Approved Minutes

St. Andrew’s Vestry Meetin

January 15, 2024

Rector, minister of the Gospel, Wardens and Vestry present: Marilyn Cheney, Ben Cooke, Martha Elliott, Laurie Gray, Kirk Holbrook, Kelley Kash, Ruth Piper, Suzannah Rohman, Lili Pugh, Sara Sandberg, Jim Swan, John Ward

Vestry member excused: Terry Marsh

Treasurer present: Mark Freese

Suzannah opened the meeting at 4:30

Opening Prayer/Reflection- “Sara quoted CS Lewis. Special feature was the vestry all singing the Doxology! John Ward will be delivering next month’s opening, his final one as Sr.Warden.”

Property Committee - Jim Swan included the following updates:

Snow Removal - snow removal unsatisfactory in recent storm (1/8/24). J&H needs more direction on where and how to plow . This is a concern. A suggestion of an alternative plow company is Hanley. They plow for the 2nd Congregational church and seem to do a good job. Bob Lundeen offered to research this.

Memorial. Garden - It was reported that retail plant stores could provide a plan for plantings in the garden but thre was not a lot of confindence that it would be what we need. Sally Pearce will check with Sophia (who made a presentation to the committee) to update on what her full plan would entail.

Tree Removal - Jim and Margaret Coit will draft a letter to the two neighbors to the south (Sprouls Furniture and Chip Hughes) to document the sharing of costs for the cutting of the two maples.

Beetle Treatment - Brad Weigel from Coastal rivers Conservation trust has ordered 1 colony of beetles to treat the infestation on the large hemlock on the north side at a cost of $250. The beetles will be released in the spring and Brad will monitor the project.

Treasurer’s Report- Treasurer Mark Freese summarized the budget and proposals.

Stewardship - We have lost 1/3 of our pledging units since 2012. Some of our younger members are beginning to pledge. Ben noted that technology helps and encourages exploration.”

Parish Needs Discernment Committee - Parish Meeting in March will be an introduction into what “discernment” entails. Kelley Kash spoke to the music question, if all members of Congregations are in agreement regarding using at all services? Martha, in absentia, expressed her thoughts about having music return to all services. Susannah explained the budget constraints concerning music at 8.

Budget approval - Kelley Kash moved to approve the budget as presented. Discussion continued and the budget was unanimously approved as proposed. John further explained the process whereby the decisions are made, and Susannah re-iterated how the projections for the coming year are obtained.

Earthkeepers - Earthkeepers, led by Lili Pugh, are working with Hannaford to team up with the “Clink” bottle return plan. Lili will also be leading a book discussion group of “Church of the Wild”.

Nominating Committee: Meeting Sunday Jan. 28th to discuss potential vestry candidates. Sarah Sandburg will be our new Senior Warden.

Parking lot signage: Continuing information to be continued…

New Business - Haiti Fund: John Ward reported that Frazier Meade has requested direct deposit to Haiti for all funds. Motion was voted on and approved.

Brett Dunham has requested that St. Andrew’s designate monetary offerings (checks, too) on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Palm Sunday be sent to The Church of the Holy Land. John Ward made the motion, Lili seconded,and the vestry unanimously approved.

Suzannah explained an offer for a matching grant for music at the 8 a.m. service. John has responded with a letter to clarify our position at this time.

Rector’s Medical Leave: During Suzannah’s medical leave Byron Stuhlman and Ben Cooke will be sharing clerical duties. She will return in time for Holy Week and Easter services,

John Ward reminded us to reflect on the Advent and Christmas seasons we have recently observed at St. Andrew’s.

Suzannah explained an upcoming (2025) sabbatical grant.

Note- Approval of the December Vestry meeting was postponed until next month.

Other: Is there a need for an Outreach Committee reboot?

Expressions of Gratitude: from Ben Cooke on his Ordination as Deacon

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Adjournment- 6:35 PM Respectfully submitted, Ruth Piper