Emmanuel Church

Dublin, NH 03444

(Draft) Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 25, 2024

The 136th Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Church was held in the church sanctuary on Sunday, August 25, 2024 following coffee/ hospitality hour after the conclusion of the 9:00am worship service.

The meeting began at 10:37am with a welcome and call to order by Senior Warden Bill Raymond. Visiting August Priest Rev. Alice Courtwright offered an opening prayer.

In Attendance: (Total: 22)

Bill Raymond (Senior Warden), Yank Brame (Junior Warden), Kathy Miner (Treasurer), Ann Conway (Secretary), and the following members of the Managing Committee:

Ellen Avery (Communications & Website), Cynthia Chace (Altar Guild), Christine Clinton

(Finance Committee Chair), Bob Englund (Organist and Music Director), Anne-Marie Irwin

(Outreach), Amy Manley (Service Ministry), and Rev. Alice Courtwright.

Ted Pearre (Buildings & Grounds), Martha Raymond (Rectory & Coffee Hour Coordinator), and our July Summer Priest-in-charge, Very Rev. Gideon Pollach, were unable to attend.

Members of the congregation present included:

Susie Catlin, Sally Collier, Dita Englund, Laurie Lewis, Phil Miner, Dana Ormerod, Graham Ormerod, Raleigh Ormerod, Deborah Roberts, Jack Sands, and Liz Tong.

It was moved / seconded/ and unanimously approved to dispense with the reading of the (Draft) Minutes of the September 3, 2023 Annual Meeting, which were then unanimously approved as distributed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Kathy Miner presented the Emmanuel Church Approved Budget for 2025 (attached). As is our custom, the Budget was approved by the Managing Committee prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting. There are not many changes from the previous year. 2025 will include expenses /income for ten weeks of worship services.

There was a question regarding our current Capital Campaign “Venerating Emmanuel”, now in its second of three years, and where we stand regarding pledges. Happily, there are only about 7 pledges left to be collected, representing $10,000 - $15, 000 anticipated.

Bill reminded all that it is not too late to make a contribution, or an additional gift to “Venerating Emmanuel.”

Finance Chairman Christine Clinton then presented an Investment Update as of August 25, 2024. (attached) The total Investment Balance is $384,000 representing a gain of $84, 018 this year. The market remains volatile, but Emmanuel’s portfolio continues to do well. In April Christine restructured the portfolio to lower equity allocation, increase bond yields and increase long-term risk-adjusted equity returns. In May $30, 996 was withdrawn to pay for the driveway project.

Both Kathy and Christine were heartily thanked by Bill et al for the tremendous amount of time and effort they put in being Emmanuel’s Treasurer and Finance Chairman.

A question was asked regarding paying for expensive projects (such as the Driveway) on a cash basis as opposed to planning for anticipated major expenses to come through a deferred maintenance fund. Buildings & Grounds Chair Ted Pearre is in the process of creating just such a projected budget for future projects.

An observation was made regarding the LCHIP grant application submitted by Ellen Avery in hopes of getting financial assistance for the now completed roof project. We did not get the grant, but as a condition of the application we did have a building conditions assessment made by a historical architect. This is a good document to have, and Ellen is willing to share it with those interested in reading it.

OUTREACH:

Anne Marie Irwin presented the proposed Emmanuel Church Charitable Outreach budget for 2025. It is exactly the same as for 2024, with one exception. Because Rev. Abby Vanderbrug was not with us this past summer, the Voluntary Seminary Support contribution made to Candler School of Theology in 2024 in her honor will go elsewhere in 2025 – TBD.

There being no further recommendations or questions from the floor, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Charitable Outreach budget as presented.

In addition to modest financial gifts to various organizations, Emmanuel has also resumed making weekly contributions of food to the Peterborough Food Pantry and the “Healthy Snacks for Healthy Kids” program, which serves residents of 11 towns in the Monadnock region.

ALTAR GUILD:

Cynthia Chace and Ann Conway presented a short report. It has been nice working with the Altar Guild of All Saints Church, Peterborough in sharing supplies. We welcome new members to serve in this ministry next summer, as currently the Emmanuel Altar Guild consists of just Cynthia, Bill Raymond, and Ann.

The church will be closed up for the season on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 9:00am. All welcome to come help button up Emmanuel – many hands make light work.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / LANDSCAPING:

Praise and many thanks to Ted Pearre for his faithful and outstanding work – see report attached. Dublin School students continue to perform their community service by helping with grounds work in the fall and spring. The Dublin School’s help with equipment and manpower was invaluable in getting the parking lot and driveway paving project completed.

MINISTRY SCHEDULING / UBER BOARD:

Amy Manley heartily thanked the 37 individual volunteers who performed over 100 hours of service in making our Sunday worship rich and beautiful this summer. The sign up “Uber Board” continues to work well in recruiting people to fill whatever gaps there are in service ministry for current and upcoming weeks. Thanks to Ellen Avery who sent out the “E-Pistle each week reminding the congregation of available opportunities to participate, and who had signed up for what.

MUSIC:

Bob Englund presented the Music Report.

Emmanuel’s 100 year old mechanical organ is well maintained and continues to function well.

Emmanuel has a great relationship with Walden School in residence at the Dublin School during the month of July. Walden’s staff of professional musicians plus their engaging students have once again provided special music for our services. For the Labor Day Weekend service Raffi Popper-Kaiser returned to play his cello.

Bob announced his retirement as Emmanuel’s organist at the end of this season, after 18 plus years of service.

Graham Ormerod, who has been playing portions of our worship services all summer, will take Bob’s place on the bench. Graham will be attending Williams College soon, but will return next summer to play the organ for our 2025 season. Bob (and his wife Dita) will continue to be active members of Emmanuel, and Bob will remain on the managing Committee.

COFFEE HOUR:

Bill Raymond reported for Martha that attempts to SIMPLIFY Coffee Hour / Hospitality seem to be working well. Thanks to Ted Pearre for doing a lot of “heavy lifting” as far as setting up tables, benches, and chairs and other physically demanding tasks which may discourage some from volunteering to host Coffee Hour.

RECTORY:

Bill also gave the Rectory Report for Martha Raymond.

The Rectory is in generally good shape. Having replaced the old fridge, the next appliance to go may be the dishwasher, but it is functional for now.

Depending on the electrical capacity in the Rectory it may be possible to install a couple of window air conditioners for the really sweltering days in July.

The upstairs bathrooms are pretty grim and outdated. The first re-do will be replacing the inadequate sink in the yellow bathroom with a proper vanity and sink combo. Estimates for this work are being gathered.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ellen Avery presented the following Slate of Officers to be re-elected to serve for the upcoming 2025 year:

Senior Warden: Bill Raymond

Junior Warden: Yank Brame

Treasurer: Kathy Miner

Secretary: Ann Conway

The motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE / COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

The website is up and running: Emmanuelchurchdublin.org

The E-Pistle comes out weekly. There are currently 141 names receiving the E-Pistle.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT:

Bill Raymond read the report sent by our July Priest-in-charge Very Rev. Gideon Pollach (see attached). We look forward to having Gideon and his family return next summer for their 11th July with us.

Gideon strongly recommends that Emmanuel use a parish register, not just a register of services, to record all important pastoral rites performed at Emmanuel. Without a parish register Emmanuel has no complete record of the rites that have taken place. Collecting data for all past services may be challenging, but not impossible – a project for the off-season.

2024 SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Bill Raymond presented many highlights of this past summer (see report attached), and his thanks to the Managing Committee and the willing parishioners who care for our beloved Emmanuel Church.

There being no further Old Business or New Business, to transact, the 136th Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Church was adjourned at 11.20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Conway

Secretary

Emmanuel Church 2025

Opening Sunday – June 29,2025

Closing Sunday – August 31, 2025