



St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes of January 22, 2008

Present

MaryLynn Forrest, Chair	Steve Lipkowski	Ivan Mariapen
Christine Ledbury, Secretary	Wayne Matheson	Jim Stirling
Don Davidson	Reta Risto	Brian Tomka
Roberta Finnie	John Ryrie	Margaret Walker
Murray Gamble	John Shaw	Margie Warren

Regrets*

Lilian Cressman	Mary Lipkowski*	Laura Robertson*
Emily Lipkowski*	Sarah Lipkowski*	Jessica Visutski

1. Call to Order

2. Regrets

3. Devotions

John Shaw led devotions with a reading from *To Live and Love* followed by prayer..

4. Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes

The October 27, 2007 minutes were approved as distributed.
Wayne Matheson, seconded Margie Warren. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

John Ryrie handed out a sheet showing rental charges of other churches. He noted that all were different, i.e. in some cases custodial charges were applied if clean-up was needed, others charged for kitchen use. The sheet was given as an example for St. George's to use in the creating of it's own rental charges. Wayne asked that Valerie be supplied with a copy of the template so that she could make a start on inputing St. George's current charges.

6. Committee Reports (Standing Committees)

MaryLynn thanked Council for the cake provided this evening and for all the help she had received from them over her four years as a warden.

a) Executive Committee

Mary Lynn reported that:

- Vestry will be held on January 27 starting at 12:00 noon. A light lunch to be served. Volunteers to make chili and supply cookies needed.
- Committee chairs will report to Vestry as last year.
- A visitor to the church had written a letter to the wardens expressing the fact that he had not been greeted on arriving or leaving the service.
- On December 20, Ken Hull had sent a letter of resignation as Director of Music; the Executive have now accepted this resignation as of April 30. As this is a Human Resources issue, it will be dealt with as an information item at both Council and Vestry meetings.
- John Ryrie is to be appointed as Deputy Rector's Warden.
- Four lay delegates to Synod are required - Margaret Walker and Brian Tomka agreed to fill two of these positions. Two more are required as are three alternate lay delegates.
- The Executive give thanks to Lilian, Roberta and Margie for their time on Council.

b) Finance Committee

The Treasurer went through his budget for 2007 saying that he would only be using the summary pages at Vestry. He said that although the year had been very poor, it had a good finish with donations to capital higher. Total donations were up by \$5,000, which included the \$1,468 remaining from the advance to the Memorial Garden being repaid. Wages were down slightly, as were both church and rectory expenses. We still owe \$2,000 on our commitment to Renison College. Outreach also had a successful year in 2007.

The outstanding debt for 2007 is \$79,212.61 and the outstanding balance (mortgage) for 2007 is \$54,101.92.

c) Budget for 2008

Steve went briefly through his budget for 2008 explaining that there was a 3% increase in stipend over the 2007 actual. Increases also were proposed for the church property expenses, the apportionment has been increased by \$1,300, and GST costs has also increased. Worship expenses have been reduced. The total increase is 3.6% over the actual for 2007 and 5.3% over the 2007 budget.

The Treasurer moved acceptance of the budget, Murray Gamble seconded. Carried.

d) Worship Committee

i) Michael Atkins is putting together pastoral care teams. Members include Margie Warren, John Shaw, Ivan Mariapen, Jane Martin, Mary Shaw and Peg Balfour.

ii) Health Ministry.

Margie Warren reported that the Committee had done many presentations within the parish groups, contacted other parishes regarding their experiences in this area with no responses received, and after much consideration have concluded that at this time there is not a need for this ministry in our parish, but they recommend that future Councils could re-enact this. They are not closing the door at this time.

iii) Christian Education.

The Rector has met with the Sunday School leaders and noted that Barb Heppler is again involved. There will be a Lenten program throughout Lent which will carry on through the 50 days of Easter. The Sunday School is creating their own program for this.

e) Property and Maintenance

Murray Gamble reported to Council that he has the lighting problem in the basement in hand. To correct this problem a new conduit was to be installed as the one under the building had collapsed. He reminded members that the church building is now about 25 years old and things are starting to wear out and need to be replaced. He told Council that it is necessary to budget more for maintenance of the building. Items mentioned were: new carpeting for the altar area; ice damming needs to be addressed on the roof; lighting for washrooms. He also told members that Fisher-Hallman Road is to be widened outside of the church this summer to include a right turn lane to McGarry, and the making of a median to help with traffic turning into the church. This work will involve the moving of the church sign and steps from sidewalk, and also the loss of some of the large trees. Murray is working with the city on this. He would also like to see more members to help on this Committee.

John Ryrie asked about the vent by the back entrance to the building and what its purpose was. The answer was that it is a hot air vent and Mike DuBoulay will see to cleaning it and replacing the filter.

f) Stewardship

i) Communication.

Will move to have the web site sorted out and will be going to high speed. A meeting is to be held on Thursday and will be discussing a 3-5 year fundraising plan. The Committee would like to free up the bank loan.

Contributions to the next issue of the Dragon Flyer are requested by the middle of February. Distribution is before Easter.

g) Outreach

Roberta reported that Outreach had a fantastic year and thanks the parish for all its support. The answer to the question "Would your church be missed" is a resounding "Yes". There will be less activity next year, but the Committee will be working on creative ideas.

i) Habitat for Humanity.

The dates for the actual build are May 26 - July 4, 2008. St. George's will be the group to do the framing of the house. Two fund raisers are planned: February 18 (by Holy Saviour) a meet and greet the Kitchener Rangers hockey players from 7 - 9 p.m., and March 1 at the Albert McCormick Arena, a family skate time.

Anselma House will be selling chocolates again this year which will be for sale in the church on future Sunday mornings. The Committee wants to thank Margaret Walker for all her work arranging the dinner on December 31 at St. John's Kitchen. The Committee will sponsor the same groups as this year: the angel tree, summer camp, etc. The proceeds of the Pancake Supper all go towards the support of the two foster children. Roberta mentioned that she has three people who are interested in joining the Committee. Also, she would like to find a new Chair for the Committee as she is stepping down from this position as of Vestry 2009.

7. Committee Reports (Ad Hoc)

a) History Committee

John Shaw reported that the book is just about done and it is hoped that it will be published by April 27. A charge for the book has not yet been determined.

MaryLynn read a letter from the Library regarding the reading of The Christmas Carol and thanking the church for its support.

8. New Business

- With regard to the contacting of lapsed parishioners, John Shaw said that he had contacted someone who he thought was away.

New Council members for 2008:

John Veeresar, Val Cuthbert, Gerry McGregor, Susan Butt, Judy Proctor, and Nathan Butt as a second youth representative.

World Day of Prayer - March 7

This is an ecumenical day of prayer around the world. The prayers this year have been developed by Guiana with the local service to be held at St. George's. Ivan will provide catering expertise. Volunteers are required.

11. Dates to Remember

- ▶ Executive Meeting – Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room
- ▶ Pancake Supper Tuesday February 5
- ▶ Ash Wednesday services, February 6, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Next Parish Council meeeting, Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Ivan Mariapen, Roberta Finnie, 9:05 p.m.