



St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes of May 27, 2008

Present

Jim Stirling, Chair	Murray Gamble	Laura Robertson
Christine Ledbury, Secretary	Jean Horne	Reta Risto
Karen Baker	Steve Lipkowski	John Ryrie
Andrea Balfour	Ivan Mariapen	John Shaw
Susan Butt	Gerry McGregor	Brian Tomka
Valerie Cuthbert	Wayne Matheson	Margaret Walker
Don Davidson		

Regrets*

Nathan Butt	Judy Proctor	Jessica Visutski
-------------	--------------	------------------

1. Call to Order

2. Regrets

3. Devotions

Jean Horne led devotions with a reading followed by the General Prayer of Thanksgiving

4. Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.
John Shaw, seconded Ivan Mariapen. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

The suggestion that parishioners be notified monthly of the financial situation. Steve to put something together for next Sunday.

6. Committee Reports

a) Finance

Parishioner donations to budget are up, as are donations to capital. Total donations are up \$1,543, and miscellaneous revenue is up by \$1,330.48 over 2007, giving a total revenue increase of \$3,352 over 2007. Wages, benefits and rectory expenses are on budget, but property expenses are over budget due to repairs etc. Worship is below budget, Stewardship is in line with budget as is miscellaneous. Apportionment is under budget as the diocesan payment has to date not been paid. The current operating deficit is \$13,248, \$1,400 worse than this time last year.

John Ryrie reminded Council of the talk of having a campaign to take care of property expenses, should parishioners be primed for a fall campaign? Let people know where we are. Murray said that the only major expense left is the roof at the front of the church. John Ryrie and Murray Gamble will work on updating the March Vestry handout. Andrea suggested that the debit plan be promoted both in church and the summer newsletter.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report. John Ryrie, Murray Gamble. Carried.

b) Stewardship

The Dragon Flyer will be mailed in mid-June. Margaret Walker will be the correspondent for the Huron Church News. The web site is now live, but will need continuing updates. The editorial committee for the

web site is Fr. Don, Wayne Matheson, Ray Finnie, and Alison Olmstead's father has agreed to be the editor of the web site. Laurie Childs is working on a contemporary service and Fran Rothenberg is looking at updating the database

c) Executive Committee

Fr. Michael Atkins will be inducted into his new parish on Sunday, June 15. The installation of the new Chancellor for Renison College will take place at St. George's at 3:00 p.m. on September 14. Carol Lodin will be away May 31 to June 7. Bishop Bob Bennett will be at the Habitat Cherry Street site on Sunday June 8 for the greeting of volunteer workers. The Little Dragon Day Camp is currently running short by \$16,000. There will be a potluck lunch for Ken Hull after the 10:00 a.m. service on June 15, and T-Shirt Sunday will be June 22. June 29 will be the first Sunday where there will be only one service held at 9:00 a.m. These services will alternate between BAS and BCP services.

d) Worship

Items have been covered under the Executive report.

e) Property and Maintenance

Murray reported that work starts on Fisher-Hallman Road in two weeks. The power will be shut off for six hours at some point to be determined, and not two days as originally informed. New trees will be provided to replace those mature trees that will be removed during the road widening. The railing ordeal is over. The only outstanding major work is the front roof, some electrical work, the washrooms, and the carpet at the altar. Fr. Don to ask Valerie to contact people having weddings during the summer months explaining the road works, and a notice should be put in the bulletin to remind parishioners of the work and giving alternatives to access the church parking.

f) Outreach

Reta reviewed a letter from MaryLynn Forrest regarding the Day Camp. MaryLynn has approach local companies asking for bursaries. She needs about \$30,000 in total to run the camp, and currently has about \$10,000. Bursary requests are now coming in and she is asking for support from the parish and Council. MaryLynn will speak to the congregation on a future Sunday.

7. **Committee Reports** (Ad Hoc)

a) History Committee

Laura reported that the Committee had met on April 26, and will meet again on June 14. Committee members have received a copy of the written book. Pictures are being coordinated with a DVD. The goal date for distribution is September 7.

8. **New Business**

a) Parish Check-up Report

Murray reviewed the handout of the May 2 visionary meeting written by John Ryrie and highlighting some of the goals that emerged from this meeting, e.g., bringing in new young families, reaching out to the neighbours. The hope is to have a working group together by September consisting of a small group of dedicated people. The following two motions were presented as drafts to Council for discussion:

- 1) Be it resolved that, as a follow-up to the May 2nd discussions, Parish Council approve the establishment of a St. George's Growth Steering Committee [Working Group] with a mandate to
 - a) Identify existing parish initiatives that are contributing to the expansion of St. George's congregation
 - b) solicit and encourage additional strategies for expanding the congregation, both within our existing committee structure and possibly outside current initiatives
 - c) recommend to the Executive and Parish Council the allocation of resources, including (notwithstanding the budget approved at Vestry in January 2008) possible financial resources, to achieve a sustained growth of the congregation

- d) encourage and facilitate any practical ideas that may encourage the growth of the congregation
 - e) liaise with Executive, Parish Council and existing church committees to keep St. George's parishioners informed of the growth initiatives
 - f) provide a report in September 2008 to the Executive, Parish Council, and the congregation at large that identifies a) the growth strategies in place for the upcoming twelve months, and b) those growth strategies and initiatives that need leadership, volunteers, and/or resources
 - g) meet as often as required to accomplish its mandate.
- 2) Be it resolved that the St. George's Parish Growth Steering Committee have a membership of approximately 6 - 10 parishioners and, minimally consist of – the Rector, at least two wardens, the chairs (or designates) of the four church committees, a Sunday School leader, Ray Finnie, any additional members of the parish who are keen to participate and take an active part in the committee's work.

It is recognized that these two motions should come back to Council for approval.

After discussion, it was moved that

Motion 1 be accepted as read. John Ryrie, John Shaw. All in favour. Carried.

After discussion it was moved that

Motion 2 be accepted with the following changes, 6 - 10 parishioners to read 6 - 12 parishioners, and the word "minimally" be changed to "may". Margaret Walker, Gerry McGregor. Carried.

b) Year-end Meeting

The last meeting before the summer will be June 24 with a BBQ, including spouses. The wardens will provide meat, members were asked to sign up for salads or desserts. Start time 6:30 .m.

c) Long Range Planning

Calendars of church events are now on the web site and in the Narthex. In thinking about long term planning it was suggested that the auction, which has not been held for a couple of years, was a good source of revenue. In discussion it was decided that there should be an auction held and as February seems to have been the best time in the past, the suggested date is February 21, 2009. Andrea said that Sheila Mackenzie, who organized the last auction, would have very good notes to pass to the next organizer.

Committee chairs should be asked to forward dates of events for the coming year, e.g. bazaar, turkey supper.

d) Choir Director

Jim Stirling drew Council's attention to the handout reporting on the May 20 meeting held to discuss the position of a new Choir Director. John Ryrie outline and explained the reasoning behind the suggestions/decisions recorded at the meeting. He highlighted item 7., which was the tabling of the context of a contract, and item 8., which covered the identification and review of the communities of interest. He drew attention to P.4, which is a reflection of views from the congregation. Under item 10, Carol King has agreed to draft an advertisement and will provide it to the Executive. The hope is to advertise in June and look at possible applications in September.

In the section Music Director - Role and Responsibilities - John Ryrie moved, seconded by Brian Tomka that "Sunday School leaders" be changed to read "Church Youth leaders". Carried.

Six draft motions were written for debate and discussion at Council. Minor changes were made to motions 2), 3), 5) and 6), as follows:

Motion 2) – change \$500 to \$1,000

Motion 3) – to read “the Rector and Wardens”

Motion 5) – to read prior to July 31

Motion 6) – change the word “authorize” to “recommend” and insert 12 - 24 months and 2010 in the spaces for contract term initially to end.

Moved that:

Motion 1) – be approved as amended.

John Ryrie, Brian Tomka. Carried.

Motion 2) – be approved as amended.

Margaret Walker, Brian Tomka. Carried

Motion 3) – be approved as amended.

Brian Tomka, Valerie Cuthbert. Carried.

Motion 4) – be approved as read.

Margaret Walker, Susan Butt. Carried

Motion 5) – be approved as amended.

Gerry McGregor, Jean Horne. Carried.

Motion 6) – be approved, as amended, and depending on the date of hiring.

Margaret Walker, Andrea Balfour. Carried.

9. Old Business

Brian Tomka asked what had happened to the Prime Timers group. The last event for this group was a 50's/60's evening. Jim and Cheryl Fox and Emily and Bob Berti have been the main organizers for several years and would like to have others participate in organizing events.

10. Dates to Remember

- ▶ Executive Meeting – Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room
- ▶ Next Parish Council meeting – BBQ, Tuesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: 9:45 p.m.