**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for October 16, 2017**

***Present:***

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair Charlotte Cromarty Lynne Skanes-Bannon

John Dale, Secretary Mary Ann Millar Mike Stredwick

Terry McCoy Anne Taylor April Couzens

John Shaw Connie McCoy Reta Risto

Catherine Carlson Jack Nahrgang Valerie Cuthbert

Cheryl Fox Jim Fox John Ryrie

***Regrets***: Murray Gamble, John Coleman, Lesley Burland-Prong, Nelson Cuthbert, MaryLynn Forrest, Vivian Harris, Katherine MacLean, Matt Brown, Nathaniel Couzens

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.30 p.m., by Fr. Hendry.

**2. Attendance/Regrets**. As above.

**3. Devotions**. Jack Nahrgang.

**4. Approval of Current Agenda**. The following amendments to the Agenda were requested: to add discussion of the length of announcements as 6(j) (Mike Stredwick); to add discussion of interruptions into the nursery as 9(c) (Reta Risto); and to add discussion of children taking communion as 11 (Anne Taylor). Anne also pointed out that item 9(b) should read Anglican Foundation, not PWRDF. **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the October 16th., 2017 meeting as amended: Proposed, Mike Stredwick; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty. **Carried**.

**5. Reading and Acceptance of the September 19th., 2017 Minutes**: John Dale said that item 8(e) (last bullet) should read “Offertory from Induction Service: **Motion** to split the offering from the induction service equally between Camp Wendake (for people diagnosed with AIDS), and mission to the North: Proposed Catherine Carlson; Seconded Terry McCoy. **Carried**”, and that the final sentence of item 9(d) should read “John Ryrie, Catherine Carlson and Lesley Burland-Prong volunteered to help Fr. Stephen with the preparation of the report for the Bishop.” Cheryl Fox also pointed out, with respect to item 6(d), that it was the Funeral Committee that prepared the reception after the induction service. John Dale undertook to have Valerie O’Reilly substitute a copy of amended minutes for previous meetings (if relevant amendments were agreed upon) for the original version in the master hardcopy binder of the PC minutes in the Fireside Room. Fr. Stephen requested that, in future, space be left for the signatures of the chair and the secretary on the master copy of the minutes. **Motion** to accept the minutes of the September 19th., 2017 meeting as amended: Proposed, Fr. Hendry. **Carried**.

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

**a)** **Warden Succession Planning**. Mary Ann Millar urged PC members to continue to identify and approach possible warden candidates, and stressed that it was particularly important to invite future potential candidates to join PC, in order that they could gain an understanding of the workings of the Church.

**b) Remembrance Day Plans**. Fr. Hendry reported that a piper has been engaged, and that the Legion and the Scouts have been contacted. The Sunday School will lay a wreath and a young person will offer prayers for the people. There was discussion regarding whether audio-visual material (perhaps culled from members of the congregation) would be used during and/or before the service. Offers were made to source such. Fr. Hendry said he would ponder the possibilities and decide on a course of action.

**c) Bishop’s Friends’ Dinner**. This occurs on 17th October—5 are attending.

**d) Facebook.** Nelson Cuthbert posts Fr. Hendry’s Short Message every day. In general, positive responses have been received regarding the revised Facebook content.

**e) Next Deanery Meeting**. This is at St. George’s at 7.15 p.m. on October 24th. Catherine Carlson, Terry and Connie McCoy volunteered to provide refreshments. 35 people attended the last meeting. It was pointed out that the Wardens and Lay Delegates are expected to attend.

**f) Messy Church**. The last Messy Church on October 14th. was very successful with 27 adults and 19 children attending. Lynne Skanes-Bannon requested that, in future, parents should be asked to accompany their children to the kitchen to help them collect food. There were reports of inappropriate behaviour by children in the nave and sanctuary of the church and it was decided that access to the body of the church would henceforth be closed or monitored during Messy Church events.

**g) Communication Issues**. Fr. Hendry said that on Sunday 15th October he had made a complete summary of the duties and responsibilities of the St. George’s Board of Management available to the congregations. In response to a requirement from the Bishop regarding accountability, he also circulated to all P.C. members at the meeting a rector’s report showing his activities for the last month. There was discussion regarding any changes in the ‘mood’ of St. George’s since Fr. Stephen’s arrival. There was a perception of increased energy, greater communication and more openness in the church. Terry McCoy asked that the names of flower donors and the dedication of the floral tributes should once again be shown in the bulletin.

**h) Parish Council Emergency Policy and Procedures**. Nelson Cuthbert being absent, there was no discussion of this item.

**i) Photo Directory—April 2018**. The same company as has been used previously will be preparing the new church directory in the second week of April 2018. Advertising will start at Christmas, and there will be inserts (provided free by the vendor) in the bulletin. There will be an organizing committee, hopefully headed by Fran Rothenberg. There was discussion regarding whether shut-ins and retirement home residents should be represented by photos and/or entries, and, if the former, what was the best way to procure them. There was also discussion regarding whether, if shut-ins etc. had entries, they should receive the final product, and how this would be paid for. It was pointed out that the vendor does provide 20% of sales as extra copies, but these are really intended for newly-arrived members of the church. Fr. Hendry said he would discuss these issues with the vendor.

**j) Length of announcements**. There was discussion of the fact that, at some services, the number of verbal announcements has become quite overwhelming, in spite of the fact that verbal announcements are only allowed for matters not previously announced. This is a difficult issue, since the need for a variety of voices and the recognition of the enthusiasm of announcers for their projects has to be balanced against the intrusiveness of the announcements. Fr. Hendry said that he would be reminding both congregations of the importance of taking their bulletins home with them.

**7. “Fresh Start Programme”.** Fr. Stephen gave a second presentation on the Fresh Start Programme, the intention of which is to develop leadership skills among PC members.

**8. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented the financial report as of the end of September. Although there is one major expense left to be funded, Anne considers that money will be left in the Rectory Repair and Maintenance fund after all the renovations have been paid for. As for the broader picture, parishioner donations have been on target for the last two months, so the $6000 deficit in donations which developed over the earlier part of the year remains unchanged. However, expenditures are $5000 below budget currently (roughly $1000 savings on each of payroll, rectory utilities, admin., worship and synod), so the overall revenue/expense balance is only $1000 below budget at this time. **Motion** to accept the September financial statement as presented: Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Valerie Cuthbert. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto detailed the activities of the Outreach committee as follows:

i) The payment for the foster children has been met. The Pancake Supper raised slightly less than was required; the balance has been made up from Outreach funds.

ii) Collection of outerwear for ‘Share the Warmth’ has started.

iii) Ground meat for St. John’s Kitchen will be collected October 22nd to November 12th. Donations should be put in the freezer in the electrical room. Anne Taylor suggested an eblast to parishioners to stimulate giving.

iv) The Angel Tree will be up and running on November 19th.

v) The next Community Clothes Closet will be on October 28th.

vi) The collection of Socks for the Homeless will begin in January.

**c) Property.** Charlotte Cromarty said the fall clean-up was scheduled for the last Saturday in October.

**d) Worship.** Fr. Hendry challenged PC to provide answers to the following three questions: a) What feeds you? b) What energizes you? and c) What makes you think? He further asked us to list changes in the church over the last few months that have brought us up short. Answers were collected and will be circulated to PC members.

**e) Atmosphere**. Catherine Carlson indicated that a Games Night would take place this Friday from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. At the next meeting of the committee there will be decisions made as to the contents of the ‘Welcome Bag.’

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. Valerie Cuthbert said that there has been no meeting of the committee, but that much was going on within the church that is consistent with the aims of RENEW/ASCEND. She felt that the planning and installation/renovation of the signs would provide new focus.

**g) Youth Group**. April Couzens provided a report. About 10 youth are involved in an active youth group; possibly 9 are intending to attend CLAY 2018. In September the group played mini-golf, and in October they bowled. Fundraisers for CLAY are planned as follows: November 4th, a scrapbooking fundraiser; November 25th, a concert directed and initiated by Jeff Poolton. The group is also planning a poinsettia/chocolate fundraiser before Christmas.

**9. New Business.**

**a**) **Jeff Poolton** **Advent/Christmas Concert November 25th**.This concert is a fundraiser for CLAY attendance by the Youth group. It will feature a variety of performers and a number of different kinds of music.

**b) Anglican Foundation.** Anne Taylor described the work of the Anglican Foundation, to which St. George’s makes an annual contribution. The Anglican Foundation funds projects which promote Anglicanism, and one of its major fundraisers is an on-line sales project before Christmas. Anne asked for, and received, agreement that she should contribute an entry in the bulletin near Christmas drawing parishioners’ attention to this gift-buying opportunity.

**(c)**. **Relocation of the Nursery**. The re-location of the nursery has caused problems in that it allows Sunday School participants to run into the nursery and cause disturbance. Some parents want Sunday School staff to prevent this, while others wish to allow it. Anne Taylor pointed out that this difficulty was really the result of the chronic understaffing of the Sunday School. Fr. Hendry said that he would conference with the Sunday School staff and try to identify helpful strategies to limit this problem, and also said that he would be making an urgent appeal to the congregations for more Sunday School help.

**10)** **Correspondence.** None.

**11) Other**. Anne Taylor said she had received comments that indicated that the children at the 10.00 a.m. service appeared not to appreciate the significance of receiving communion. Fr. Hendry promised to use the children’s focus as a teaching moment to correct this.

**12. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

**October 20th**. Games Night 7.00 p.m.

**October 24th**. Deanery Meeting 7.15 p.m. at St. George’s.

**October 28th**. Community Clothes Closet, 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

**November 18th**. Christmas Market.

**November 25th**. Jeff Poolton Advent/Christmas Concert 7.30 p.m. No charge; free will offering only.

**December 17th**. Service of Lessons and Carols.

**13. Next PC Meeting**. Tuesday, November 28th., 7.30 p.m.

Chair, Mary Ann Millar; Minutes, John Dale; Devotions, John Coleman; Refreshments, John Dale/ Catherine Carlson.

**14. Adjournment**. 9.35 p.m.