

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

15 December 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Morris Edwards, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Joe Daly, Lin Potter.

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**Finance:** Mike sent out “ledger to budget” through 30 November for the Treasurer’s Report by email in advance of the meeting. The expectation is to finish the calendar year within the budget, with a surplus.

Russ reviewed our stewardship goal of \$435,00 and pledges so far totaling \$400,718. He noted average pledges of \$3904, with 63 pledge units increasing their pledges for a total of \$27,135. He also noted that some pledge units who pledged approximately \$33,000 in 2022 will not be contributing in 2023; also, that some who pledged about \$22,000 previously have not yet done so for 2023 but may yet contribute toward the goal. In addition, it is possible that there may be some new pledges in the new year. All of which means that for now Mike is preparing the 2023 budget with the original goal intact.

**Plans for 2023:** Jay reminded us that our application for a grant to the Diocesan Mission Resources Committee for financial assistance for hiring a part-time Missioner for St. Andrew’s has been approved for 2023, contributing towards salary and program costs. We look to hiring someone for 15 hours per week at \$25 per hour; we expect to apply to the diocese for reduced grants in each of the next two years. Jay expects to include input from Karen and Billy (from the Engaging Children and Families work group) to prepare a job description, to advertise and interview candidates. The Missioner will likely help with Messy Church, improve community connections and communication including social media, and enhance faith formation at home.

Jay spoke about mission trips and pilgrimages, hoping to announce another such trip in 2023. The plan is to include income and expenditures of such trips in the budget going forward.

Jay also noted that he is keen to form a partnership with Voorhees beyond the Last Sunday-funded scholarship. He hopes to form a relationship with students and staff including hosting one or two interns for the summer, tailored to their needs and skills. We discussed a possible stipend that could be combined with a scholarship to make the program affordable and attractive. We will be seeking housing (bed, not board) and perhaps use of a car for the student(s). Jay asked that any concerns about the proposed internship reach him by the end of January.

Because the weekly Bible study on Zoom scheduled to begin early in 2023 has not attracted collaboration from another church, Jay will find this new element of Christian Formation to be a larger drain on his time than expected.

**2023 Budget:** Mike emailed a draft of the 2023 budget prior to the meeting and reviewed items in revenue and expenditure. Under Revenue, pledges are set at the \$435,000 goal, with other categories remaining at prior levels. We decided it wise to separate out Last Sunday-designated income from Open Plate in the new budget sheet. Revenue totals will be \$690,000 per the draft. Under Expenses, Mike noted a 7% increase for personnel based on diocesan guidelines. Lines were also added for videographer and Missioner, with other categories raised 5%. Unsure what propane will cost in 2023, total expenses show as \$687,000 in the draft to date.

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

Karen spoke of the 25-year Plan Task Force, noting that chair Becky Rylander and members Mary Eysenbach, Harvey Best and Bob Feuerstein (Mike Quinn and Ed Hoyt ex officio) have met once and will meet again next month, well aware that their job is a big one. Karen will receive minutes of their meetings.

Russ, as vestry liaison to the solar array project, indicated that a decision needs to be made about how much of the 20-year-old roofing shingles will be replaced or upgraded. A structural engineer is expected to examine the underpinnings of the roof and we expect to make a full announcement to the parish once we learn that result.

**Annual Meeting:** Alice outlined an agenda for the annual meeting on 29 January, to be held between services from 9 to 9:50 AM with the understanding that inclement weather that could jeopardize a quorum would postpone the meeting until later that same day but on Zoom. Modeling the agenda on past years it would include

- approval of minutes of 2022 annual meeting
- approval of the 2022 Annual Report
- presentation of slate (and any nominations from the floor) and vote
- presentation of 2023 budget by Mike (approved by vestry at regular 19 January meeting and previewed by congregation between services on 22 January)
- slide show of 2022
- questions and answers
- closing

In Joe's absence, Jay presented the slate with James Wassell, Fifi Mitchell and Russ Potter as new candidates. Nonie will run for a second three-year term with two others named above for three-year terms to be determined. Claire Pace will move into a Warden position for two years, and the third candidate will fill her two-year vacancy. Alice Perry and Marni Eaton are nominees to fill openings for Western Convocation/Diocesan Convention delegates.

**Applications for LEVs:** From Anne Hall, Alice presented initial applications for Lay Eucharistic Visitors for Russ Register, Ginny Register, Claire Pace and Sue Eaton. These were approved unanimously.

**Any Other Business:** It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the designation of \$35,000** from Jay's 2023 salary as a housing allowance, where St. Andrew's does not provide clergy housing.

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 19 January 2023.**