

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 May 2020

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

Jay opened the meeting with a collect for Ascension Day.

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

Mission Action Plan: Jay spoke of how we need to think creatively in this period of pandemic in that our key mission is the same but how we deliver it is new. We need to be nimble, creative and prepared to make some mistakes.

Aaron shared our current MAP noting that all the details won't happen but priorities and underlying goals remain: Nurture the Faithful, Form New Disciples, Serve our Neighbors and Steward our Resources. She used Epiphany/Newport as an example where an immediate decision was made to shut down the Sunshine Diner based on absence of personal protective equipment for a "to go" operation. Recognizing that the food needs and the need to maintain a community presence still existed, they collaborated with Got Lunch Newport to meet those needs in a new way. Similarly, as St. Andrew's re-examines our MAP goals it will be important to ask questions in order to meet them in new ways, and not expect to go back to how things were.

Finance: Mike will email financial reports to the vestry, noting that we are doing well against budget with general revenue and total income "spot on." Personnel expenses are also at the expected level while most other expenses are below budget due to the pandemic. Mike noted we are about halfway through the SBA's Payroll Protection Program with a full report in mid-June.

Jay said that the Last Sunday offering for now will be every other month to reflect our less frequent worship schedule. He also spoke of the Finance Committee who will be taking up the topic of legacy giving.

Worship: Jay sought volunteers for each of the following task forces as we look towards a return to in-person worship.

- Physical layout for both indoor and outdoor worship (Joe)
- Access, including how to invite or enable attendance per Diocesan guidelines and how to address issues around persons over 65 and/or with compromised immune systems regarding invitation/exclusion/risk (Bruce, Lin)
- Contact tracing for which we have a moral responsibility (Russ)
- Monitoring local public health (Mike)

Thrift Shop: Marni will continue to examine the arrangements for and potential liabilities regarding opening the thrift shop as well as other building usage such as by AA. This will include reviewing MAP and utilizing strategies that Aaron outlined earlier.

Summer Fair: Given all the practical difficulties of an in-person fair, we will not be holding one this summer but are exploring other means of possibly raising some funds as well as to celebrate our own and the wider community. Possibilities include an online raffle of such items as a knitted afghan and furniture items, and a dog show composed of submitted videos. Mike will explore the intricacies of online raffle/auction and Alice will explore the interest in an online dog show with Nonie Reynders.

Art Committee: Greg, Marni and Alice agreed to be members on an art committee proposed by Katrina Wagner, Alison Vernon and Suza Lambert Bowser to enhance our faith and worship experience, perhaps starting with the sanctuary and bathrooms. Jay welcomes the renewed interest and opportunity and also vestry members expressed the importance of asking tough questions where there is art work rooted in tradition in place already.

Any Other Business: Lisa proposed that acknowledgment of **high school graduates** be offered at the conclusion of our online service, 14 June. This would include mention of St. Andrew's activities each student found significant, mention of where each is headed next, and a blessing of the group. She also congratulated Kearsarge High School student Emmy Potter, a junior, as recipient of the Dartmouth book award this year.

Peter Ruth has asked Jay about **opening the vestry's zoom meetings** to everybody. In the interest of time the vestry will email one another with additional comments; questions were raised about the technology involved necessary for having participants and observers and level of interest, with the observation also made that meeting minutes are always available on the church website.

Chris Heyl noted that with Harvey and Rosie Best, he and Janet are to prepare dinner at **Friendly Kitchen** on 22 May. Serving will be done outdoors by FK staff. He also asked if **Old St. Andrew's** would be opening this summer and consensus was that it would not. Alice suggested this might be an opportunity to perform some of the needed structural maintenance that was identified last fall.

Bruce and others commented favorably, with pride, on the Ascension Day and recent Sunday services prepared for online viewing.

Jay closed the meeting with our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting (probably on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 18 June.