

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 7 p.m.
Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: Gary Naegel, Mark Auletta, John Armstrong, Steve Domienik, Lucinda Embersits, Kristen Garnett, Cathy Golden, Amanda Hayward, Rebecca Ratstetter

Absent: Art Criddle, Colleen McHugh, Alan Miller.

Guests: Brenda Naegel, Marie-Alford Harkey

1. Opening Prayer (Steve)

2. Check In

3. Believe Out Loud

A presentation about this curriculum was made by Marie Alford-Harkey, the Deputy Director of the Religious Institute, a national multi-faith nonprofit dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education, and justice in faith communities and society. Ms. Alford-Harkey also is the Province 1 Coordinator for Integrity USA and a board member of Integrity Connecticut. She is the Associate for Digital Ministries at Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford.

She started her presentation by asking Vestry members to identify where they thought St. Andrew's was on a six-point continuum that ranged from Rejecting, Tolerant, Accepting, Welcoming, Incorporating and Activist. Most votes placed the congregation on Accepting.

Ms. Alford-Harkey said that Believe Out Loud was a six-part Episcopal congregations process: assess, engage, adopt, register, publicize and continue the work.

The first step – Assess – asks congregations that do not have a history of publicly welcoming and affirming LGBTQ people to prepare for parish-wide discussions. She said that the discussions could be done in cooperation with other area parishes.

Steve said the Vestry would discuss the curriculum at its March meeting.

4. Approval of January Minutes (Louise)

No action. Minutes had not been distributed to members. Vote will be taken at March meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)

Mrs. Golden said there would be no January report because she and church secretary Barbara Gibbons were wrestling with updated software.

She reported that St. Andrew's owes the diocese two months of pledge payments, plus a payment for property and casualty insurance.

John Armstrong moved that the church pay the diocese \$8,762; Lucinda Embersits seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Hayward moved to approve the 2014 parochial report, Mark Auletta seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Brenda Naegel Presentation on Loaves and Fishes

Mrs. Naegel explained that Loaves and Fishes was created to bring meals to parishioners who needed them because of illness or some other reason. Volunteers sign up to bring meals through the Lots of Helping Hands website. She suggested that the program might be expanded to other ministries related to hunger and food-insecurity ministries.

Doing so, she said, would help St. Andrew's rebuild its identity in the community in regard to outreach, attract new people to our church, increase the use of a currently under-utilized online volunteer management platform.

She said two ways in which Loaves and Fishes could be expanded would be through the creation of a community garden at Bauer Farm to grow food for donation, and through participation in the New Haven area's Community Plates food rescue organization. Under the Helping Hands program volunteers would pick up left-over food donated by area restaurants and grocers and bring it to food kitchens.

7. Update on Ann Sherman Estate

Father Steve reported that St. Andrew's was scheduled to receive a final distribution of \$282,000 - \$284,000 from the Ann Sherman Estate in three or four weeks and it would be up to the vestry on how to use it. He recommended that the money be put directly into specific funds rather than into the operating budget. He suggested the Capital, Building and Outreach funds as possibilities. The Endowment was another possible destination, but he pointed out, taking money out of the endowment was more complicated than taking it out of the other funds.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that \$234,000 would be placed in either the Capital or Building funds – depending on which would provide the most flexibility. Fifty thousand dollars would go into the Outreach Fund.

The motion to do so was made by Cathy Golden, and seconded by Gary Naegel. It was approved unanimously.

8. Report on Serving as a Vestry Member

A Vestry retreat will be held on an upcoming Saturday morning to discuss the responsibilities and norms, and to do some team building. Vestry members will be polled online to determine the best date.

9. Committee Updates

- a. Adult Ed:** No report
- b. Building/ Grounds:** No report
- c. Finance:** No report
- d. Hospitality:** No report
- e. Music:** No report
- f. Outreach:** No report
- g. Pastoral Care:** no report
- h. Stewardship:** no report
- i. Sunday School/Youth Group:** Father Steve reported that a search was underway to find a new director for the Sunday School program, as Jen Below had resigned.
- j. Welcoming:** no report.

10. Old Business – New Business

Transition planning

Father Steve reported that Cannon Tim Hodapp will meet with the vestry at 6:30 p.m. March 26 to discuss the transition process for finding a new priest for this parish. Hodapp will also come to St. Andrew's at a service this spring to preach and to meet with the congregation to discuss the transition.

Because the dates originally considered for Hodapp's Sunday visit coincided with school vacations – and consequently lower than usual attendance – Father Steve said he would get back to him and come up with a more appropriate time.

Spaghetti Supper March 21

Kristin Garnett reported that Brenda Naegel would handle the decoration of Farmer Hall, Margaret Mason would coordinate the auction, David Mikus would be the chef, and Sue

McCann would prepare the brochure. Tickets to the event would be \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Each member of the vestry was asked to donate a wine bottle to the vestry gift basket that will be raffled off.

11. Closing Prayer (Steve)

12. The move to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk