**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for May 24, 2016**

***Present:***

Mike Stredwick, Chair John Ryrie Cn. Don Davidson

John Dale, Secretary Mary Ann Millar Wendy Williston

Murray Gamble Mary Shaw MaryLynn Forrest

Charlotte Cromarty Vivian Harris Nelson Cuthbert

Lesley Burland-Prong Reta Risto Valerie Cuthbert

Matt Brown Anne Taylor Lynne Skanes-Bannon

***Regrets***: Terry McCoy, Connie McCoy, April Couzens

***Absent***: Cheryl Fox

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.35 p.m., by Mike Stredwick. **Devotions:** Mike Stredwick.

**2, 3. Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Mary Ann Millar requested that the reference the Games Night be dropped from Agenda item 8(e). **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the May 24th, 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mary Ann Millar. **Carried**.

**4, 5. Reading and Acceptance of the April 26, 2016 Minutes:** **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the April 26th, 2016 meeting as distributed: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty. **Carried**.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**a)** **Livestream Team and Training**. Cn. Davidson said that at least two people (Reta, Brett) had volunteered for the team and that training will start next week. He added that the livestream connection for the Sunday broadcast needs to be established on Saturday night in order to avoid bandwidth restrictions on Sunday morning. Lesley Burland-Prong pointed out that inconsequential chatter was often audible during the broadcasts. It was decided to put a notice on the camera warning people in nearby pews to keep chatter to a minimum. Cn. Davidson confirmed that the livestream equipment belongs to St. George’s

**b) Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee Donation of $1000 from St. George’s.** John Ryrie confirmed that this donation had been received.

**c) Lawn-Cutting Volunteers for the summer**. John Shaw is cutting the grass more frequently to minimize raking. John Ryrie and Wendy Williston will mow the lawns when John cannot.

**d) Progress on New Sign and Memorial Monument**. Nelson Cuthbert reported that there has been no meeting of the Sign Committee.

**e) Rectory Decorating and Repairs**. Charlotte Cromarty indicated that there will be a meeting of the Property Committee in June at which a timetable for these will be established.

**7. Cn. Don’s Report:**

Cn. Davidson said that Bishop Linda will be informally visiting the Waterloo Deanery on June 22nd for a familiarization visit. In order to keep the meeting small and manageable only Wardens and Delegates to Synod are invited.

**8. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented the financial statement as of the end of April 2016. The Revenue/Expense ratio remains better than budget, but this is mainly due to the delaying of major maintenance expenses and some unexpected fund-raising income. Parishioner donation fell disturbingly during April, being only $1000 under budget at the beginning of the month, but $4000 under budget at the end. Anne put a notice in the bulletin encouraging parishioners to remember promised donations. At John Ryrie’s request, Anne agreed to transfer a further $500 to the Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee. **Motion** to accept the April financial statement as presented: Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Vivian Harris. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto reported the Committee is now concentrating on fall events. Charlotte Cromarty reported that the recent ‘Elvis’ concert was a great success and raised $1763, to be split 50/50 between Camp and CLAY. Valerie Cuthbert added that she has not received the normally-expected call from Habitat for Humanity to provide lunch for ‘Build’ volunteers in the summer. She received agreement in advance to provide lunch if a request arrives.

**c) Property.** The next meeting of the property Committee is June 16th.Nelson Cuthbert agreed to undertake the replacement of the outside faucet near the front church entrance. This is currently in an almost unusable state.

**d) Worship.** Wendy Williston reported that the next meeting of the committee will be June 7th. Cn. Davidson added that Rob Azmies will be providing the music for the upcoming church picnic and that he will undertake to provide the sound system. Invitees from other Kitchener churches now understand that they need to bring their own food and lawn chairs.

**e) Atmosphere**. Mary Ann Millar said that the Car Rally was a success. The Food truck event on Saturday 28th has been advertised on the radio and on Facebook (three thousand responses). Murray Gamble advised that the trucks should not be allowed to park on the grass if there is heavy rain. It was agreed that, in the event of significant rain, the trucks would be directed to park on the edge of the tarmac and people could then line up on the grass.

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. Valerie and Nelson Cuthbert showed PC the Bristol Board poster which is on display in the narthex on an ongoing basis. It carries information on various groups (such as the Garden Guild) that are active at St. George’s and for which parishioners can volunteer. Upcoming events are also featured. Groups are invited to provide information for the board.

**g) Memorial Garden Committee.** John Ryrie reported that the notices required by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario have been erected and will be taken down after a month in place. A further report to the Authority demonstrating our compliance with its requests will be made at this time.

**9. Old Business:**

**a) Syrian Refugees.** John Ryrie said that the third family of refugees has been sponsored. It is hoped that they will arrive in August, since that is when housing for them becomes available. Their arrival has been delayed by the Federal Government’s slowdown of refugee arrivals. Since some Government-sponsored refugees have now been accepted in place of BVOR refugees, there may be more money available to the Deanery Committee than expected. There will be another meeting of the Committee very soon. The first family accepted and settled are doing very well, but there have been some bureaucratic glitches in the areas of kindergarten enrolment and driving license validation.

**b) CLAY.**  Cn. Davidson informed PC that, after the monies from the breakfast and the ‘Elvis’ concert, approximately $3000 remains to be raised for the CLAY attendees. There is one more fundraiser to come, and some individuals have promised further help. He remains confident that all necessary funds will be forthcoming.

**10. New Business.**

**a) Camp Little Dragon.** MaryLynn Forrestsaid that the first meeting with camp staff is coming up shortly. $5400 has beenreceived through a Government grant, $2500 from the Optimists (raised at the Spaghetti Supper), and $2250 from MayCourt. That brings the total camp funding available so far to about $25,000, with about $10,000 left to raise. It may be that it will be necessary to use the Camp Stabilization Fund this year. So far not many registrations have been received, but this is a common pattern, and does not necessarily indicate the ultimate success or failure of camp. Cn. Davidson added that if anyone had pictures from camp last year (not showing campers’ faces) would they email them to him for use on the website as camp publicity.

**b) Messy Church**. Valerie Cuthbert reported that the last Messy Church had been a great success. Only 4 families had signed up, but many more turned up on the day—only 16 people expected, but an extra 21 came. It has been decided that 3 messy church events per year is the appropriate frequency. Anne Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Valerie Cuthbert for her efforts in connection with these events. Lesley Burland-Prong brought up the fact that administration of the church Facebook page was one of the many tasks that needed to be filled when Cn. Davidson left—she volunteered to do this one herself. In this context it was noted that someone must be sought to replace Cn. Davidson as Chapter Contact for FaithLife—their periodic $500 donations are important to us. Cn. Davidson agreed to find someone to replace himself. Anne Taylor and Nelson Cuthbert asked Cn. Davidson to further provide a list of all such positions he holds so that steps may be taken to replace him in all cases.

**c) Bus Trip to Kingston to see Cn. Davidson Installed in St. George’s Cathedral on Sunday October 16th**. Mike Stredwick indicated that 45 people have now signed up for this trip, necessitating a large bus. Cost per participant will be $50. He will provide an entry to the bulletin to this effect.

**d) Evangelism Course**. Reta Risto and Matt Brown provided details of an Evangelism course they have recently completed with Bill Harrison. The core of evangelism is to “proclaim the good news of God” by gently making one’s faith orientation explicit in all one does. This applies to the outreach activities of St. George’s and in future a tactful reminder of the fact that St. George’s in its roles of organizer and donor will be visible at such activities as the Clothing Closets and the sock donations. Murray Gamble pointed out that the new signs will provide an opportunity to promote the outreach activities of St. George’s and draw attention to the fact that we are a positive force in the community.

**e) Turkey Supper**. Tuesday October 4th was settled on as the best date for this event. Valerie Cuthbert is unable to organize it this year, and she was asked to provide a breakdown of required duties so that a request may be made in the bulletin for a replacement(s) to head up this event. It was felt that a group of parishioners may be able to undertake the task jointly.

**f) Advance Planning of Events and Calendar**. There was much discussion about the pressing need to organize interim clergy for the fall. Mary Ann Millar indicated that this was the responsibility of the wardens, but there is also a need for guidance from Archdeacon Townsend, which has not been forthcoming so far. She will be re-contacting him urgently. A need for all parties to be kept in the loop (as far as is possible given confidentiality constraints) was expressed. Cn. Davidson added that the bishop had given permission for the deacons to conduct services in the fall at the nursing and retirement homes that St. George’s serves using pre-consecrated Eucharist materials. This will reduce the duties of the interim minister to Sundays only, and MaryLynn Forrest added that she and Brother Mark had volunteered to undertake the homilies for the first few Sundays in the fall. Cn. David Morris has indicated that he would be willing to take charge of Wednesday services. In view of the ongoing concern over this issue it was decided to have a short business meeting after the potluck supper at the June PC meeting—potluck will start therefore at 5.30 p.m.

**g) and h)**. Dealt with--see items 8(b) and 8(e).

**i) Sexton Concerns**. These have mostly been dealt with, but there is a need for more soap dispensers.

**11. Correspondence.** None.

**12.** **Other:** None

**13. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

- May 28th. Food Trucks event 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- June 5th. Deanery Confirmation at All Saints, Waterloo. 18 candidates from St. George’s

- June 12th. Kitchener Churches Picnic at Mannheim Community Centre. Bishop Linda Nicholls attending.

- June 14th. Parish Executive Meeting—7.00 p.m.

- June 15th. Four Churches Meeting at St. George’s. Coffee/Tea/Cookies required.

- June 19th. Rector Switch. Cn. Davidson at St. John’s, Archdeacon Perry Chiupka at St. George’s.

- June 22nd. Informal visit of Bishop Linda at Renison College—all churchwardens and delegates to Synod to attend.

- June 25th. Pot Luck Supper for Cn. Davidson. 4.30 p.m. social hour; 5.15 p.m. dinner.

- June 28th. Next PC meeting. 5.30 p.m. potluck, followed by a short business meeting.

**14. Adjournment.** Proposed 9.40 p.m. by Lesley Burland-Prong. **Carried.**