

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

18 November 2021

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Barbara Smith, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Finance: A draft of the legacy fund policy approved in October was distributed with the agenda for review prior to the required second vote. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the draft policy.**

With the policy fully approved, it was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve assignments to the Legacy Fund and Finance committees:** George Jamieson, John Tilley and Alison Seward, with Jay and Mike, on Legacy Fund Committee; Nonie Reynders, Charlie Forbes and Bill Sloan, with Jay and Mike, on the Finance Committee.

Also received before the meeting were revised draft planned-giving documents from Jay including a cover letter, information sheet and brochure. These will go out on 30 November in a mailing to parishioners. The website will go live prior to the mailing to give us time to identify any glitches. In addition to the tab maintained by plannedgiving.com, linked to and customized for our website, we will have tabs that offer necessary forms plus electronic versions of the mailed items. Jay reminded the vestry that this is an ongoing program, not a campaign.

For the **monthly treasurer's report**, Mike emailed materials prior to the meeting. He reported and documents reflect a very strong financial position. A letter will be sent to the Green Committee in acknowledgment of and thanks for their role in our favorable financial position.

Christian education and spiritual formation: Jay outlined the following plans.

- Kathleen Rusnak will offer a three-session course on the New Testament in January.
- Interfaith offering will be via AIL. Art Rosen and Jay will collaborate to offer a seven-session program on Genesis to begin after Easter. Perhaps after this as a beginning, Jay's original plan to offer weekly bible study via Zoom, in collaboration with other area clergy, can be implemented.
- The film *The King's Speech* will be offered as a jumping-off point for a Lenten course, modeled after a program Jay is familiar with from his time in England.
- Jay hopes to offer a new Sacred Ground group, hoping to include more people skeptical of the notion of structural racism, including one such person as co-leader.
- The children's book *Silent Night* by Lara Hawthorne may be used for an outdoor Story Walk from Advent through Epiphany if sufficient volunteers come forward.

Housing Allowance: It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the designation of \$35,000** from Jay's 2021 salary (and all future years unless otherwise provided) as a housing allowance, where St. Andrew's does not provide clergy housing.

Worship: After some discussion of concerns regarding COVID protocols in the sanctuary and elsewhere in the building, and in recognition of the current increase of cases in our catchment area, we decided to post signs indicating the necessity of wearing masks regardless of vaccination status.

Jay spoke briefly about Advent and Christmas services including Lucan lessons and carols on Sunday, 26 December, an Epiphany pageant, celebration of Jesus' Baptism through to Candlemas. He also noted his knee surgery scheduled for 30 November, with Lucretia Jevne taking the 5 December Sunday service and Jim Ransom the 2 December healing service. Prayer flags hanging in the sanctuary will be taken down before the first Sunday in Advent, 28 November, and will be hung in the parish hall with a notice posted to advise of their significance.

Annual meeting date: The vestry set 23 January 2022 as the date for annual meeting, to take place between services at 9 AM. Mike will hold a 2022 budget information session on 9 January, also at 9 AM.

Parish hall bookings: Marni has offered to work with Shelly to research possible building-use policies and any history in order to develop a proper policy that can be used consistently. In discussing a recent request from the New London Democratic Committee to use our space on a regular basis, many considerations were raised -- including political ones -- that will need to be addressed in any policy statement. Consequently, we will let the committee know that we are not prepared to respond immediately to their request.

Any other business: Barbara Smith passed around a photo of two individuals in Halloween costumes, put together entirely (eye patch excepted) from Thrift Shop items. A letter will be prepared to Jackie Thompson, Joanne Lyon to thank them and all Thrift Shop volunteers for their efforts to keep the shop open during the pandemic, and in thanks for their generous monetary contribution to St. Andrew's.

Prior to the meeting Jay had sent vestry members a link to the Braver Angels and the Community Collaboration Network (CNN) because we had been invited by Bishop Rob and Bishop Mark Beckwith (the late Heidi Beckwith's son and retired Bishop of Newark) to consider St. Andrew's becoming a charter congregation. CNN's goal is to reduce emotional polarization among people of different persuasions. After discussion and questions, and with Jay's planned conversation with Mark the day after this meeting, we agreed to continue discussion later.

Jay closed the meeting with a moment of silence and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 16 December.