

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

17 November 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace Lin Potter, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Mike Quinn, Karen Zurheide.

Guests: Woody Canaday, Ed Hoyt.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Buildings and Grounds:** Jay welcomed Woody Canaday and Ed Hoyt to speak about the proposed solar array, with a generous check in hand from an anonymous donor to cover the cost. Ed spoke about the first meeting of the Green Committee where solar was discussed, with other priorities coming ahead of this undertaking. He spoke of the excitement now that solar is being realized and referred to information that had been distributed to the vestry via email prior to the meeting (Financial Overview, Comparison of Solar Proposals and Solar Savings). The proposed installation will produce as much (or more) electricity as we now consume with a savings expected exceeding 50 % (about \$4000). Proposed for the south-facing parish hall roof, new shingles there at the church's expense are needed before installation. In addition, the contract includes an examination of the roof by a structural engineer. While anticipating no problem in that respect, should the report indicate significant expense to remediate, a ground array might be considered. Woody also noted that the possible later installation of batteries might help with the demand charge assessed by Eversource. Panels are guaranteed for 20 years, becoming less powerful over time. Barring complications, work would begin in mid-May with completion in the summer. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to go forward with the Green Committee's recommendation for a contract with ReVision Energy at a cost of \$61,389 (including structural engineering cost) and to accept with gratitude the anonymous donation for the solar array.** We thanked Ed and Woody for their hard work in bringing this to fruition.

Joe confirmed that the 25-year Plan Task Force is complete with chair Becky Rylander and members Mary Eysenbach, Harvey Best and Bob Feuerstein. Ed Hoyt representing the Green Committee will be called on as needed as will Mike Quinn, treasurer. We celebrate getting this group together.

**Finance:** Mike sent out his Treasurer's Report by email in advance of the meeting; any questions can be emailed to him for response upon his return

Jay noted the shortened stewardship campaign. Letters went out early this month with the in-gathering set for 4 December. Russ reported that the stewardship letter went to 194 pledge units with 42 responses to date; these responses account for \$117,956 toward our \$435,000

goal. This represents 22% of pledge units and about 27% of the campaign goal, with several increases in amount over last year.

In reference to 2023 budget preparation, Jay noted that St. Andrew's has historically mimicked Diocesan guidelines for cost-of-living increases (this year 7%). We will review a proposed budget at our December meeting after the in-gathering on 4 December.

Jay is pleased to report that our application for a grant to the Diocesan Mission Resources Committee for financial assistance for hiring a part-time missionary for St. Andrew's has been approved in full. A check is expected soon, after submission of some financial documents to the diocese. Next steps are to draw up a job description with salary levels and to determine how to promote the job (including word of mouth). Jay will seek a small group to assist him in the process to hire someone.

**Annual Meeting:** Alice announced the date to be 29 January. We expect to hold the meeting between services from 9 to 9:55 AM with the understanding that inclement weather that could jeopardize a quorum would postpone the meeting until later that same day but on Zoom.

Joe named Alice Perry and Marni Eaton as nominees to fill openings for Western Convocation/Diocesan Convention delegates with the possibility of identifying a nominee as Alternate to fill the position to be vacated by Alice. He also identified individuals as vestry candidates who have not yet been contacted, with several other names ready should someone decline. With Karen away, a candidate for Warden (replacing Joe) is not yet named.

### **Brief Updates:**

**Worship:** Jay spoke of the bishop's visit on St. Andrew's Day, 30 November. It was decided to hold a reception/open forum to give parishioners the opportunity to chat with Bishop Rob following the service – to end no later than 9 PM. Refreshments will be provided.

He also spoke about Messy Church and the disappointing turn-out earlier this month. In an effort to inspire more young families to participate, Alison Vernon will hold two after-school craft sessions on the Tuesday and Thursday prior to 4 December that will have a tie-in to the Messy Church theme and will include an invitation to attend. Jay noted that no one who has come to Messy Church has been disappointed so the need is one of developing momentum. There will be no Messy Church in January.

Christmas Eve services will be at 4, 6 and 10 PM and 10 AM on Christmas Day.

**Formation:** Jay does not return from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land until 14 January (staying beyond the rest of the group to inform his work on a book about Elijah).

There will be no mountaintop Mass at Mt. Sunapee in the 2022-23 ski season due to many conflicts on a Saturday with Jay's schedule.

Bible study on Zoom is expected to begin in mid-February. Jay continues to look for partner churches to share leadership.

“The Chosen” is a free crowd-sourced, high-quality interpretation of the life of Jesus. Jay describes it as true to the Gospel but with imagination for back story to episodes and characters. Parishioners will view episodes at their leisure with Jay and Kathleen Rusnak leading discussion after church on a Sunday in Lent and through Eastertide – discussing two episodes each week over 18 weeks.

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 15 December.**