Minutes

St. Andrew’s Vestry Meeting

March 16, 2021

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

Absent: Sally Pearce

Rector: Suzannah Rohman

Also present: Michael Ambler

1. Mutual Ministry Review – Michael Ambler led the Vestry in a discussion of gifts and losses during the pandemic.
   1. What have we gained that we don’t want to lose?
      1. Digital ability - we were forced to use zoom and that had many positive aspects
         1. one example is that people not in the area can be part of committees, maintain connections and participation
         2. good for those who can’t drive or travel
      2. Listening better
         1. some of us reported getting to know people better during zoom coffee hour
         2. have to wait for someone to finish before speaking
      3. New and deeper connections
         1. Knitting together quietly on zoom
         2. Getting to know new people on coffee hour
         3. Getting to know people differently
         4. Intention – wanting to be together
      4. More programming – continued what we had and added more (compline, coffee hour, poetry)
      5. Young people’s connection to the diocese – new way for them to be involved despite the small size of our congregation.
      6. We learned that physical separation is not a yes/no thing; there is a spectrum. Also, a zoom meeting is a “real” meeting.
   2. What have we lost that we want to recover?
      1. Seeing children in church – Zoom is a primarily adult experience
      2. Suzannah misses preaching to people she can see
      3. Being in the space - kneeling in pews and at the altar
      4. The people we used to see and don’t see now. Will they come back? And, how to remember the people who have been lost in the last year?
      5. Choirs and singing, rehearsals
      6. Participating as a chalicer
      7. Ushering and being greeted by an usher
      8. Baking for coffee hour
      9. Actual communion
      10. One person noted that she is surprised by how little she misses the church – she misses the corporate communion, but the building is just a building
   3. What have we lost that we are glad to leave behind?
      1. Travel time
      2. The division between the two services (8 o’clockers and 10 o’clockers)
      3. Group meals – all of the organization and cooking
      4. Superficiality at large events and coffee hour
      5. The noise in our small spaces during group meals and coffee hour makes it difficult to hear
   4. What do we want to start that we haven’t yet done?
      1. Be better stewards of our time and wish to be together
      2. Connect for conversations with other parishes in the diocese and world
      3. We need to be thoughtful about how to let people know about St. Andrew’s – about our faith and what we offer
      4. Pool resources with other churches to create more critical mass to encourage faith
      5. Foyer groups – one of the most enjoyable activities outside of worship – feeling of family – maybe we could do other small group activities
      6. Continue shorter meetings
      7. Perhaps the 2 brothers from Beirut could lead other young people to us
      8. Connections with people who are shut-in – continue
      9. Lots of people move to this area in their 50s and 60s. We have a lot to offer to that age
      10. Living Local – what happened to that? Resurrect it?
2. Reports and Action Items
   1. Approval of Minutes of February Meeting – approved
   2. Treasurer’s Report – Ed Ross reported that financial statements received have been in accordance with expectations. He also reported that the diocesan PPP loan was forgiven and, therefore, ours will be as well. We are waiting for formal notification.
3. Old Business
   1. Money for chairs and camera for outside service – Suzannah reported on planning for livestreaming services to be held outside. We need an additional small camera ($100). To save people the effort of bringing their own chairs, we could purchase plastic chairs ($10 each) and set them up (with appropriate spacing) before the service. A motion was made and approved to spend up to $500 for chairs and a camera.
   2. Change in benefits and employment agreements for Director of Choirs and Organist – Ed Ross and Suzannah Rohman introduced the subject to the Vestry. We will be sent a draft for discussion at the April meeting.
   3. Adaptations to worship space for live streaming – Suzannah asked the Vestry to visit the church and be prepared to discuss what changes we are ok with and what we are not. Bill Judd will join the meeting in April.
   4. Reopening – The Vestry discussed feedback on the letter from the Vestry. No change in policy at this time.
4. Expressions of Gratitude
   1. Michael Ambler – Seth will write a note.
   2. Jean Titherington – Members of the Vestry were encouraged to send notes.
   3. Ed Ross – The Vestry thanked him for his work with Sean and Linda.