

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

21 August 2023

Present: Jay MacLeod, Billy Kelly, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Russ Potter, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Mike Quinn.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Upcoming Events: Jay noted that there will be no September **Messy Church** due to the first Sunday of the month falling on Labor Day weekend, a time when Jay will also be recovering from knee surgery. Jay noted that our float in the Hospital Day parade did a good job of promoting Messy Church and that the August event that included a baptism worked well, but that the program hasn't gained the traction that Jay had hoped when we began more than a year ago. The October event will fall as usual on the first Sunday, 1 October.

As noted, **Jay will have surgery** on 31 August. On 3 September the sermon will be provided as a dialog among Jim Mathias, Jeannie Sperry and Tom Adamski to promote September's Last Sunday recipient in Sierra Leone (the Handmaids Catholic Clinic and Maternity). He expects to engage two supply clergy, one for 8 and one for 10 AM services both for 3 and 10 September. With the hope to be back in church on 17 September, Jay expects that he won't have to make special arrangements for pastoral care during his recovery.

Jay also spoke of **Jared Goldfarb's visit** on 27 August. Jared will deliver the sermon and also from 11:45 - 12:45 he'll give a talk on "Holy Land Travels: What Christians Might Miss" and open up a conversation and Q&A. A Middle Eastern buffet will be served between the service and Jared's talk.

Concerning the field placement for **Joe Rose**, candidate for ordination, Jay noted that Joe had attended the 10 AM service last Sunday and would be experiencing a variety of worship services not directly out of the prayer book, such as midday prayer, and would be involved with Braver Angels.

The most recent parish email solicited interest in a **pilgrimage to St. Cuthbert's Way**. Jay noted that Jeff Cleveland has expressed interest in helping to organize the trip. Based on some responses indicating trips already planned for the spring, the trip is tentatively planned for fall of 2024.

Interns: Karen noted that the eight weeks Shemar and Jameikah were with us was a robust time. Jay conducted exit interviews with the interns and there was also a meeting with hosts and others, staff and volunteers, involved in the internship. The conclusion was very positive with a few areas identified for improvement. These included beginning the advertising and recruitment process earlier and better preparation for those hosting interns in their homes.

Some thought should be given to the length of the internship as well. All agreed we are in favor of continuing the program, with the note that if suitable candidate(s) do not apply in a given year, we would continue our partnership with Voorhees University.

Jay asked and the vestry approved reimbursing Karen for the interns' use of her car (\$345.63 – the interns bought the gas) and to provide the three host families a meal/utility allowance of \$10 per day per intern for 58 days.

Finance: Mike distributed a treasurer's report by email in advance of the meeting, noting that August financials were not available due to Shelly's COVID-related absence. He devoted the report to explaining the Accountant's reviewed financial statements from fiscal year 2021 (sent out previously and again with this meeting's agenda), and encouraged us to approve them which will allow us to move forward on the accountant's financial statements for the year ending 31.12.22. **It was moved, seconded and approved (with one abstention) to accept Accountant's Reviewed financial statements from fiscal year 2021.**

Jay's questions about **loan service** were answered before the meeting and discussion about **core outreach** allocations will be postponed until September.

It is important to be prompt in defining priorities for both our **budget and stewardship campaign for 2024**. In keeping with the decision at our July meeting to continue one more year in "light stewardship" mode, Jay suggests he will be the letter-writer this year, as he had been the first year. As expressed in Mike's report, we need input from staff and key committees on expectations/wish list for the coming year as soon as possible to ensure accurate budgeting and goal setting.

Buildings and Grounds: Russ Register was asked to seek names for a locksmith as the lock on the main entrance door of the church has broken. Fifi also expressed concern about the exit door from the parish hall that is extremely difficult to open in this humid weather. As a fire exit, it is important that it be easy to open. We decided it can be opened for ventilation and easy access whenever a group gathers in the parish hall, foregoing any difficulty should an emergency exit be required.

Church security: Claire spoke of the online information session she and Karen recently attended, noting that one of the speakers had experienced a church shooting. It is important to be safety conscious and to have a safety policy that would include who to contact when an event occurs, where to go for help, whether the "event" is an intruder or a medical emergency. Perhaps a vestry member could act as "security officer" who would not lose sight of us being a welcoming community while keeping safety uppermost. Should an event prevent temporary use of the building, it is important that our insurance coverage include such contingency plans. Jay suggested that a few key people might attend training in case of an active shooter.

Any Other Business: Claire reported that the **Skills Audit** she and a small group have been working on is ready for testing. The design group plus a few others – men, women, younger, older – will test the questionnaire initially with the hope to release it via Constant Contact to the whole parish in October. Following return of completed questionnaires the group will create an inventory of parishioners' talents and gifts.

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 21 September 2023.