



# St. George's of Forest Hill

*Parish Council Minutes of January 19, 2010*

***Present***

Jim Stirling, Chair	Nelson Cuthbert	Steve Lipkowski
Christine Ledbury, Secretary	Valerie Cuthbert	Ivan Mariapen
Karen Baker	Don Davidson	Judy Proctor
Susan Butt	Murray Gamble	Reta Risto
Marcia Condon	Jean Horne	John Ryrice
April Couzens-Brown	Laura Lightfoot	Brian Tomka

***Regrets***

Nathan Butt	Terry McCoy	John Shaw
Gladys Grant	Gerry McGregor	

***1. Call to Order***

***2. Regrets***

Please see above.

***3. Devotions***

Jim Stirling led devotions by reading "A Mouse Story" followed with quiet reflection.

***4. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes***

The minutes of the November 24, 2009 minutes were approved as distributed.  
Ivan Mariapen, Susan Butt. Carried.

***5. Committee Reports (Standing Committees)***

a) *Executive*

Jim Stirling reported that the budget for 2010 took up most of the last meeting of the Executive. It was decided that the 10% normally given to Outreach from fund raising will, in 2010, be given to the general budget. Two nominations are still required for Synod representation. And, as the Rector will be away, his charge to the congregation (though written up in the Vestry report) will be given orally to the congregation on the Sunday following the Vestry meeting.

b) *Finance*

Steve Lipkowski explained that his numbers for 2009 were not yet complete, but the numbers given may change for Vestry. He then reviewed the revenue section of the 2009 financial report explaining that the regular donations have now been split into three categories: Regular Donations, Special Targetted Donations (Youth Minister, Communications Coordinator), Capital Campaigns. Regular parishioner donations are down \$2,094.70 and capital down \$10,514.46 over 2008. Fundraising was up \$4,005.40 in 2009 and the Camp broke even as it should. Total revenue for the year is down \$12,211.85 when compared to 2008 and down \$28,670.59 from Budget.

On the expenditure side, wages were up \$9,128.71, rectory expenses were down and church property was under budget. Worship expenditure was up. Stewardship was down about \$2,000 under budget as were office expenditures down about \$1,200 from 2008. Under line 16.b., the

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apportionment has been paid but not the amount owing to Renison. Total expenditures were \$261,765.71, (\$22,719.72 more than in 2008 but lower than Budget by \$2,390.79). Taking into consideration the adjustment for monies already donated for the carpet and the roof, we finished with a net operating deficit of \$14,674.72 - certainly significantly better than the financial position of St. George's in November and prior to Executive's letter/plea of concern to the congregation prior to the Christmas Season. The amount taken over the four Christmas Eve services alone was about \$15,000.

Motion to move acceptance of the financial report for 2009 as presented.  
John Ryrie, Brian Tomka. Carried.

*2010 Budget*

The Executive met and went through the budget looking for areas where cuts could be made for 2010. They proposed repaying half of the \$14,000 deficit in 2010 and the other half in 2011. Staff wages to increase by 1%, but the Diocese has suggested no increases for clergy for the coming year. The Rector has agreed with this. Travel allowance to increase by \$500. The promised pledge amount of \$9,000 is to be allotted for the youth minister (\$6,000) and the communications person (\$3,000). Rectory expenses to be cut by \$1,300, and maintenance for the church property has been lowered to \$30,500. The amortization of the bank loan will be extended for three years, reducing the yearly payments from \$18,000 to \$6,000. Worship and Stewardship have been cut to concur with the level incurred in 2009. Lines 16.a. and 16.b. have been budgeted to be in line with expenses incurred in 2009. There has been a reduction in the Diocesan apportionment, and nothing is planned for Renison in 2010. The total operating budget for 2010 is \$236,500 which the Executive feels addresses the fundamental operating expenses, the goals of our parish and the reasonable revenue which can be realized. The opportunity for parishioner response to targetted campaigns is built in to the plan. Targetted campaigns have realized considerable success at St. George's over the years.

Murray Gamble thought this to be a very responsible budget.

Motion to endorse the draft 2010 budget as presented.  
Murray Gamble, Judy Proctor. Carried.

In discussion, focus on how to get increase in revenue in the future. Judy Proctor thought that if it came to a new sign vs. a new boiler, then the new boiler should take precedence.

c) *Property and Maintenance*

Murray Gamble reported that there were now by-law signs posted in the parking lot. Parking lines are to be repainted in the spring. The boiler gave out again a few weeks ago, and there is a possibility that the furnace in the rectory will need to be replaced in the not too distant future. Murray stated that the 2010 budget is very lean in Property and Maintenance and his team will try their best.

d) *Outreach*

Reta Risto reported that this Committee met last evening. Of the \$4,000 budget for 2010 the Committee plan the following distribution: St. Monica House Chaplaincy \$1,000; Mary's Place \$500; St. John's Kitchen \$1,500, and the refugee family \$500.

e) *Worship*

Nelson reported that at the last meeting, discussion focused on the Christmas services. The 4:00 p.m. service was well received and took only 45 minutes. He gave comparative numbers of

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attendance over the last decade, and the recommendation of the Committee is that the 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. services be combined to be held at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, therefore having only three services, 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. This will be discussed again in the fall of 2010. This suggestion will also be taken to Vestry in February for feedback. The Christmas music was also seen to be excellent and varied.

On February 7, there will be a Family Service and a Scouts parade. People are still needed to work with the 3-4 year olds. Kendra is doing a great job with the youth and identifies well with the teenagers. Fr. Don is away from January 22 to February 5, and Fr. Mario Hryniewicz will be taking the services in his place.

John Ryrie said that a big thank you should be given to Terry McCoy and his family for getting the wonderful Christmas tree again this year.

Jim Stirling has now finished his term as Warden, which leaves an opening for a Warden on Worship. Susan Butt, as the incoming warden, will take Nelson's place on Worship and Nelson will become the Warden on Property and Maintenance. Jim Stirling will remain a member of the Property and Maintenance Committee.

f) *Stewardship* (John Ryrie)

Stewardship met on January 6. Mail slots have been reorganized and name tags have been placed in boxes for parishioners to obtain on entering the church. A seminar on wills and estate planning will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on January 24. Bill Yurkiw will organize the Pancake Supper this year in Marc Mennel's absence. It is thought that the neighbourhood should be invited. There is not much new on the web site, Alison is always looking for new items. They are looking to find a more competitive company to produce the Dragon Flyer. There is no news on the communication position. The 'door knocking' in the Sunrise area brought a few new members. Marc and Wayne are still working on the new signs for the interior of the church.

Marc has asked for direction on what Stewardship might do this year.

John Ryrie handed out a sheet with some ideas he has come up with that might help to promote St. George's. His thought was that something visible could be done to promote the church.

## **6. *New Business***

1. *Coffee Hour*

Council members are encouraged to sign up for a coffee hour. Announcements should be made again at the Sunday services.

2. *Fundraising*

Nelson asked members to bring to the next meeting, inventive ideas for supporting both Stewardship and the Church. The Auction was a big success this year and will likely be an every other year event for continued success. We need to have an alternative to the auction. A garage sale has been thought as a possibility for this. Invite the neighbourhood and have a small charge for a table. We will have a brainstorming session at the next meeting - please do some research into fundraising ideas with your acquaintances and bring those to the February meeting. Laura told Council of a fundraiser that she is attending at St. James' Westminster in London, where she and other students will learn how to make Easter eggs. She invited interested members to attend with her - March 15 and 16, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

3. *Vestry Planning*

Reta had sign up sheets for Vestry and asked members to say what they were prepared to bring, e.g., chili, rolls, desserts (cookies, fruit, etc.). It was suggested that babysitting be made available, with a movie and pizza provided. (Murray offered to pay for the pizza). Kendra Kovats will order the pizza and organize/staff the babysitting while Vestry occurs.

- a) The Rector reported that Laura would like to attend a conference called Fresh Expressions at Wycliffe College on February 2 in his place. The conference deals with how to reach out to those who come into the church with little connection to liturgy and how to help them with transition into the church. Don asked Council if Laura's fee (\$400) could be paid by St. George's as she has no education fund to fall back on. Nelson Cuthbert proposed the following motion and asked Laura if she would make a short presentation at the next meeting of Council and to Stewardship/Worship Committees as followup to her attendance at this conference. Agreed.

Motion: That \$200 be used from Stewardship and \$200 from Worship to support Laura's attendance at the Fresh Expressions Conference on February 2, and to report back to Council at the next meeting.

Judy Proctor, Jean Horne. Carried.

- b) Karen and Laura will attend a meeting for the World Day of Prayer which will be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Highland Road, at 7:00 p.m. on March 5.
- c) Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 17 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- d) Brian Tomka brought Council's attention to the second motion under item 7., in the November minutes regarding the proposed new sign for the front of the church to be in place within two years. He has asked that the sign company, Signs Galore, who provided a lot of information regarding the sign, be informed regarding the status of Council's decision, i.e., the money has not been raised yet. Don will contact the company after Vestry in Brian's absence.
- e) Nelson reported that Jim Stirling is finishing his four year term as Warden, and that Brian Tomka and Terry McCoy are not returning. He wrote the following 'ditty' for them.

January's Parish Council has come to a close  
Giving rise for us to thank those  
Who "are leaving us" as the saying goes.

Terry McCoy, Brian Tomka and Jim Stirling  
Have given of themselves without curling  
Under the pressures of Parish Council when a'swirling.

We thank them truly  
For their heart felt work surely  
To the betterment of St. George's and it's clergy.

So please join me in showing appreciation  
For their commitment and dedication  
It is not for the money or the perspiration  
But for God, God's People and His Inspiration.

Jim Stirling thanked members for all of their support over the past four years.

**7. Old Business**

None.

**8. Correspondence:**

None.

**9. Dates to Remember:**

- Vestry: February 7, 12:30 p.m. after the 10:00 a.m. service (lunch and babysitting provided)
- Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.
  - Devotions :
  - Refreshments:

**Adjournment:** Nelson Cuthbert, Brian Tomka. 9:35 p.m.