

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 October 2021

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

Absent: Chris Heyl, Lisa Kelly.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Worship: Jay plans to resume indoor services at 10 AM on All Saints Day, 31 October, with the 8 AM service returning to a traditional prayer book service with minimal music. Beginning with All Saints, the second service will be the one livestreamed. His plans include creating a children's corner in the parish hall (staffed at 10 AM and available to parents with young children – unstaffed – at 8 AM) and to provide real-time viewing of the service from the parish hall should attendance at the 10 AM service indicate the need for distancing. Jay complimented Russ and Ginny Register for their tracking of COVID numbers in our catchment area.

This year All Saints and All Souls will be in a single service, turning after communion from saints of the church to commemoration of our loved ones. There will follow two Sundays in "ordinary time" with an observance of our patron St. Andrew on 21 November and the first Sunday in Advent on 28 November.

Finance: Prior to the meeting Mike had distributed a revised **draft of the endowment (legacy fund) policy**. Mike noted that the most significant change was to acknowledge the Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) as part of our investment strategy. Other changes focused on the "Investment Manager" and language choice, e.g. changing from "endowment" to "legacy." It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the newly revised draft policy**. *The policy will be reviewed and voted on a second time at the November meeting of the vestry.*

Also received before the meeting were draft planned-giving documents from Jay including a cover letter, information sheet and brochure. The vestry made a few suggestions for clarity in the letter and information sheet.

Jay expressed his gratitude to Mike and the finance committee for their work on this and he noted that we will need to split the finance committee into two committees, finance and legacy, with staggered terms of one, two and three years for the first legacy committee members. We expect to vote on those members at the November vestry meeting.

For the **monthly treasurer's report**, Mike indicated we are again doing fine with income above and expenses below the three-quarter-year mark. We are currently running a surplus with the balance sheet also in good shape.

New members: Karen spoke about her experience seeing new faces in the congregation at the 10 AM service week after week. She told of her interactions with some of those people and of passing their names along to Jay and Shelly. She and Jay both encouraged the vestry as elected leaders of the church to make an effort to greet newcomers at both services and to introduce them to others in the congregation as well as to pass their names and descriptions along, ultimately resulting in a personal visit at home from the “Loafers” with a gift of fresh-baked bread.

Newport: Jay spoke about a recent in-person conversation with Aaron Jenkyn in an effort to recover the relationship we previously had with Epiphany, recognizing that with Newport’s severe COVID situation and with Aaron’s status as a lay person and Epiphany now a missional community that the relationship will be different from before. He has asked Aaron to write something for the *Network* or a parish email about our new relationship possibilities, and hopes that Aaron’s skill and success with Messy Church can be something St. Andrew’s can piggy-back on to engage young people. He also intends to see what Nicole Densmore can do with Upbeat-New London.

Nominating committee: Marni spoke about the need for a nominating committee, typically made up of those going off the vestry, in preparation for our 2022 annual meeting. Terms expiring at the end of January are Marni, Barbara, Lisa and Russ (who is eligible for a second term). Anne Hall has also expressed interest to be on the committee and one or two other members are sought. The nominating committee proposes to meet twice, with Jay in attendance at their second meeting. Plans are to present a slate of candidates – warden, vestry and Diocesan Convocation – to the vestry in December. Suggestions of names for the committee and/or for the vacancies are welcome.

Any other business:

Stewardship: Russ provided updated figures: 122 pledges received as of 20 October totaling \$356,266. Russ reported an average pledge of \$2120 with 66 increased pledges and 12 new pledges. It is hoped that letters sent as reminders to those who had not yet responded will bring us to our goal of \$400,000 by the ingathering of pledges on 31 October.

Parish directory: Marni suggested it is time to update our directory to reflect changes since 2018.

Jay closed the meeting with our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be at 5 PM on 18 November -- In-person in the parish hall!