

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

19 September 2019

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

Absent: Bruce Avery, Becky Forbes.

Guest: Aaron Jenkyn

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Younger Generations: Aaron Jenkyn circulated a preliminary report to vestry members prior to the meeting and began her presentation with an outline of her procedure and conversations she had in order to identify best practices for the needs of the community. Her recommendation is to have all age worship all the time at the 10 AM service, noting that children develop their lifelong faith from experiences in worship in relationship to other (adult) people. People new to church are seeking a connection with God and with each other on a day free from work and school obligations so want to be together during worship. At present there are too few children attending here for a viable Sunday school program so intergenerational all age worship with creative music and ministries is recommended.

Aaron also described her experience with Messy Church in Newport and recommends a non-Sunday introduction of that at St. Andrew's, perhaps starting in Advent.

We discussed questions about how long it might take to see growth and how long it might take to implement the new style of worship. Aaron assured us that our congregation is already open to the all age worship model, but that simply changing the worship service is not enough to attract new people. With print and personal efforts to get the word out, including vibrant social media presence, we would seek to engage the wider community. The vestry reached consensus to move forward and a committee to set priorities, goals, a timeline and to identify key individuals will include Marni, Lisa, Greg, Lin, Alice, Emmy Potter and one additional youth.

Meanwhile, Aaron will work toward a final report including conversations to come with Marilyn Paradis and others related to bolstering our greeter program and connecting current and new members to ministries and service opportunities in the church.

Mission Action Plan: Russ circulated a recently-updated MAP prior to the meeting. He and Jay will meet this week to incorporate goals related to the previous agenda item.

Outreach Commission: It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to approve appointment of Janet Heyl to the Outreach Commission.**

Stewardship planning: Morris noted that he and Jeanne have agreed to serve again as Stewardship chairs for 2019 with the theme of “loving generously – living generously.” We love generously by following Jesus in the way of love and live generously by sharing God’s bounteous gifts to us to augment His work in the world, he said. The theme is based on the biblical text of John 3:16. The stewardship goal, not yet established, will be determined before stewardship letters go out 14 October.

Navajoland: Greg and Lisa reported on their recent (second) trip with Becky Rylander to Navajoland. They plan to soon speak to the congregation about the real potential for a long-term relationship and creation of teams to work. One example is to renovate a building to house such teams or to serve as a retreat center at St. Christopher’s. As at St. Andrew’s, they see a need to draw the local community more into the church. Another idea that supports that goal is a garden project, building raised beds for family plots. A third idea that would include our youth is an oral history of the Navajo, something that could be given back to them as a gift. Logistics from the airport are a challenge but the excitement is compelling.

Other business:

- It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to authorize Harvey to schedule installation of a new sheetrock ceiling and LED lights in the hallway.**
- Joe reported on his attendance today at a session for emergency preparedness in houses of worship. He will circulate “an exhaustive checklist” distributed at the meeting to share with us before the October meeting.

Jay closed the meeting 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 17 October.