

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

19 January 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Claire Pace.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Voorhees Partnership Plan: We received by email in advance of the meeting a draft outline of the plan for interns from Voorhees that Jay will share with the administration there for feedback/refinement before interviewing candidates. The proposal offers to pay interns \$300 per week for eight weeks with a \$4000 scholarship upon successful completion of the internship. Discussion revealed that the interns will be “employees” and require a W-2; salary and start-up costs are budgeted for in the 2023 budget. The scholarship will be funded by Last Sunday donations and go to Voorhees to then be applied against the student’s fees.

2023 Budget: Mike emailed an updated draft of the 2023 budget prior to the meeting and reviewed items in revenue and expenditure. Under Revenue, pledges are set at the \$435,000 goal, with other categories remaining at prior levels. Although pledges to date don’t quite reach the \$435,000 goal, he is optimistic that more pledges may be forthcoming; as well, he expects the 2022 year to end in surplus.

As noted last month, he separated out Last Sunday-designated income from Open Plate in the new budget sheet to better reveal that activity. In addition, other pass-through activity such as pilgrimage income/expenses is now showing in the budget. Revenue totals will be \$694,000 per the draft, higher than previous years due to now reporting these and other pass-through activities. Under Expenses, Mike noted a 7% increase for personnel based on diocesan guidelines. Lines were also added for videographer and Missioner, with other categories raised 5%. While this is an operating budget and not a capital budget, this does include \$10,000 set aside for capital reserve.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to accept the 2023 budget as presented. A meeting between the Sunday services will be held on 22 January to provide the congregation an opportunity to review prior to Annual Meeting on 29 January.

Missioner Job Description: A draft job description was sent out with the agenda for this meeting. Jay reminded us that a diocesan grant provided half the funding necessary, including salary and programmatic costs. We discussed some of the details prior to advertising, concluding it prudent to indicate “salary commensurate with experience” rather than a dollar figure. We also discussed qualifications and requirements of the 15-hour-per-week position.

Jay will look for job-posting websites appropriate and will enlist assistance from vestry who have been involved with the “children and families” remit, as they are able.

Finance: Mike doesn’t have the December financials to share at this meeting. Jay asked that the Annual Report include financials for the year 2022.

Pilgrimage/Mission Plans for 2023: Jay spoke of the recent intergenerational trip to the Holy Land, noting how wonderful it was, amazing to have accomplished within their budget, and having a lifelong impact on the kids involved. Looking for suggestions as to what and how to share that experience with the congregation, an in-person evening meeting was suggested and also a slide show on Zoom. Because the group that traveled will be meeting to revisit their experience, we decided they should be the ones to choose the means for the wider sharing experience.

Jay also spoke of the next mission trip to Navajoland from 24 April to 1 May. Open to up to 12 people, reminders will be issued in parish emails for those interested to sign up promptly.

Another upcoming trip might be to visit St. Cuthbert’s Way, a walking trip (with provisions for those inclined to walk less) from Scotland to England in October. Jay said he has spoken with a parishioner who has volunteered to organize such a trip.

Annual Meeting: Karen reviewed the previously-announced slate for voting at annual Meeting, noting that in place of James Wassell, we now have Nancy Rollins as candidate to represent 8 o’clockers. Residing now in Newport, James and Ellen have decided to worship at Epiphany and he withdrew his candidacy. She also noted the discovered conflict with current and historical practice and our by-laws for the Treasurer’s position: the by-laws indicate one three-year-term with one-year off before serving again whereas several recent treasurers have all served consecutive terms. **It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to waive the one three-year-term limitation this year**, with plans to revisit that provision and all others for amendment before the next Annual Meeting.

We also discussed the importance of announcing the solar project at Annual Meeting. Russ read from a letter indicating that the roof is “judged adequate” and “no reinforcement needed.”

The congregation will be advised to read the Annual Report prior to the meeting on 29 January as they are to vote to accept the report when we assemble.

Meeting Dates: Alice noted that we have been meeting on the third Thursday of most months, with Vestry Executive meeting on the second Tuesday to prepare the agenda. Exceptions occur when the month starts on a Wednesday or later. For 2023, this means February and March meetings will be on the fourth Thursday. Unless there are conflicts with oncoming vestry, the calendar for the next 12 months will be: 23 February, 23 March, 20 April, 18 May, 22 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November (Vestry Exec meets on first Tuesday in November), 21 December, 18 January (2024).

Any Other Business: Alice presented Building and Grounds information received by email from Harvey Best. Because propane is now our sole source of energy and we have a 1,000-gallon

tank, the two Dead River propane tanks that supply only the kitchen stove will be removed and Huckleberry will re-do the plumbing necessary to provide propane from the one tank to the kitchen at a cost of approximately \$3,700.

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 23 February 2023.