**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for April 26, 2016**

***Present:***

Mary Ann Millar, Chair John Ryrie Cn. Don Davidson

John Dale, Secretary Connie McCoy Wendy Williston

Terry McCoy Mary Shaw MaryLynn Forrest

Mike Stredwick Vivian Harris Nelson Cuthbert

Cheryl Fox Reta Risto Valerie Cuthbert

Matt Brown Anne Taylor Lynne Skanes-Bannon

April Couzens Lesley Burland-Prong Charlotte Cromarty

***Regrets***: Murray Gamble.

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.30 p.m., by Mary Ann Millar. Mary Ann Millar passed around a card greeting Bishop Linda Nicholls for signatures from PC members. **Devotions:** Cn. Davidson.

**2. Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Amendments were requested to dates on the agenda distributed; April 26th for April 20th in the title, March 29th for February 26th for the dates of the past meeting’s minutes and May 7th for May 5th for the date of the next Messy Church in the list of Upcoming Dates. The inclusion of the Spring Tea on May 11th in the latter list was also requested. John Ryrie indicated that he would be introducing two motions necessitated by new Provincial requirements in item 6(g) (Memorial Garden). **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the April 26, 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Lesley Burland-Prong. **Carried**.

**3. Reading and Acceptance of the March 29, 2016 Minutes:** **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the March 2016 meeting as distributed: Proposed, Valerie Cuthbert; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty. **Carried**.

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

**a)** Mary Ann Millar said that an immediate effort was needed to gather together and train a team of knowledgeable volunteers to help Reta Risto with the livestreaming of services after Cn. Davidson’s departure in September. Anne Taylor suggested that a request for volunteers be put in the bulletin, together with a description of the duties involved. Cn. Davidson indicated that there were only two duties involved—one person was required to handle the camera during the service, and another to ‘set up’ the event on Livestream before the service. Nelson Cuthbert suggested that this might be the time to consider re-positioning the camera to provide more satisfactory coverage.

**5. Fr. Don’s Report:**

**i)**. Cn. Davidson said that this Monday at 5.15 p.m. the first of 4 confirmation classes for 10 young people and 3 adults would take place at St. George’s. Confirmation will be at All Saints, Waterloo on Sunday 5th June. There will also be a small First Communion class, consisting of 4 or 5 young people, on June 19th.

**ii).** Cn Davidson indicated that he had seen the recently-issued Notices of Motion for the upcoming Diocesan Synod. This year most motions would be of a ’housekeeping’ nature; however, he dwelt on two motions in detail. The first calls for the study of the apportionment of clergy payroll by the diocese. Cn. Davidson explained that this concept involved all parishes sending payroll monies to the diocesan office, which then redistributes pay to individual parish clergy. This gives the diocese power to vary the pay of clergy within individual parishes and would enable the bishop to overcome a situation wherein a parish is in sore need of an experienced priest, but is unable to pay for one itself. Cn. Davidson emphasized that the motion only calls for the *study* of the concept. The Diocese of Ottawa has been putting this arrangement into practice for some years. Cn. Davidson also mentioned a second ‘omnibus’ motion to modify 6 or 7 church canons. Six missionaries from the diocese of Amazonia will be in attendance at the synod.

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented the financial statement as of the end of March 2016. Parishioner donations remain approximately $1000 behind budget, but this is no worse than the situation at the end of February, indicating that parishioner donations were on target for March. The actual revenue/expenditures balance was better than that budgeted for the end of March, but this is largely due to the fact that many maintenance projects have not yet been initiated—there will be some ‘catch-up’ later which will impact the financial situation. **Motion** to accept the March financial statement as presented: Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

John Ryrie (who is treasurer of the Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee) reported that between 10 of the 13 parishes in the Deanery have contributed approximately $58,000 to the Committee so far, but St. George’s is not among them. **Motion** to approve the donation of $1000 from the St. George’s Refugee Support Fund to the Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto reported that last Saturday’s Community Clothes Closet was very successful, with people lined up awaiting the opening of the hall at 8.30 a.m. 55 people attended in all. Coffee was available and also games for children. A clientele has clearly been built up for these events, which will now almost certainly be on-going. Success of last Saturday’s event seems to have been due to well-placed advertisements at refugee housing and community centres such as Chandler-Mowat. Anne Taylor suggested that notices be put up in the church to solicit donations and Lesley Burland-Prong added that the notices should include suggestions of what might be donated—for example, unexpected items like purses had been in much demand last Saturday.

Reta said that arrangements for Little Dragon Camp are ongoing, with perhaps $12,950 (including stabilization funds) in the camp fund. Approximately $27,000 more is needed. Sunday collection counters were reminded to keep coloured camp donation envelopes aside unopened and give them straight to the warden on duty on Sundays.

**c) Property.** Mary Ann Millar reported for Murray Gamble. May 7th has been selected as the date of the Parish Spring Cleanup. Valerie O’Reilly will be informed so that this item can be included in the bulletin. We are also in need of more lawn-cutting volunteers for the summer. A meeting of the Sign Committee is being arranged. This committee, whose members include Charlotte Cromarty, Mary Ann Millar, Nelson Cuthbert, Murray Gamble, Les and Jim Baker, has been formed to help direct both the new sign project and the renewal of the ‘memorial monument.’

There is a need to ‘refresh’ the rectory decorating and complete any outstanding miscellaneous maintenance projects before the new minister arrives.

Nelson Cuthbert is leading a research project into the acquisition of audio-visual/projection equipment for the church—this project arises from the RENEW campaign. Nelson added that it must involve not only research into, and purchase of, the best suited equipment, but also the training of a team of parishioners committed to its ongoing use in services. Volunteers with appropriate knowledge and expertise are urgently needed.

**d) Worship.** Wendy Williston reported that there was a meeting of the committee last Tuesday. Items discussed included the fact that the Advent Wreath is ‘wobbly’—the Altar Guild will stabilize it. On Mother’s Day the Junior Choir will sing and the 10.00 a.m. service will be led by the Revs. Elizabeth Appleyard and MaryLynn Forrest. Recently, Sunday greeters have run out of bulletins and Valerie O’Reilly will be asked to print 20 more each Sunday in future. Cn. Davidson broached the subject of a need for some kind of ‘fan-out’ to alert parishioners to the cancellation of services due to inclement weather—apparently St. George’s was the only parish in Kitchener-Waterloo not to cancel Maundy Thursday services this year because of the ice-storm, and at other churches some parishioners turned up to find closed churches. Anne Taylor queried whether the recorded message on the church phone-line could be changed remotely. Cn. Davidson said that he thought it could, but did not know how to do it at this point; he suggested that a message on Facebook would be useful. John Ryrie said that, since many people now had smartphones which alerted them to incoming emails, an eblast was probably the best way to distribute information quickly regarding cancellations. It was pointed out that the effectiveness of an eblast depended upon having an updated email list for parishioners. Anne Taylor suggested that something be put in the bulletin regarding the need to keep the church aware of new email addresses.

April Couzens reported that funds were still needed to support the cost of CLAY attendance, and that the youth group would be providing breakfast after both services this Sunday (donation suggested). April further pointed out that it was becoming more difficult to motivate the youth group to carry out these fund-raising activities, and that, further, some dissatisfaction has arisen among the youth who aren’t attending CLAY over the current emphasis on fund-raising, in spite of the fact that the attempt has been made to provide activities for this latter group, and the fact that separate email lists for those attending and those not attending are being maintained. Cn. Davidson pointed out that the scale of the fund-raising we needed to initiate is a reflection of the large numbers from St. George’s attending CLAY, and the fact that St. George’s, unusually, has no endowments. Connie McCoy suggested that perhaps the youth who are attending CLAY could provide some entertainment, or a party, for those that aren’t, and Terry McCoy said that, after the event, an audio-visual presentation concerning it could be made by those who attended to those who didn’t. John Ryrie pointed out that the fundraising activities undertaken have significantly raised the profile of the youth group within the church.

**e) Atmosphere**. Mary Ann Millar said that a sign-up sheet for the car rally would be posted soon. She also indicated that she would shortly circulate a poster for the Food Truck Event and urged everyone to put one up in their workplaces and tell their friends and families about the event. It will also be posted on Facebook, and Mary Ann wants all who use Facebook to ‘share’ the information. She passed a sign-up sheet for duties at the event—it seems that the hall will, after all, not be in use that day, and so, in the event of very inclement weather, visitors will be able to eat inside. Cn. Davidson added that, at the meeting held last Wednesday between the rectors and wardens of the 4 Kitchener churches, emphasis had again been laid on building relationships and it had been decided to share announcements—such as those for the Food Truck event and the picnic at Mannheim. Mike Stredwick reminded the group that St. George’s will need to bring its microphone system to the picnic.

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. Nelson Cuthbert reported that there has been no meeting of the committee since the last PC meeting, but that there will be one in May. The ASCEND/RENEW project continues to have 3 main foci—the sign(s), the audio-visual system and the exploration of different forms of worship. Valerie Cuthbert stressed that there is now a real need for those who expressed an interest in the past in helping with the RENEW projects to bring their efforts and/or expertise to the table.

**g) Memorial Garden Committee.** John Ryrie reported that a new provincial authority—the Bereavement Authority of Ontario—has been created to oversee burying grounds. John has reported the year’s activity for our Memorial Garden to them, and sent them a copy of our new by-laws. The Authority is requiring him to post a copy of the new by-laws near the scattering ground and in the church, put a relevant notice in the **Record** for one day, and to give a copy of the by-laws to the engraver. All this he will do. The Authority has also required some minor changes to the bylaws, which fact gives rise to the following two motions. **Motion**: as per the request of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, By-Law VIII-2 of St. George’s Memorial Garden be amended to read as follows:

2. Notwithstanding that under Ontario regulations a “scattering garden” is a “cemetery” (or part thereof), St. George’s Memorial Garden, because of its small size and intended purpose, can only accept cremated ashes, not urns or any other form of container.

Proposed, Matt Brown; Seconded Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**Motion:** Parish Council authorizes the Memorial Garden trustees to comply with the recent requests of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario to

a) Place a notice of its revised By-Laws in **The Record** for one day, and

b) Place a dated notice of the revised By-Laws at the entrance to the

Garden for four weeks, and on the bulletin board in the narthex of

Church for the same period of time.

Proposed, Mike Stredwick; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried**.

**7. Old Business:**

**a) Syrian Refugees.** John Ryrie reported on the work of the Waterloo Deanery Refugee Committee as follows. The first family is here and installed in the first apartment that was rented. The second rented apartment proved too small for the family for which it was selected, and, in view of the fact that the Federal Government has recently slowed the influx of refugees from holding camps overseas, the decision was made to offer the apartment to a Government-sponsored family who had already arrived and were in temporary accommodation at the Holiday Inn. They accepted. They will not need financial supports, being Government sponsored, not BVOR; however, they will need social supports. Accommodation has also been found in Cambridge for a third family—a woman of 69 and her son of 38—both with health issues (the son is legally blind). The committee is still looking to bring a fourth family from overseas. Lesley Burland-Prong suggested that the committee should take all necessary steps to broadcast news of its good work in the media. John re-iterated that $58,000 of the $66,000 pledged from churches in the Waterloo Deanery has been received. The committee is planning a social for the families and members of the local Anglican community. The committee will meet again on May 5th.

**b) CLAY.**  April Couzens added briefly to her former comments (see 7d) to the effect that the next fundraising events were the breakfasts after both services on May 1, and the Matt Martin ‘Elvis’ concert on May 20th.

**8. New Business.** None

**9. Correspondence.** None.

**10.** **Other:** Charlotte Cromarty reported that approximately $350 was realized from the Ploughmen’s lunch, and added that there will be a Spring Tea on May 11th. Mary Ann Millar said that the PC meeting on June 28th will not consider any business, but will be a pot-luck starting at 5.30 p.m. (dinner at 6.00). A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the May PC meeting.

**11. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

- May 7th. Messy Church. Spring Clean-Up.

- May 8th. Mothers’ Day.

- May 11th. Spring Tea.

- May 14th. Car Rally. Start at 2 p.m.

- May 20th. Matt Martin concert.

- May 21st. Men‘s Breakfast.

- May 24th. Next PC Meeting. 7.30 p.m.

- May 28th. Food Trucks event.

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

**12. Adjournment.** Proposed 9.02 p.m. by Lynne Skanes-Bannon. **Carried**