

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

19 October 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nancy Rollins, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Fifi Mitchell, Nonie Reynders.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Engaging Children and Families:** With the recent announcement that Messy Church is on pause and the need to evaluate that experience, Jay spoke with Nicole Densmore (Director of Music for Children and Youth) and Will Ogmundson (Director of Music) about an alternative for engaging children and families. A junior choir is slated to begin in January under Nicole's leadership with Will involved as needed for accompaniment. The "choir school" would take place every Friday after school with the expectation that the choir would sing at 10 AM one Sunday a month. Because Messy Church had been funded in part by a Diocesan grant, Jay will submit a new proposal to the Mission Resources Committee to in part fund the estimated \$30,000 annual cost of the program. **It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to move forward with the Choir School program and grant application** as outlined by Jay.

Karen noted that Jay has held an exit interview with Missioner Zach Gobeil and will put together a small group to learn what worked and didn't work with Messy Church and to discover if we would try again, perhaps in a different iteration. Vestry members who would like to participate in that discussion with Jay, Karen and perhaps one or more parents who had been involved should let Jay know of their interest.

**Finance:** Mike passed out two printed reports through 30 September from QuickBooks, the first reports from the new accounting system. He reported that overall we are doing well with net income above budget. After discussion of the budget vs. actual and previous year comparison reports, Jay asked that Shelly cross-check the reports against the 2023 budget to ensure all categories align.

Mike also noted it is time to begin the 2024 budget and he has asked that programmatic needs be forwarded to him in time to prepare a draft budget for the next vestry meeting, on 16 November. We would then **plan to approve a final budget at our December meeting, moved from the scheduled 21 December to 19 December.**

**Stewardship:** Russ Register reported that we have to date received pledges totaling \$268,915 against our goal of \$435,000. This represents 62% of the goal met by 86 pledge units with an average pledge of \$3127, many of which are an increase over last year's pledge.

**By-law revisions:** Alice reminded us that we need to revise our by-laws to reflect last year's decision that a one-term limit on the treasurer was not workable. In making that change to a

two- (three-year) term limit, she also asked that we review the by-laws last revised in 2012 to be sure they are current with needs and practices. In addition to Jay and Alice, Claire and Mike offered to review the document in time for approval of any recommendations at the December meeting.

**Skills Audit:** Claire reported that the group that developed and tested the survey will meet once more to review the results from the “test” now in a spreadsheet, and expects to release the survey to the congregation in January.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Russ Register reported on progress in the relocation of the new electric meter to include the solar array, Eversource’s role in turning on the array, and a new power line to be threaded from a pole on Gould Road to church through the existing underground pipe. He also reported that new sturdy handrails on the upper and lower steps to the patio have been installed and that the door from the parish hall to the outside now opens well.

Jay asked Russ to convey our thanks to Harvey – “everything just gets done.” Jay also mentioned interest in using the church facility for a new private pre-school.

**Vestry and Warden nominations:** Karen has formed a committee of out-going vestry members (Morris, Lin, Alice) and herself as outgoing Warden to create a slate for annual meeting, subject to Jay’s approval. Delegates to Convention Barbara Smith and JoAnn Hicks and Alternate Susan Schweizer also have terms that expire at the 2024 annual meeting.

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 16 November 2023.**