

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

17 January 2019

Present: Jay MacLeod, Bruce Avery, Harvey Best, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Mark Kellett, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Peter Ruth, Barbara Smith, Alice Perry.

Absent: Joe Daly, Greg Vogt

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer on the eve of the Confession of St. Peter.

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

**Stewardship:** Bruce passed out a graphic showing receipt of pledges to date totaling \$393,625.68 with the expectation that additional pledges will take us further above the \$390,000 goal. Someone who will be moving away and not pledging has donated a gift of \$10,000 as well.

**Financial report:** Peter reported a strong December with annual income of \$516,000 (exceeding budgeted by \$2000) and modest annual expenses of \$481,000 (less than the \$513,000 budgeted). Ending the year on a positive note, Peter thanked the generosity of parishioners and fiscal restraint of the vestry.

It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to accept the final 2019 budget** approved in draft form in December. The budget review session has been moved from Sunday to January 22 at 11 AM due to the impending snowstorm.

**Slate for Annual Meeting:** As presented to the parish in a recent e-mail, the nomination committee has presented the following slate:

Warden, Bruce Avery, Term to expire January 2021;

Vestry, Barbara Smith, Lisa Kelly, Russ Register, Term to expire January 2022

Treasurer, Becky Forbes, Term to expire January 2020

Western Convocation Delegate, Gail Goddard, Susan Eslick, Term to expire January 2022

**Suggestion Box:** Barbara has volunteered to monitor a box where parishioners may submit signed and dated notes regarding questions, comments, recommendations and complaints. As a vehicle for two-way communication, Bruce and Harvey will work on getting the box affixed to the wall near the vestry bulletin board in the parish hall.

**Flag and cross:** A seamstress was enlisted to affix a white and black Canterbury cross to the rainbow flag hanging on the outside wall of the church facing the parking lot and green. We will continue to explain the significance of the combined cross and symbol of inclusion, meant to represent the kind of church we want to be.

**Outreach Commission nominee:** It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to **approve the appointment of Deb Ransom as a new member** to the commission.

**Average Sunday Attendance:** Bruce distributed graphs showing a drop in average Sunday attendance that he finds hard to understand. A basic measure of church health, it may be a reflection of people coming less frequently. The advent of the Messy Church program may help us engage with families and children.

Bruce suggested a task force to help him review the data he has collated as well as to study trends and learn from the data. It was moved, seconded and unanimously **approved to appoint Barbara, Marni and Russ Register, along with Bruce,** to such a committee.

**Photo Directory:** Recognizing that the current directory is missing photos of many members, and missing names and contact information of newer members, Marni will determine the extent of missing material *and we will discuss at the February meeting the merits of inviting LifeTouch to return.*

**Green Committee:** Ed Hoyt has approached Bruce with an interest in environmental issues. Lisa and Harvey will meet with Ed and plan to *bring back some recommendations for the February meeting.*

**Small groups for Lent:** Building on the format we used last year, with a separate related program for youth, we will discuss “Five Marks of Love” during Lent in 2019.

**Other Business:**

- Bruce was present at a recent meeting of the middle-school and high-school youth and offered praise of their interest and questions on the topic discussed.
- Marni reported the start on January 22 of the new year’s EfM group with eight students (four new).
- Harvey updated quotes from Granite State Glass for windows in the parish hall and church. To replace parish hall windows would cost \$17,000 and to install insulated panels (with metal clips) over the present windows would cost about \$7000. Thermal glass for 14 windows in the church would be \$4600.

Jay closed the meeting with thanksgiving for the church as it is and will be, for Peter and Mark whose terms conclude with this meeting; with prayers for Newport families dealing with tragedies; with a moment of silence and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 21 February.**