

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

17 March 2022

Present: Jay MacLeod, Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Billy Kelly, Claire Pace, Lin Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Chuck Thompson, Karen Zurheide, Alice Perry.

Absent: Morris Edwards, Nonie Reynders.

Jay opened the meeting with the collect for St. Francis and then all shared reading of the Litany for the Renewal of the Church, concluding with the petition to “strengthen and sustain the leaders of this church, lay and ordained, that they may faithfully follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, proclaiming in word and deed the good news of the kingdom . . .”.

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

Finance: Mike has not yet received the monthly report to share with us. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously voted to table until April approval of financial audits** for the years 2019 and 2020 so that Mike can meet with the CPA to reconcile those areas of the 2020 report he does not understand. (Mike was not involved with parish finance reported in the 2019 document.) Looking ahead, he will also be seeking more timely financial audit reports.

Sunday announcements: Noting that Jay himself has frequently been left to do announcements, he expressed his gratitude to those who have volunteered to fill that role. Jay suggested that announcements can be brief, on the assumption that parishioners have read the parish email and that our role is to simply point people to that, with perhaps a personal comment where appropriate. Jay reminded us that it is important that the congregation see vestry members (and delegates should they also come forward) and encouraged everyone to give it a try.

Lin passed around a sign-up sheet.

Parish Directory: In Nonie’s absence Karen reported that Nonie had talked extensively with Shelly about a new directory and also checked with other churches about their approach. Nonie recommends producing an in-house directory similar in size and format to the 2016 directory, with the addition of photos submitted by parishioners. Nonie has been able to identify help from within the congregation for various aspects of production.

Worship: Jay asked for feedback about the current worship pattern and asked if we should bring back the offertory. In recognition of the possibility of additional COVID infections as a new Omicron variant appears on the horizon, we agreed to hold off on the offertory and to continue wearing masks in worship in deference to the most vulnerable among us (taking masks off if/when comfortable for coffee hour and Christian education). He asked that we keep attentive to any feedback from parishioners on any aspects of worship and conduct. Karen also reminded us of the importance of wearing nametags and Jay expects the vestry to set that example for the rest of the congregation.

Jay hopes that the congregation will enter fully into observances during Holy Week and asked us to encourage them to attend all of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, plus an Easter dawn service at 5:15 AM with Easter vigil readings, or services at 8 and 10 AM. He also urged walking the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Vestry Retreat: Karen reported from the recent vestry executive meeting plans for a day-long retreat at Karen's house on 6 June, with a goal of 100% attendance. Goals for the day include an opportunity for vestry members to grow closer to one another, closer to God, and to renew work for the church in something like a "mission action plan." Possible recreational opportunities might also fit in the schedule, and a search is on for a facilitator.

Christian Education and Formation: Jay reported that the **Lenten course** based on the film *The King's Speech*, has been well-attended. After the final Sunday (3 April) for "Find Your Voice" we will hold a kick-off for **Braver Angels** on 10 April in the same time slot following the 10 AM service. A **spring course** offering Jewish and Christian perspectives on the book of Genesis will be offered Monday afternoons beginning 11 April. Offered via AIL, Art Rosen and Jay are presenters. In all likelihood the course will meet in the sanctuary.

Jay invited comments about the possibility of using "The Chosen" as the basis of further Christian education later in the year. He had sent a link to the creative, well-acted and free-to-watch series prior to the meeting. Most comments were favorable and he urged those who hadn't yet viewed it to do so before deciding if the congregation would be invited to watch episodes at home with some sort of group feedback tied to the viewing.

Building Use Policy: Joe reported that an old, lengthy building use policy was found by former warden Marni Eaton in January. With Karen's input, Joe is preparing a new briefer draft that he expects to share by the end of this month for discussion at the April meeting.

We agreed that outside groups would be able to offer food and remove masks when we as a parish were doing so.

Any other business: Karen reminded us that April's Last Sunday recipient, Migrant Justice for the Milk with Dignity program, will be at St. Andrew's on 2 April at 5 PM for a public presentation, and will also speak at both services in place of a sermon on 3 April.

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 April.