

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

22 September 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Claire Pace, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Lin Potter.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Worship: Jay noted that Blessing of the Animals will be held rain or shine on 1 October at 10 AM.

Messy Church will be offered on the first Sunday each month from 4 to 6 PM. Our Creator God is the theme of the event on 2 October. Nicole Densmore welcomes families at the door who then proceed to the parish hall for a variety of activities designed to represent the theme. We move into the sanctuary at 5 PM for a celebration with communion, and conclude with an indoor supper.

All Saints' Sunday is set for 30 October with morning services celebrating the heroes of the faith; names of individuals who have joined the Legacy Society will also be read. In the evening compline will be held where we commemorate our own loved ones (All Souls).

The bishop's visitation falls on St. Andrew's Day, 30 November. The 7 PM service will include receiving or confirming people new to the church.

Some 60 to 75 people are tuning in to our weekly YouTube services, with about one-third of that number tuning in live at 10 AM.

Finance: Mike sent out his report in four files by email in advance of the meeting: Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, Income Expense Comparison and Ledger to Budget, each for the period ending 31 August 2022. A question was raised about outreach accounting that will be answered at a later date.

After discussion, it was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to support a loan application to the Diocese Advance Fund for \$87,000** at a 2.375 interest rate to partially cover the cost of repair and replacing patio, steps and drainage work on the north side of the church. If approved for the loan, debt service will be part of the 2023 operating budget. Additional bids, including better determining the need for extensive work, will be sought even while the application moves forward.

As in recent years our Stewardship Campaign will consist of a letter to parishioners outlining our goal for 2023. More discussion with select vestry members will define our financial need for the next year before Mike writes the letter. Noting that to raise the goal by 5% would only

permit us to “tread water,” and recognizing that Jay is working to capacity and there are programming needs to be addressed, we were unable to arrive at a satisfactory dollar figure at this meeting.

Regarding Core Outreach, Jay asked us to be prepared for the October meeting to identify organizations to benefit from that line item. We have given to KREM, Friendly Kitchen and a clinic in Haiti in the past. He named Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners as a possible recipient. By the next meeting we will likely know what organization the Outreach Commission will provide for in November, a decision that will guide our selection. We will also discuss how to use income from the Harvest Festival which is targeted for “outreach.”

Christian Formation: Pilgrimages to Navajoland and the Holy Land are a valuable and ongoing aspect of church life.

Confirmation class, but by another name and open to anyone interested in learning about the faith and church, will begin on 23 October and continue for five Sunday evenings, ending shortly before the bishop’s visit. A brief compline service will conclude each class.

Buildings and Grounds: Jay noted that although Harvey Best has agreed to replace Chris Heyl as Building and Grounds chair, he is not available to complete Chris’s vestry term. With annual meeting in January, we will fill the vacancy on the vestry then.

Karen spoke about the request from several parishioners that we establish a long-term inventory for capital improvements. This would include the status and condition of major elements of building and grounds and a time frame into the future for needs and estimated costs (to be updated periodically). Noting that Mary Eysenbach has previous experience creating such a document we anticipate she will work with Mike (as Treasurer) on the project. Perhaps Green Committee members and some others in the congregation with experience and interest in such an undertaking will also agree to serve.

Vestry Priorities: Karen spoke in Billy’s absence, noting that the focus of the group for engaging young families is on Messy Church and is considering how many hours per month might be needed for a program director, relieving Jay of that responsibility.

Claire spoke of the question facing the group discussing pastoral care for older people: when to train additional Eucharistic visitors.

Chuck said the group working on Christian formation has worked on a definition and needs to prioritize and decide how to make available to the congregation several vehicles for formation.

Any other business: Alice reminded the vestry that the date of the October vestry meeting has been changed from 20 October to **27 October** in response to the dates of the Navajoland trip (14-22 October).

Alice also asked that priority group chairs – Billy, Claire and Chuck -- consider writing a brief summary about their group’s progress for the November-December newsletter (deadline 26 October).

Karen 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 27 October.