



St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes of November 25, 2008

Present

Wayne Matheson, Chair	Murray Gamble	John Shaw
Christine Ledbury, Secretary	Jean Horne	Jim Stirling
Karen Baker	Steve Lipkowski	Brian Tomka
Susan Butt	Gerry McGregor	Margaret Walker
Don Davidson		

Regrets*

Andrea Balfour	Ivan Mariapen	Laura Robertson
Nathan Butt	Judy Proctor	John Ryrie
Valerie Cuthbert	Reta Risto	Jessica Visutski

1. Call to Order

2. Regrets

3. Devotions

Devotions were led by Karen Baker followed with prayers by Fr. Don.

4. Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 28, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.
Murray Gamble, seconded Karen Baker. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Ten spaces are being reserved for the Magnetic Church Seminar to be held on April 24 and 25 at All Saints' Church in Waterloo.

6. Stewardship Committee

This Committee is actively recruiting new members. They report that services can now be recorded, and an e-mail list is being compiled for those who wish to receive a third way of receiving information through the 2008 campaign. The Parents and Tots program has been discontinued. Ruth Pearce continues to run the Newcomers program. It is important to make a point of welcoming new people to the church. There is also a need for chairpersons for a number of committees.

7. Standing Committee Reports

a) Executive

There has been a request from the Diocese for money gifts to purchase new raimants for the Bishop. The Ontario Government has brought in a mandate that all buildings should have handicap accessibility by the year 2020. The Property and Maintenance Committee plan to put money aside for this. St. Georges' will have to change the walkway along the parking lot side of the church to make it wider and more accessible, and automatic operated doors will need to be installed.

b) Finance

Steve Lipkowski reported to the end of October, parish donations were up over last year by about \$9400. Capital donations were down a little, as was fundraising. Miscellaneous revenue was also up a little.

On the expenditure side, church property expenses are up a little, as are miscellaneous expenses. Worship is down. Overall, we see the same pattern as all year, a deficit of \$17,000 vs. \$19,000 last year.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: John Shaw, seconded Brian Tomka. Carried.

c) Worship

Fr. Don reported that beginning this coming Sunday, the 10:00 a.m. service will be trying an abbreviated bulletin for the service and going back to using the prayer books. Fr. Don and Nelson Cuthbert met with the Diocese regarding the youth ministry position and Nelson has drafted a job description for this position. The contemporary worship was discussed and a group is going to see the Westminster program in London. A set of Sanctus bells has been given to St. George's. They will be used on high and holy days. A suggestion has been made that Valerie give readers a reminder call the week before the bulletin is produced.

d) Property and Maintenance

Murray reported that the roof work will be done when there are two days of dry weather. They are trying to prioritize the Fix-Up 2008 jobs, with the sanctuary carpet and air duct work possibly being the first to be fixed. Significant jobs will be put off until the 2009 budget.

e) Outreach

This committee will meet next week.

8. New Business

a) Music Director

The new music director has signed a contract from November 1, 2008 to August 2010. Annual performance reviews will be conducted. He will be entitled to be absent for three services and three practices and five Sundays during July and August. Appreciation was given to both Jim Stirling and John Ryrie for their time and input in the search for our new music director.

b) Warden's Term

The suggestion that the term of wardens be reduced from four to two years will be put on the floor at Vestry in 2009. This move may make it more appealing to new or previous wardens.

c) Strategic Planning

The question "Do we need a committee to sit regularly after Easter next year to follow through for the next eight to ten years?" was asked. This falls under the jurisdiction of the Executive. Margaret Walker suggested that Chairs come to Council meetings to review their plans for future years, to review future goals and re-evaluate after a set period of time. The Strategic Planning group would become the starting point. Murray stated that it is really important to look at the future on a regular basis, that a check up every couple of years would be necessary. There must be a regular way of checking with parishioners put in place. A clear process should be devised to reach out to the general congregation. Council members should be involved, play key roles. John Shaw stated that evangelizing today should be more soft and is the responsibility of all, and we should focus more on this.

9. Old Business

Parish Council Dinner will be Friday, December 5, 6:00 for 6:30 p.m. dinner.

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10. Correspondence

The Diocese is asking for interest from parishes to support a Christian refugee family relocating to the K-W area. Money would be provided from the Diocese for this, parish support would be required to help with finding doctors, English language education, etc. The family in question is a mother and adult daughter from Kabul in Afghanistan. The Refugee Committee could come and talk about this. Would St. George's interested in this project?

Andrea Balfour has submitted her resignation on Parish Council, effective immediately. Wayne to respond.

11. Dates to Remember

- ▶ Parish Council Pot Luck, December 5.
- ▶ Next Council meeting: January 20, the third Tuesday of the month. The budget for 2009 will be discussed.
- ▶ Vestry meeting: January 25, 2009

Motion to adjourn: 8:55 p.m.