

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

17 February 2022

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

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer and extended a warm welcome to in-coming members Claire, Billy and Chuck. He suggested each pick up a copy of the *Vestry Resource Guide* from Shelly.

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

Vestry Retreat: Jay noted that a vestry retreat would give us the opportunity to delve more deeply into our understanding of our vision for the future and the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's Church. As we move beyond COVID, we will look for a day when everyone is available to gather in person (or on Zoom if necessary) for a few hours. Jay intends to discuss this with Wardens Joe and Karen between now and our March vestry meeting when more details will be discussed with all.

Finance: Mike sent the **monthly treasurer's report** along with several other financial statements via email prior to the meeting. Reporting on the first month of the current year, Mike noted that the balance sheet is strong and stronger than the first month of 2021. In response to a question about the impact COVID might have had on our finances, Mike responded that it has been negligible. To a question about projects that might be recommended by the Green Committee that would have both a cost and future savings associated, Jay replied that we have begun making annual payments to a capital fund and that diocesan grants and loans would be available if needed – relying on the Green Committee to guide us.

Jay also noted that a tentative launch date for Planned Giving, to be scheduled between services, is 13 March.

Worship: Russ and Ginny Register have been compiling COVID figures statewide and locally for several months and Russ is to supply Jay with a one-month snapshot reflecting the recent dramatic drop in cases for inclusion in this week's parish email. With 80 to 110 viewers of the virtual service each week, a future agenda item will be to discuss if we will continue to livestream services when COVID is no longer an issue.

Jay outlined plans for Ash Wednesday including encouraging people to attend the 7 PM ecumenical service at Our Lady of Fatima on 2 March. Because some people don't drive at night or have infirmities that would make attendance at that service difficult, Jay will also suggest attending the noontime service at Washington National Cathedral online and offer drive-through imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 4 PM outside St. Andrew's.

Jay hopes that the usual services during Holy Week will be possible this year – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, plus an Easter dawn service at 5 AM with Easter vigil readings, plus services at 8 and 10 AM.

Parish Directory: Karen noted that our 2018 directory is overdue for an update. Decisions need to be made regarding in-house or commercial preparation and Karen called for volunteers to research those possibilities, including checking with other churches for their experience with those options. Nonie volunteered to do the research and will seek help from within the congregation. She expects to report findings to us at the March meeting with a tentative goal to have a new directory available by Pentecost (5 June).

Braver Angels: Jay reported that the six members of the leadership team -- Jennifer Giles, Jeannie Sperry, Penelope Whitman, David Balford, Woody Canaday and Peter Ruth – are all onboarded into the Braver Angels organization and have attended orientations, events and workshops in preparation for a launch event for St. Andrew's. In anticipation of that, Jay has asked each to write a brief bit about themselves for the March-April newsletter, with the possible date of Palm Sunday, 10 April for the launch. A suggestion to tie the launch in with Lent along the lines of "giving up" intolerance or to do something positive in its stead was offered by the team.

Building Use Policy: Deferred until March meeting.

Christian Education and Formation: On Sundays 6 March through 3 April, in-person from 11:15 to 12:30, Jay plans to offer a **Lenten course** based on the film *The King's Speech*. Called "Find Your Voice," the series will focus on spirituality.

A **spring course** offering Jewish and Christian perspectives on the book of Genesis will be offered Monday afternoons beginning 11 April. Offered via AIL, Art Rosen and Jay are presenters.

The **Holy Land Pilgrimage** postponed from this month to 27 December through 8 January 2023 is geared to young people but open to all. Jay is negotiating with airlines to reserve 24 seats.

Similarly, a postponed trip to **Navajoland** will offer five youth accompanied by Lisa Kelly and Jay to use existing airfare credit to visit St. Christopher's in Bluff, Utah, right after high school graduation in June. Under the leadership of a new Anglo vicar married to a Native American wife, St. Christopher's is looking to enter into a partnership that focuses on spirituality and truth and reconciliation. Adult trips can be expected later in 2022 and 2023.

How to **engage children** is also a priority and Karen, Billy and Joe (with Peggy, perhaps) will help Jay explore ways to address the opportunity gap to help children who are struggling, with a future goal to help young people develop spiritually.

Any other business: Joe asked on behalf of Mary Eysenbach about contacts listed on the website. Joe learned that Ellen Yenawine's involvement with a youth group has permanently

come to an end. We concluded that leaving Stewardship as “TBA” was appropriate. Joe will provide those updates to Mary.

Jay closed the meeting with thanks to lay and ordained leadership at St. Andrew’s and Karen offered a mutual blessing in the words of the grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be 17 March (likely on Zoom).

<https://zoom.us/j/92836394912?pwd=OXMyenlKOWR6YmtlZ2VqdmlqSWY5QT09>

Meeting ID: [928 3639 4912](#)