

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

16 June 2022

Present on Zoom: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

Upon discovering that Old St. Andrew's was in need of a new roof, and with a time-sensitive no-risk and discounted bid from a reliable roofer, our meeting was moved a week earlier than originally scheduled. In preparation for the meeting, Jay recently distributed an electronic questionnaire to the congregation asking parishioners to rank, on a scale of 1 to 10, "the importance of Old Saint Andrew's Church to you personally and to our life as a parish." One day prior to this meeting, Jay shared the results of the survey (104 responses), both numerically and with comments from those who submitted any. He also included a likely scenario regarding proceeds from a sale, should that be the vestry decision, from the Diocese.

Because the results were split fairly evenly from "no importance" to "high importance" Jay noted the value of the exercise even while it left "the ball in our court." Each vestry member was given time to respond to the survey results together with their own thinking on the matter. Once all had spoken, Jay summarized by noting that responses were mission-minded and yet there exists throughout a strong emotional attachment to the building, including in the wider community, with implications for strong reaction if the building should be eventually sold. (If sold, we expect proceeds would be deposited with the Diocese with annual return to St. Andrew's, plus the possibility of drawing on the principal with Diocesan approval for capital needs.)

Given the obvious need to repair the damaged roof, it was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to go forward with the bid from LaVorgna at \$42,000.** We expect the work to be completed in July with 8 AM Sunday services in August.

The decision to repair the roof does not suggest a decision about possible future sale. There was general agreement that we might seek funds in retrospect from those who really value the building (we have funds available now), and that we will take time to see how building use and maintenance go over the next few years, giving us time to explore ways to use the space more than once a week in summer months, as well as to explore a variety of unanswered questions.

**Vestry Retreat:** Jay noted that Nonie has prepared two planters to be given in thanks to Karen and Susan Schweizer for their help with the vestry retreat on 6 June. Karen volunteered to work with Jay on developing next steps.

**Messy Church:** Jay is pleased that four people are taking advantage of online training and said he was pleased with the outcome of the Pentecost event with about 13 new folks present. It

was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to hold another Messy Church event on 28 August**. Occurring near the start of the school year, the theme will be on a new start, to equip children and families emotionally and spiritually; monthly events with their own themes will follow (with occasional exceptions).

**Any other business:** Due to this meeting occurring a week early in order to make a timely decision regarding the OSA roof, **Approval of May minutes and distribution of the current financial report** will occur by email in the next few days.

Claire will move ahead with plans for a **newcomer's gathering**, with Becky Rylander providing some guidance from her experience in the past.

Nonie noted that release of the 2022 **parish directory** can be expected the last week of June. Karen will be the contact person should any questions or problems arise in the in-house completion and assembly of the new directory.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and together we offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk

**Note: The next vestry meeting will be 21 July.**