

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

27 October 2022

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

Absent: Morris Edwards, Claire Pace.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

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 30 September 2022.

Jay spoke about the \$400,000 in a money market account, noting that much of it is earmarked for specific needs and that we may soon transfer funds in increments, ultimately leaving about \$100,000 in the money market account.

Jay also read from an email indicating that the standing committee approved our application for a loan from 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.

Mike reported that he has drafted a **stewardship letter** and the vestry agreed on a \$435,000 goal for the 2023 budget -- a figure, given current inflation, that keeps us approximately where we were in 2022 financially, even as we intend to do more programmatically. We expect letters to reach parishioners around 7 November with ingathering of pledges to take place on second Sunday in Advent, 4 December.

Jay announced an anonymous gift of \$60,000 to pay the bulk of cost to install a **solar array** at Gould Road. He noted that the Green Committee first initiated a change from oil heat to propane and next insulated the building, with solar being a third priority. Bids are coming in and a detailed proposal from the Green Committee, including where to place panels, how many and taking into consideration the state of the roof structure before placing any panels, is expected at the November meeting. The committee's paired goals of caring for God's creation and saving money for St. Andrew's are being accomplished.

Of the \$12,000 in the annual budget allocated to **Core Outreach**, it was decided that the remaining \$10,288 will go to KREM (\$7000), the Episcopal Hospital Chaplaincy (\$1000), three local summer camps (\$500x3=\$1500) and the remaining \$788 to the United Thank Offering to be presented at Diocesan Convention with our gifts for ChIPs.

We also discussed the difference between our generous Last Sunday offerings to recipients local and world-wide, noting that these come directly from parishioner generosity and not from the St. Andrew's "core outreach" budget. Parenthetically, Jay noted that he hopes to establish

an interactive relationship with Voorhees University, a recent Last Sunday recipient to broaden our impact beyond the financial.

The vestry unanimously ratified the application to the Diocesan Mission Resources Committee for financial assistance for hiring a **part-time missionary** for St. Andrew's that was submitted last week (after the vestry reviewed and approved an emailed draft).

Vestry Priorities: Chuck shared a menu of Christian formation resources, both online and in-person. Billy spoke about his committee working on engaging young families, noting that their focus has been on Messy Church and how to enhance that program, including more involvement of adults who attend with their children. Jay suggested Billy's group might get involved with the search for a part-time missionary. The group will also consider what is next after Messy Church is well established. In Claire's absence, Alice read from a summary Claire submitted for the newsletter about her committee's work on pastoral care of older people, noting the planned resumption of Eucharistic visitors, with more activities to come.

Nominations for annual meeting: Joe identified vacancies among Western Convocation/Diocesan Convention delegates and on the vestry and presented a list of possible candidates. A nominating committee with Joe, Chuck and Lin (outgoing members) will begin to consider the candidates with an eye to establishing a balance on the vestry between 8 and 10 o'clockers.

Looking ahead: Fairs 2023 and beyond: Alice suggested that we re-establish a schedule for two annual fairs that was interrupted by COVID. All agreed to a first-Saturday in July for the summer fair and first or second Saturday in December (depending on Thanksgiving date) for the St. Nicholas Bazaar.

Buildings and Grounds Planning Task Force: Karen has prepared a document (to be sent with minutes) outlining the need for such a task force that will assess capital needs and plan, schedule and provide cost estimates to meet those needs. Receiving unanimous approval, Karen will contact the following individuals to see if they are willing to serve: Becky Rylander (chair), Mary Eysenbach, Harvey Best, Bob Feuerstein and Woody Canaday.

Lay License Renewals: Alice presented a form supplied by Anne Hall for renewal of licenses for Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors: Bonnie Chappell, Patricia Goodwin and Fifi Mitchell. Approved unanimously and signed by Jay and Alice (clerk).

Any other business: Jay will be away midweek, 7 through 11 November and a few days before Thanksgiving. He also spoke about the list of names to be read at All Saints' (All Souls') Day services, those who have given bequests historically and those who have recently joined the new Legacy Society.

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 17 November.