Minutes

St. Andrew’s Vestry Meeting

June 15, 2021

Wardens and Vestry present: David Blanchard, Christine Benken, Sally Pearce, Rachel Zoller, Cindy Freese, Edie Vaughan, Marilyn Cheney, Seth Stewart, Lili Pugh, Ed Ross

Absent: Priscilla Glendinning

Rector: Suzannah Rohman

Also present: John Ward

1. Opening
2. Reports and Action Items
   1. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2021 – approved.
   2. Property Committee – Christine Benken
      1. One side of the church has been painted as planned.
      2. A complete report of work that needs to be done should be completed by the end of summer. At present, the committee is working on getting estimates.
      3. The committee is thinking about hiring an outside professional to do a review of work to be done. The purpose of such a review would be to doublecheck the work of the committee and ensure that nothing is missed. Estimates for such an inspection are being sought. Both the Vestry and the Finance Committee strongly support hiring a professional to do an assessment.
   3. Treasurer’s Report and Easement Request – Ed Ross
      1. Ed submitted the following report:
         1. As of May 31, operating revenues exceeded operating expenses by $63,402. Excluding the $48,674 of PPP loan forgiveness included in revenue, the excess over expenses is $14,728. The pro-rata budget for the first five months does not include the loan forgiveness and has an operating deficit of $12,742. The positive variance from budget is $27,470.
         2. expenses through May total $139,414, $29,661 less than budget.



* + - 1. The budget for 2021 has an excess of operating expenses over operating revenues of $30,581, an improvement from the 2019 budgeted operating deficit of $53,055. The challenge for 2022 is to continue the reduction in the operating deficit.
      2. St. Andrew’s has $385,000 in cash and short-term investments. Some of these funds might be transferred to the long-term investment account.
    1. Ed plans to share a more detailed six-month statement at the July meeting.
    2. Easement – Ed clarified the request and the Vestry present voted unanimously to approve it. In further discussion, a suggestion was made to put up signs that identify the parking spaces as the property of St. Andrew’s.

1. New Business
   1. Stewardship – John Ward
      1. John presented a vision of the Stewardship Committee going forward and expressed his willingness to stay on the committee for another year. He seeks vestry participation, recommendations, and 4 or 5 new people on the committee.
      2. During a discussion of stewardship, the following thoughts were shared:
         1. Different people respond to different challenges
         2. Discussions about budget need to be had, but not initiated by the Stewardship Committee.
         3. Share “aha” moments of why people pledge – people telling their stories – “mission moments”
         4. Why does St. Andrew’s matter to you?
         5. How has the church informed what you do?
         6. Should Suzannah know what people pledge? At present, she does not. In other churches, she has.
2. Old Business
   1. Christian Formation – Suzannah Rohman – no update
   2. Communications and Technology Update – Suzannah Rohman
      1. The group is working on getting zoom set up in the Undercroft. It will be a permanent installation with a mounted camera. The goal is for it to be as close to using zoom at home as possible.
      2. The group will not meet again until September.
   3. Reopening – Suzannah Rohman
      1. Singing
         1. Suzannah attended a clergy zoom with Dr. Shah (Maine CDC). When asked about the safety of singing, he responded that it depends upon the makeup of the group. If unvaccinated people without masks are singing, it is not safe inside.
         2. The choir wants to sing. If all will show a vaccination card, they could sing inside.
         3. Outside, we can all sing with the choir.
      2. Communion
         1. The host presents no risk.
         2. The risks of wine are not known. In order to reduce risk, the plan is to purchase a tray and cups into which individual portions of wine can be poured.
      3. Inside/Outside
         1. Before all are able to be vaccinated (primarily children), we can’t go inside and sing. So, we will stay outside for the kids.
      4. Coffee Hour
         1. Outside is safer than inside.
         2. Food can be presented in individual portions and drinks kept simple.
         3. Ann will check interest to host coffee hour after the 10:00 am service.
      5. Outside groups - Ann will get in touch with groups that have used St. Andrew’s meeting space in the past. The first priority is essential groups such as 12-step groups.
3. Expressions of Gratitude – none shared.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Freese