

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 February 2019

Present: Jay MacLeod, Bruce Avery, Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Becky Forbes, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Alice Perry.

Absent: Greg Vogt

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer and welcome to Russ Register and Becky Forbes, newly elected.

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

**Credit Card Usage:** Bruce noted five months have passed since we began accepting credit cards in the thrift shop and church office. Becky Forbes volunteered to work with Bruce in analyzing the experience in terms of cost and long-term benefit, in consultation with Jackie Thompson and Alison Vernon (thrift shop) and Shelly Boucher (office). Following the analysis, they will return to the vestry with a recommendation.

**Financial report:** Becky reported completion of the annual parochial report documenting 2018 financial information and church activities to the national church and diocese.

Just six weeks into the current fiscal year, we can expect a full financial report in March with two months on the books. Becky is in the process of re-formatting the report including dividing pre-paid pledges by 12 to better show where we stand in pledge revenue each month. In addition it will be possible for committees such as Buildings and Grounds to receive detailed accounting each month to reflect itemized activity.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Lisa reported with a printed recap of the first meeting last month of the **Green Committee** (Lisa, Harvey and Ed Hoyt), noting they will meet again next week. An energy audit of the church facility is to be scheduled before undertaking steps to make the building more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Harvey discussed the parish hall “envelope” in particular and plans to seek a diocesan sustainability grant were encouraged. We also discussed involving the youth group in “green” issues and concluded that an educational component to encourage, for example, composting and lighting and energy efficiency in our homes as well as in the church proper, is a priority. The committee may add members with expertise in elements pertinent to these issues.

Joe spoke to us about the need to replace the **kitchen stove** citing a report by Chris Heyl that had been distributed to vestry beforehand. It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to authorize expenditure up to \$10,000** to purchase a new stove and fire-suppression system, for delivery and installation, and for removal of the old stove. Joe and Chris will first speak with the New London fire chief to ascertain any local requirements beyond adhering to NH safety code. Should the cost exceed that amount, they would return to the vestry before proceeding.

**Photo Directory, photo gallery and name tags:** Marni, Bruce and volunteers will begin a project to update these interrelated items, using stewardship and membership lists as a guide.

**Vestry bios:** Alice thanked past and current vestry members who submitted bios for the bimonthly newsletter during the last year and asked new members Russ and Becky to submit similar pieces for the May-June issue.

**Jay's Sabbatical:** Prior to the meeting Jay submitted two documents outlining clergy coverage and parish division of labor for the three months he is away. Jay described how a service can be conducted should one of the assigned priests be unexpectedly absent. He will be sending occasional vignettes of his experience for the parish and reminded us that this period of refreshing study and prayer can also be a time of renewal for the parish as a whole.

**Other Business:**

- Bruce alerted us that a review of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) will start at our next meeting. A designated leader is sought to make the process -- of identifying priorities, goals and plans to reach them -- effective.
- Becky reminded us of another item for next month's meeting:  
Model Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth at <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21313>  
Model Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults at <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21314>

Jay closed the meeting with prayer, 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 March.**