

St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes for January 22nd., 2019

Present:

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair	Anne Taylor	John MacKellar
John Dale, Secretary	Murray Gamble	John Shaw
Mary Ann Millar	Jim Fox	Cheryl Fox
Mike Stredwick	Valerie Cuthbert	April Couzens
Terry McCoy	Nelson Cuthbert	Connie McCoy

Regrets: The Rev. MaryLynn Forrest, Charlotte Cromarty, Lesley Burland-Prong, Catherine Carlson, Reta Risto, Debra Barclay.

Not Present: John Ryrie, Vivian Harris.

1. Call to Order at 7.30 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

2. Attendance/Regrets. As above.

3. Devotions. Catherine Carlson (read by John Dale).

4. Approval of Current Agenda.

Motion to accept the Agenda for the January 22nd., 2019 meeting, as presented: Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Mike Stredwick.
Carried.

5. Reading and Acceptance of the November 27th., 2018 Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes of the November 27th., 2018 meeting as presented. Proposed, John Shaw; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried.**

6 & 7. Business from the Previous Minutes and Wardens' Report:

Fr. Stephen offered heartfelt thanks to retiring wardens May Ann Millar and Mike Stredwick, and also to retiring PC members Vivian Harris and Reta Risto.

Motion to offer thanks to retiring wardens Mary Ann Millar and Mike Stredwick. Proposed, Anne Taylor: Seconded, John Shaw. **Carried.**

8. New Refrigerator for Kitchen.

Nelson Cuthbert said that this will be purchased soon.

9. Nomination Committee for 2019 Parish Council Update.

The following Nomination Report was presented:

Rector's Appointments: Nelson Cuthbert (Rector's Warden), John Mackellar (Deputy Rector's Warden).

People's Nominations: Jim Fox (People's Warden), John Dale (Deputy People's Warden).

Treasurer: Anne Taylor.

Parish Council Secretary: John Dale.

Members for Parish council to be Elected: April Couzens, Cheryl Fox, Anne Taylor, Charlotte Cromarty, Valerie Cuthbert, John Shaw.

Members of Parish Council to be Appointed: Murray Gamble, Deb Barclay, Cameron Mott.

Lay Delegates to Synod: John Ryrie, Lesley Burland-Prong, Terry McCoy.

Alternate Delegates to Synod: Connie McCoy, Catherine Carlson.

Vestry Clerk: John Ryrie.

Envelope Secretary: Nelson Cuthbert.

Memorial Garden Trustees: Jan Melega, Lynda Hill.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Rep: Mary Ann Millar.

Huron Hunger Fund Rep: Wendy Sherlock.

Safe Church Coordinator: Anne Taylor.

There were no further nominations from PC members

Motion: BIRT that Parish Council confirms and accepts the Nomination Report as presented. Proposed, Nelson Cuthbert; Seconded, Anne Taylor. **Carried.**

10. Scheduling of Events for 2019.

Nelson Cuthbert urged chairs of committees and PC members to enter on the Master Calendar for 2019 in the Church Office details and dates of events they are planning. This ensures a good spread of events and prevents certain months becoming overloaded.

11. Wall for the Understairs Storage Area.

Terry McCoy reported that he checked requirements for this structure with the Kitchener Fire Dept. Their requirements would include a fire-proof door, a link to the fire-alarm system, and no storage of flammables. It was decided to examine the possibility of using other storage areas, and to undertake vigorous weeding of stored items. The matter was referred to the Property Committee for further dialogue.

12. Vestry Reports.

Fr. Stephen requested that all members of PC should familiarize themselves with the three reports (Rector's Report, Vestry Report and Financial Report) that will be available to the parish community at Vestry. He read the Bishop's letter to Vestries to PC (as a leadership group). This will be available, but not read, at Vestry. It was noted that there is an error in the Vestry report: the name of one of the parishioners who has died, James Donald Miller, was incorrectly reported as Jim Miller. The Rectors and Vestry reports were accepted as they stand.

13. Financial Report for Vestry.

Anne Taylor presented the final financial report for 2018, and the budget for 2019. In brief summary. Parishioner donations were approx. \$17,000 below budget for the year 2018, but, mainly because \$5000 of budgeted capital repairs were not carried out and there were other savings in expenses, we ended the year with a net positive surplus of approx. \$1000 (carryover to next year is approx. \$21,000). We were not, however, able to set aside the \$5000 savings in our diocesan apportionment, as was hoped. The 2019 budget is as lean as possible, but it will probably not be practical to avoid capital repairs beyond the \$5000 budgeted, and there are other challenges. There will need for an as yet unspecified (but budgeted) fundraising event to replace the biennial Parish Auction (Fr. Stephen has some ideas regarding this). Lay staff costs will increase as directed by the diocese, and some increase in staff hours will be necessary. As a result of these challenges, it has been necessary to budget for a 3.4% increase in parishioner donations in 2019.

Anne also pointed out that we have saved on bank charges by discontinuing our line of credit. However, the BBQ costs were up significantly last year. These will need to be reduced, or a 'free will offering' will have to be re-introduced at this event.

For further details see attached financial statements and commentary.

Motion: to approve the 2018 financial statement as presented.

Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, John Shaw. **Carried.**

Motion: to endorse the 2019 Budget to be introduced at Vestry as presented. Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Murray Gamble. **Carried.**

Anne was thanked by all for her hard work.

14.Mission and Ministry Report.

Fr. Stephan presented highlights from the review that the Bishop has required us to carry out of the Mission and Ministry Plan prepared last year. The review will be presented at Vestry using overheads.

Regarding evangelism, there has been significant progress on the church sign. Murray Gamble that the necessary minor adjustments to by-laws have been accepted (with minimal conditions) by the city, and the sign permits received. The digital module for the sign has been ordered. Work on the electrical linkup is dependent on the condition of the soil (frozen or not). Murray is of the opinion that the sign should be installed and working by April, hopefully in time for the Easter services. Renovations to the existing memorial should be finished by June. All expenditure is within budget. Fr. Stephen added that next summer there will be a two-week Vacation Bible School funded by the Optimists through the Spaghetti supper. The camp will involve the use of the John Maxwell Leadership Training for the students.

Regarding discipling, the Ash Wednesday and Lenten Study initiatives will continue in 2019, and, during Lent, there will be a Sunday evening dinner study group at the rectory.

Regarding service, the third mark of mission, Fr. Stephen has had discussion with the Ray of Hope organization regarding possible joint

initiatives. With respect to Transforming Society, the fourth mark of mission, the Social Justice committee continues to operate, and we continue to be engaged with the Indigenous community. Regarding the fifth mark, Safeguarding and Renewing the earth, Canon Nixon will speak to PC shortly regarding possible projects.

Fr. Stephen added that, as a new fundraiser, he hopes we will mount a series of 10-12 religious music concerts throughout 2019; these will involve all kinds of music, and similar concerts were successful in raising \$21,000 at his previous parish. He hopes to draw together a team to carry this plan forward within the next month.

Nelson Cuthbert pointed out that 80% of the objectives mentioned in the original Mission and Ministry Plan have been addressed.

15.ASCEND report.

Nelson Cuthbert reported that 2019 will be the fifth and final year of the ASCEND programme. So far approx. \$80,000 has been raised out of an initial objective of \$125,000. Nelson noted that many of the 'Service' initiatives of ASCEND have been implemented by committees such as Atmosphere. Going forward, the focus will be on investigating projection systems for the church (this project is proving more expensive than anticipated, particularly in view of the fact that our sanctuary is a very bright space). Another initiative will be to continue to investigate alternative worship strategies.

Nelson said that ASCEND has already channeled approx. \$20,000 towards payment for the sign, but about \$20,000 remains to be raised. In this context, a parishioner has offered to match all new donations to ASCEND towards payment to the sign in 2019. This generous offer will be presented to the church community at Vestry by Nelson.

16. Appreciation to Council

Fr. Stephen expressed his appreciation for the work of PC in 2018, and indicated that it has borne fruit: we are beginning to see growth in our parish community.

Standing Committee Reports:

Rector's Report. Five candidates have come forward for the 1-year Lay Reader Training Program; the focus of the Lay Reader programme is preaching. **Motion:** to accept the Rector's Report as presented. Proposed, Nelson Cuthbert; Seconded Jim Fox. **Carried.**

Communications. A written report was distributed. Graham Welsford will introduce some of the newly-implemented features of the website to PC on February 26th. **Motion:** to accept the Communications Committee report as presented: Proposed, Murray Gamble; Seconded, Anne Taylor. **Carried.**

Finance: See item 13.

Property: Murray Gamble reiterated that the final implementation of the sign project remained the main focus of the Property committee. The committee will also undertake a review of storage areas and delineate a storage plan.

Worship: Fr. Stephen indicated that the first Evensong service will take place on March 24th; the choir have been asked to participate. Paul Millwood, the Dean of St. Paul's cathedral, will deliver the homily.

Atmosphere: A written report was distributed. The date of the next Messy church is March 2nd. There will be a Wine and Cheese event for newcomers in the Thompson Hall on Saturday February 9th. The Mediaeval Feast will occur on April 5th (60 tickets only to be sold). The Car Rally will be on May 11th. Jim Fox said that a 'forceful' effort will be

made in the coming months to source hosts for coffee hour after the 10.00 a.m. service.

The reports for the **Social Justice** and the **Refugee Committees** were deferred.

17. Motions for Vestry.

No further motions for Vestry were forthcoming from PC.

Fr. Stephen indicated that the production of a sheet showing all officiants for services during each month will be resumed. He will take responsibility for producing this.

18. Upcoming Parish Dates.

Feb. 9th. Newcomers' Wine and Cheese (Thompson Hall)

Mar. 2nd. Messy Church.

March 24th. Evensong.

April 5th. Mediaeval Feast.

May 11th. Car Rally.

19. Next PC Meeting.

Tuesday, February 26th., 2019. 7.30 p.m.

Chair: Fr. Stephen. Minutes: John Dale. Devotions: ?

Refreshments: ?.

20 & 21. Adjournment and Grace.

Motion to adjourn: Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried** 9.20 p.m.

_____ Fr. Stephen Hendry: Rector; St. George's
Of Forest Hill

_____ John Dale: Secretary; Parish Council.