

St. Andrew's Vestry Minutes 1/11/22

Members Present: Fr. Jeff Packard, Andrea deCarle, Barb Downs, Tom Hall, Paul Hochreiter, Michele Marini, Kitty Mussett, Jason McCloskey, Amy Pritchett, Connie Puckett, Scott Strouse
Members Absent: JudithAnn Rule
Officers Present: Julie Kwasnica
Guests: Anthony Grillo
Clerk: Kevin Lowe
Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

- I. Opening Prayer - Fr. Jeff
- II. Minutes

Motion: Michele Marini; 2nd Paul Hochreiter – Accept the minutes of the December vestry meeting as distributed. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.

III. Reports

- A. Rector's Report - see Attachment I
 - Another pledge letter will go out to those who usually pledge who have not pledged yet
- B. Wardens
 - Senior Warden: OOTC period was successful and all volunteer shifts were covered; OOTC has closed on the new Atherton St. Meetinghouse property so all overnights should be held at the Meetinghouse next year onward
 - Junior Warden: Questions about the Annual Meeting: Should food be served, and if so, in what way? Perhaps food could be offered in a separate location (325 or Canterbury Hall) but not allowed in the church.
- C. Treasurer - distributed electronically prior to meeting. End of 2021 final income was less than we had expected (see Finance Committee).
- D. Committees and other ministries
 - Finance Committee: There was a \$20,287.38 income deficit for 2021, which was \$1500 more than the deficit we had budgeted for. Income was about \$9,000 below budget, \$5,000 of which was from unpaid pledges.
 - Altar Guild Savings account needs replenishment. Finance Committee recommends a withdrawal from the endowment.
 - **Motion (FC): Withdraw \$2600 from the Chelius Altar Guild Endowment for the Altar Guild savings line. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**
 - Parishioners' Ministry: Parishioners Ministry paid \$10,000 in grants for the year and received \$8,800 in donations.
 - **Motion: Barb Downs; 2nd Connie Puckett: Assign Allison Shea as an additional countersigner for Parishioners' Ministry account checks, with authorization from another PM steward.** Discussion: does the account need to have two signatories in the first place? Is it a reasonable or necessary safeguard?
 - **Motion: Scott Strouse; 2nd Amy Pritchett: Table the motion. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**
 - Newcomers Committee: Working on developing a system of Shepherds to follow up with newcomers to worship, and to meet with them and help introduce them to people in the parish, leaving the Greeters responsible simply for greeting people on Sundays

IV. Discussion: Lessons We Have Learned from the Pandemic So Far

What have we learned? What kinds of things have been happening in the parish? What changes should be kept? What needs to go back to the way it was before?

We need to be a more welcoming and friendly community, and that needs to be everyone's responsibility. The pandemic makes that difficult. Missing the intimacy and physicality of parish life and worship, and especially the casual and friendly interactions.

Reaching out and making connections requires explicit work. How do we reach out and include young families and children especially? It takes a lot of people power to make the church run, and we are grateful for those people have been working incredibly hard to sustain the parish in so many ways.

Digital tools have made it possible to stay connected remotely and this has made worship more accessible for people. Making church more of a part of daily life (Daily Office) is also more possible with virtual tools, removing barriers for people when they don't have to travel.

How do we connect with other Christians going forward, and work across ideological divides?

What social needs and problems remain in the community? What places can we still be active?

Perpetual confusion and conflicted feelings. The pandemic seems like it will never end and we need to figure out how to sustain this situation in the long term. Holding space for grief and loss.

V. Unfinished Business: Sound system upgrades: Partial install in Canterbury Hall (screen, speakers, etc.) should be ready to go soon; equipment for the church is still held up

VI. New Business

1. Need to replace Paul Humphreys on the vestry for the remainder of his term.
 - **Motion: Scott Strouse; 2nd Barb Downs: Appoint Sandy Schwartz to the vestry for a one-year term. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**
2. Executive Session

Meeting adjourned, 8:59pm

Minutes submitted by Kevin M. Lowe, clerk

Attachment I
Rector's Report to the Vestry
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
January 11, 2022

1. Pastoral: 1 burial (delegated to Deacon Joe due to my illness); 1 blessing of a civil marriage
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 95 -year end 2021 (91 median)
3. Led service at The Village at Penn State, 12/15
4. Completed Taize services, 12/15
5. Blue Christmas service, 12/21
6. I was exposed to COVID in the week before Christmas. Though I tested negative the morning of Christmas Eve, I knew it wasn't a good idea to lead services that evening. The Rev. Eileen Weglarz covered both services. I gave her a \$50 bonus for jumping in at the last minute for a major feast celebration. I did develop symptoms the next day and tested positive a few days later. By the end of the week—New Year's Eve—I felt fine. Since my vacation week ended up being sick leave, I intend to take a week off next month. Eileen did supply again on 1/2, which was the original plan for my week off.
7. I was going to do the burial of Natalie Urban during my week off but had to ask Joe DeLauter to cover that for me.
8. COVID/Omicron: The bishop's task force met on January 10. The only change to the mitigation recommendations was the addition the two recommendations: asking clergy to test every week before the principal service, and not leading worship if the clergy person has been exposed (4 days) regardless of test outcome. The diocese is purchasing a bunch of at-home tests and will give them to parishes that want them. We made one change to the 10:00 service. We dropped singing two parts of the service—Gloria and Psalm. They will now be said.
9. Gwen Catchen is still on schedule to have her hip replaced next Monday. They will do it as outpatient surgery. She has arranged for a supply organist for four weeks, which is what she was told would be her recovery time.
10. Curate Update: You may recall that I interviewed a potential curate named Jen Trenary back in September. She recently contacted me. She still hasn't made up her mind about where she will do her curacy. We are still in the running. I've put together numbers so we can see what all of the expenses would be for her if she came here. Our Curate Endowment easily covers a year, and could be extended a few more months. We are discussing adding a premium to the compensation package to make it more attractive to her to drive the 240 mile round trip to work here. I also found her an affordable place to stay a few overnights per week. Conversation continues. I will bring it to you if we need to make a decision and put together an offer. It may be as late as this spring or even the summer before she is ready to start.
11. Ongoing: Diocesan Disciplinary Review Board; bimonthly Clergy Council Meetings with the bishop; bimonthly local ecumenical/interfaith leaders meetings; monthly meeting of downtown pastors; monthly spiritual direction; serving on bishop's Task Force for Operations (related to COVID response)
12. Upcoming: Community Café Board Annual Meeting, 1/13; Bishop Scanlan coming to 5:00 service, 1/16; Annual Parish Meeting, 1/30 after 10:00 service, in-person & on Zoom