May 2018

Present: Jay MacLeod, Bruce Avery, Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Mark Kellett, Lin Potter, Lisa Kelly, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Peter Ruth, Morris Edwards.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Vestry guidelines: Marni distributed a “New Vestry Welcome” sheet outlining ground rules for meetings and responsibilities. She also recommended consulting the *Vestry Resource Guide* published by the Episcopal Church Foundation.

Worship/Music: Jay sought feedback regarding worship and music. In answer to a question about supply preachers, Jay said he was trying to incorporate our parochial clergy about once a month to preach and/or preside. We also discussed music during communion at the 10 AM service, and the suggestion that it be more reflective. We also acknowledged the tension at the 8 AM service between those who like music and those who prefer no music.

Jay described the recent **Vital Worship grant** from Calvin College as one he had sought to replace the Diocesan grant that supported Epiphany and Susan Cancio-Bello. The Vital Worship grant will support three congregations: St. Andrew’s, Epiphany and Mt. Sunapee. The bulk of the grant will be to engage unchurched youngsters via music and will also support music leaders’ attendance at conferences (with an emphasis on psalms). Activities to support our proposal include rejuvenating the worship committee and holding instructed Eucharist; four “big sings” and two intergenerational retreats to reflect on liturgy. As well, project director Nicole Densmore (and one other) is required to attend Calvin College at the start and conclusion of the grant (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). In preparing the grant, we have thought through what we are doing and by the end, Jay said, we will find our worship richer and will be able to answer any questions as to *why* are we doing “this.”

Financial report: Anticipating his absence, Peter distributed the liquidity report by email prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Bruce said a check for \$7976.58 has been received for the **Thanksgiving Basket Project**. Motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to ***accept funds from the Thanksgiving Basket Project (aka Kearsarge Food Pantry) and to deposit them to our account for continuation of the Thanksgiving outreach activity.***

Bruce also noted that the **Vanguard account** set-up for the anonymous \$60,000 outreach gift has been completed. Jay explained that the main use of funds is to match what we raise each “Last Sunday” but there is also provision for the vestry executive committee to approve use of

the matching grant (e.g. for critical “quick” expenditure). Last week the vestry executive committee agreed to support Aaron Jenkins’ role as Missioner of Epiphany with \$4,800 (matched by the same amount from Epiphany). This is a huge help to them as they face considerable buildings and grounds issues.

We learned that James and Ellen Wassell have resigned due to time constraints from the **Outreach Commission** that oversees “Last Sunday” efforts. We also learned that Greg (Outreach Commission member) has donated a baby grand piano to Epiphany as he prepares to move from his home in Washington to a smaller home in New London.

Marni informed the vestry that money collected from the sale of **OSA cards** will go to buildings and grounds. Barbara will turn over funds collected so far.

MAP update and overview: A task force consisting of Bruce, Joe, Marni and Barbara will review the document, revise goals as needed and identify action items to be brought to the vestry at a later date.

Sunday monitoring: Jay described a recent meeting of the pastoral care coordinating group that included “crafty critters.” Instead of considering parishioners by geography, the larger group looked at attendance by Sunday service. The outcome was overlap of pastoral support concerns with identifying newcomers to be welcomed and incorporated. Jay suggested we identify people who can monitor the pews (front, back, left, right) and report by e-mail for prompt attention. Bruce suggested we try out the monitoring for 60 days with follow-up at a subsequent vestry meeting.

Vestry bios for Network: Mark and Barbara will submit for the summer issue (June 20 deadline). Marni and Bruce have agreed to submit by August 20 for the fall issue.

Gun Rights and Safety Forum: Lisa described how the high school youth group has had continuing conversations and offered prayers about recent shootings, also noting that these youngsters have never known a time without active shooter drills in school. The forum slated for Sunday, 20 May, is to give everyone an opportunity to listen to different perspectives and perhaps empower kids to take action. Posters were given to vestry to distribute locally in advance of the event.

Signage: We are in a residential (R-1) district where signs are limited to 2 feet x 2 feet.

LEM license approval: Motion made and seconded with unanimous approval to **approve Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lay Eucharistic Visitor license application for Gardner Yenawine**. Application was subsequently signed by Jay as recommender and Alice as clerk.

In other business, Bruce said the **new photo directory** is in the printing process at Lifetouch who will supply by contract enough directories for those who had pictures taken plus an additional amount – but not sufficient for our entire congregation. Consensus was that we might print additional ones needed in-house, but before the rector and wardens make a final decision, Jay wants to see price and quality differences for those printed in-house vs. those prepared by Lifetouch.

Jay consulted with the Bishop regarding Jay's interest in **youngsters serving on the vestry**. He learned that except for voting on issues of a serious financial nature, the Bishop encourages youth representation with full voting. We will re-visit this in more detail at the June meeting.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk