

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

16 April 2020

Present (via ZOOM): Jay MacLeod, Bruce Avery, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Lisa Kelly.

Jay opened the meeting with a collect for the Thursday of Easter week.

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

Worship: Jay spoke of the several services crafted and recorded for online viewing by Suza Bowser and Jack Barben. While thrilled with the results and that so many people have been watching, he also noted the need for review of a rough draft prior to posting in order to be able to identify any errors.

Going forward the plan is to offer our own pre-recorded service every other week – the third and fifth Sundays of Easter are now in progress. For other Sundays, members will be directed to other sites in the Episcopal tradition.

Jay sought our advice regarding virtual coffee hour, with the consensus to offer that on the same Sundays as we air our own service. Looking further forward to a time when we can begin to gather together, Jay is looking at possible outside services as a means of keeping physical distance. This may mean additional services and additional locations beyond Gould Road, as well as possible interference from inclement weather and spring insects.

In order to meet the pastoral need of family and close friends of recently departed Karin Nelson, Jay has planned the Monday (20 April) midday prayer service via Zoom in thanksgiving for her life. Jen Giles will sing (pre-recorded) some of Karin's favorite hymns. Jay noted we are the first church in the Diocese to encounter this situation – having to put off a funeral service -- during the covid-19 crisis.

Finance: Mike presented a revised 2020 budget, reflecting adjustments in the Music Director's salary line where Jack Barben is earning less than David Almond had been, and moving those funds to a line for expenses incurred in the search/transition as well as to a line for liturgical formation. Essentially the liturgical formation line permits us to reimburse Suza a fraction of what she might charge a non-profit organization for her work on the video services; she is in large part donating her efforts, Jay noted. That line would also cover additional expenses involved with proposed outdoor worship. It was moved, seconded and **voted unanimously to accept the budget revisions as detailed by Mike and Jay.**

Mike also presented the quarterly report for the first quarter of 2020, January through March, with revenue and expenses both very close to 25%. We also had an opportunity to review the balance sheet for March.

After discussion of the ethical issues and with concern about possible shortfall of pledges relating to the SBA's Payroll Protection Program, and noting that the application included a statement that the \$50,300 we sought is "necessary to support the ongoing operation" of St. Andrew's, it was moved, seconded and **voted with one abstention to instruct and authorize the Treasurer to execute such documents as are required to effect the loan.** Mike explained that we must spend the sum within eight weeks of receipt on salary, wages and benefits, and possibly utilities. If all is spent, upon application the loan can be forgiven; if not all spent, or application not made, it becomes a two-year loan at 1% interest.

In related discussion we learned of the impact the virus has been having in Navajoland and the Last Sunday commission's decision to seek immediate collection of funds to assist that Diocese.

The reconstituted finance committee, including George Jamieson, John Tilley, Bill Sloan, Charlie Forbes, and new members Alison Seward and Nonie Reynders will be called together (via Zoom) by Mike Quinn and Jay in the next few weeks to look at specific issues and make recommendations to the vestry.

Pastoral Care: Alice asked for feedback on the recent effort of all vestry members to contact a portion of the member list. We concluded each vestry member would decide individually based on their original contact how frequently to continue with calls. Names that have been submitted to Alice of those we have been unsuccessful contacting (per email request sent with the meeting agenda) will be forwarded to Jay.

Jay asked that vestry members send to both himself and Alice names of anyone with special needs who might merit referral to the Pastoral Care committee.

Stewardship: Bruce noted we need a stewardship committee and asked us to recommend names to him for that role.

Staffing: Jay said he can't imagine having a better staff. In the short time Jack Barben has been with us, Jay believes he is and will be an extraordinary gift to both St. Andrew's and Upbeat/Newport. Equally extraordinary are Nicole Densmore, Shelly Boucher and Aaron Jenkyn.

Any Other Business: Marni asked about the procedure for Mary Eysenbach to arrange for funding for tree removal. Jay said she should work with Chris Heyl as the landscaping budget line is part of Buildings and Grounds.

Jay closed the meeting with a message of Easter – new hope and new life – and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting (probably on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 21 May.