

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 January 2021

Present (via ZOOM): Jay MacLeod, Aaron Jenkyn, Bruce Avery, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Chris Heyl, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Barbara Smith, Greg Vogt, Alice Perry.

Absent: Lisa Kelly

Guest: Nonie Reynders

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer for Epiphany.

December minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. These January minutes also note the **unanimous vote by email to approve the proposed 2021 budget submitted by Treasurer Mike Quinn via email on 23 December.**

Stewardship: Bruce sent a PowerPoint prior to the meeting showing receipt of pledges totaling \$406,000 toward the 2021 goal of \$400,000, with eight new pledges along with 139 repeat pledges, and 14 previous pledgers not yet heard from.

Finance: Mike submitted December operating statements by email prior to the meeting, noting that income was a bit below budget due in part to cancelled events that would have been revenue sources, and a smaller diocesan grant than had been budgeted. He reported that pledge revenue was within \$2000 of target. Expenses were also slightly lower than projected due to the pandemic. Adjustments will be made to the final figures to reflect forgiveness of the PPP loan in December 2020 rather than in 2021 as had been anticipated, resulting in a surplus of approximately \$46,000 for 2020.

Worship: Jay showed us an outline of the worship rotation between pre-recorded, live and InSpirit services with worshippers directed to the Washington National Cathedral or Diocesan events on occasion. A hybrid service with Bishop Rob is under discussion for Holy Week, with other observances to be offered via in-home resources.

He noted the importance of getting better at live streaming so that it can be a viable option for people even after the pandemic allows in-person worship. He also spoke of the midday prayer services daily on Zoom where six to nine people attend regularly as a wonderful little community of prayer. Additional publicity will also be given to the Saturday night compline service led by Aaron Jenkyn on Facebook Live.

Annual Meeting and Slate: Marni described the agenda for the annual Meeting that will take place following an abbreviated coffee hour on Zoom on 31 January. Our bylaws call for a quorum of 50 and a parish email will strongly encourage participation at the meeting that was announced via publication of the *Network News* on 31 December, and in subsequent parish emails.

Christian Formation and Education: Aaron spoke of her first five months in a seminary program as a lot of work and exhausting but also soul-stretching and exhilarating. She with others in the School for Ministry's first year – written about in the Epiphany 2021 issue of *News from the Vine* – attend on Zoom from 6 PM Friday until 2 PM Sunday, one weekend a month. Not only is the Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman the Dean of the new school, but parishioner Karen Floyd Shepherd will be the librarian. Aaron noted that the school's emphasis is on formation rather than academic credentialing which she said is "fueling all of us."

Aaron then spoke of formation at St. Andrew's including resource materials provided for Advent. On Sunday evenings during Advent Aaron led online services that began with short Messy Church videos and that included candle lighting, conversation, prayer and silence. Seven families participated consistently with others of all ages joining occasionally. That effort concluded with a Christmas Eve service. Another part of Advent was the storywalk at both St. Andrew's and Epiphany that, by noting how many ribbons on the prayer trees and how many cloths placed on the baby Jesus, was visited by many.

In Lent, Aaron will lead a similar series of Sunday evening services concluding with Easter. A new storywalk at Epiphany is proposed, and the stakes from the Advent storywalk at St. Andrew's are slated to be used for visitors to view Stations of the Cross. Because of the proximity of Newport to New London, both options are readily accessible to all interested.

Jay also spoke of plans for formation generally, including Kathleen Rusnak's postponed talks on "The Kingdom Within." In response to an email Jay sent about the online and small group program on race and faith called "Sacred Ground," members expressed whole-hearted support, including its appropriateness for young people. Jay will consider introducing the program to the whole parish at Annual Meeting.

Thrift Shop: Marni referred to an email she forwarded from Jackie Thomson who has suggested re-opening the Thrift Shop on Saturdays once volunteers have been vaccinated. Members expressed concern about the proposed February opening due to several factors, including the delay of full immunity following vaccination, need for contact tracing and uncertainty about local case levels and unvaccinated visitors. Marni will ask Jackie to check what other Diocesan thrift shops are currently doing and will also encourage Jackie to find other ways to get clothes into people's hands.

Art Committee: Greg reported that the Art Committee is considering different light fixtures for the Parish Hall. A recommendation might be brought to the Vestry in the coming months. He also indicated that he and Alice are developing ideas for a revolving art display in the Parish Hall, to be implemented once we can use the room again. Finally, he and Marni thanked Jay for attending the January committee meeting and encouraged him to do so again in the future.

2021 Meeting Schedule: Where meetings are normally on the third Thursday of the month, there are three months where we will instead meet on the **fourth Thursday** (April, July and September). These are the dates for the next 12 months: 18 February, 18 March, **22 April**, 20 May, 17 June, **22 July**, 19 August, **23 September**, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December and 20 January 2022.

Aaron closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting (on ZOOM) will be at 5 PM on 18 February --
<https://zoom.us/j/92836394912?pwd=OXMyenlKOWR6YmtlZ2VqdmlqSWY5QT09>

Meeting ID: [928 3639 4912](#)

Passcode: 640636