

St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting Minutes
Sept. 12, 2023

Members Present: Fr. Jeff Packard, Tom Hall, Fran Stevenson, Sandy Schwartz, Kathy Dittmann, Sarah Klinetob-Lowe, Carolyn Donaldson, Amy Pritchett, Rich Marini, Daniel Foster
Online-Paul Hochreiter

Members Absent: Barb Downs, Julie Breuninger

Officers Present: Julie Kwasnica

Guests: Kevin Lowe, Julia Lowe

Clerk: Beth Jones

Call to Order: 7:01PM

I. **Opening prayer** - Fr. Jeff

II. **Minutes** - Minutes from the July vestry meeting stand as approved.

In order to accommodate the vestry guests, the agenda has been reordered.

VI. **New Business:**

A. Vestry interview with Kevin Lowe in discernment for deaconate

- Kevin gave the vestry a short summary of what his past four years have been like on his way to the priesthood.
- He has been doing a 1-year, non-residential internship at St. John's in Bellefonte under Father Carlos, who is now at another parish. He has helped with adult formation classes, has done preaching and is now working pastorally upon Fr. Carlos' departure. He would like to stay there one more year.
- For his clinical chaplaincy, Kevin spent his Spring semester at the Atrium at the Penn State Village spending time with residents and assisting in worship services.
- In June, Kevin attended the Preaching Excellence Program in Richmond, Virginia with seminarians from across the US and Canada. He was very enthusiastic about this conference.
- All this while taking a full load of courses online.
- He still has a liturgy practicum to finish.
- **Motion to certify Kevin: we the vestry of St. Andrew's, after due inquiry, are assured and believe that Kevin is worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons. Motion: Kathy, 2nd -Tom.** Passed unanimously, no dissensions, one abstention.
- CONGRATULATIONS!!!! Kevin

III. **Reports:**

- A. **Rector's report** - 1) Fr. Jeff put out a letter asking for donations for the retirement of Deacon Joe.
2) Interview for nursery coordinator on Sept. 13.
3) Kistler building - no new action on selling. St. Andrew's has decided to hold onto this investment.
4) Recruiting lay Eucharistic ministers.
5) Community Cafe was awarded a \$50000.00 grant from the State (EPA); chiefly for food reclamation. We spend the money and then the State reimburses us. First phase of grant is for electrical upgrades; second phase for equipment. Lots of discussion around this.
6) On Oct. 29, the Evangelism and Newcomers Committee will host a newcomers coffee hour, mixing time.
- B. **Assistant Rector's report** - Fr. Ted sent his report to the vestry in an email. (1) Episcopal at Penn State was represented at a university-wide activities fair. (2) The group has met 3 times and each time has welcomed new members. Much more in his report.
- C. **Senior warden's report** - Report is in the Google Drive. Tom asked that all vestry members make a financial pledge to the Vandersall fund to demonstrate the vestry's unanimous and enthusiastic commitment to this undertaking.
- D. **Junior Warden's report**- No report this month. Julie leads the charge for enlisting new vestry members. Any thoughts would be welcome. She would like all three services represented on the vestry.
- E. **Treasurer's report** - (1) July's income was not good, still down on pledges. (2) Really good investment news on last investment report. (3) The Finance Committee recommends that the cost for Vandersall Collective consulting be taken from Fund Extraordinary. (4) Trinity House rent is in the positive. (5) There is still a small amount owed for the AV equipment. (6) Income/Expense report, Savings report and last Investment report are in the Google drive.
- F. **Committees and other ministries:**
- **Parish Life** - Kathy Dittmann reported that (1) Food for the Soul launched and 57 people signed up for outings. Hoping to have pictures from each outing. (2) Something is planned for each month. (3) Would like a dedicated space for storing their stuff. (4) Suggested daytime activities for those who don't want to drive at night. (5) Reception for Deacon Joe on Oct. 8.
 - **Stewardship** - Rich Marini (and Michele) attended an Episcopal convention in Baltimore entitled It's All About Love. Three workshops: Creation Care, Racial Reconciliation and Evangelism. Rich was very impressed with an 18-year old who spoke on climate change. It's online; Carolyn sent us all a link.

- **Community Cafe** - Amy reported that the PSU dining halls are now bringing MRE's to Community Cafe and staying to hand them out to guests.

VI. **New Business (continued):** (1) January 28 is the proposed date for the annual meeting. Just the way it was done this year, right after church on Sunday. **Motion to hold annual parish meeting as stated above: Fran, 2nd - Amy.** Approved unanimously.
(2) Set the date for the vestry retreat with the Vandersall Collective, proposed - February 24.

VII. **Closing Prayer and Benediction:** at 8:40 pm the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Fr. Jeff.

VIII. The next vestry meeting will be on Oct. 10 in room 324 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Beth Jones.