

St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes for 26th February, 2019

Present:

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair	Anne Taylor	John MacKellar
John Dale, Secretary	Murray Gamble	John Shaw
Jim Fox	Cheryl Fox	Cameron Mott
April Couzens	Debra Barclay	Catherine Carlson
Terry McCoy	Nelson Cuthbert	Connie McCoy
Lesley Burland-Prong		

Regrets: Valerie Cuthbert

Not Present: John Ryrie, The Rev. MaryLynn Forrest, Charlotte Cromarty

1. Call to Order at 7.35 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

2. Attendance/Regrets. As above.

3. Devotions and Leadership Moment. Fr. Stephen.

As requested by the Bishop, Fr. Stephen introduced a brief learning opportunity into the P.C. meeting by distributing a handout from the Fresh Start programme entitled 'Church Size and Its Implications', and leading a brief seminar thereon.

In summary; with an average Sunday attendance of 140-150, St. George's fits with the 15% of Anglican parishes in the 'Transitional' category. At this stage, although long-established members still have major roles, new entrants to the congregation are beginning to be integrated. Change is inevitable, as is the fact that this change may well lead to 5-7% of the congregation leaving. Space and support personnel constraints may be looming, and there is much pressure on the Clergy, whose main role is to provide leadership. Therefore, it is essential that members of P.C. step up to fill leadership roles, and conduct respectful and meaningful consultation with the rest of the church body. It is also

essential that new entrants to the church be integrated into the effort to provide leadership. A little more structure and order may need to be introduced into the conduct of the affairs of the congregation.

4. Approval of Current Agenda.

Motion to accept the Agenda for the February 26th., 2019 meeting, as presented: Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Nelson Cuthbert. **Carried.**

5. Reading and Acceptance of the January 22nd., 2019 Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 22nd., 2019 meeting as presented. Proposed, Cameron Mott; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried.**

6. Business from the Previous Minutes

a) New Fridge/Freezer. Nelson Cuthbert and Jim Fox reported that research into the replacement of the two existing units is ongoing; it seems that a professional grade model would cost about \$5000, which is deemed too expensive. Perhaps it will be possible to replace the two existing units with one larger unit.

7. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Wardens' Report.

1. *The Laity Leadership Chart*: This has been updated as follow;

John MacKellar will become the warden rep. on the Worship committee.

John Dale will become warden rep. on the Social Justice and Outreach committees.

Fr. Stephen replaces Mary Ann Millar as Deanery rep.

It was suggested that the chart might be included in the church's facebook page and website. Fr. Stephen emphasized again the importance of spreading responsibilities beyond the wardens, and called for two P.C. members to volunteer to co-ordinate the Fall Gathering BBQ

2. *Mailboxes*: Jim Fox reported that the Communications Committee considers the mailboxes a useful tool, but feels it to be essential that they be re-designed to make them more user-friendly. Re-design possibilities include reducing the number of boxes and making them larger; raising them; replacing the alphabetical arrangement with a numerical arrangement (to make it easier to insert new members of the congregation into the array). It was also pointed out that these new members need to be made aware that they have a mailbox as part of a structured induction procedure.

3. *10 a.m. coffee hour Sign Up Situation*: Jim Fox reported some improvement in the situation, but there are still gaps. Cameron Mott volunteered to approach different groups within the church and ask them to sponsor coffee hours and use these as opportunities to recruit new helpers.

4. *P.C. Contact List*: A list was circulated for update.

5. *Website Inservice*: Graeme Welsford will be invited to give a 15-20 minute introduction to our new website to P.C. This will be an opportunity to give feedback on the revised design.

6. *Missing Parishioners*: Fr. Stephen intends to put cards in pews and invites Sunday attendees to write in the names of parishioners who seem to have been missing from Sunday services for an unusually long time, and then place the card on the collection plate. He will pray for those mentioned, and, if indicated on the card, 'phone them.

7. Implications of 2019 Budget on Employee Contracts: Jim Fox pointed out that although Vestry 2019 authorized an extension of paid hours for our sexton and secretary, there is still a need for church groups to take responsibility for cleaning up the spaces they customarily use. Cameron Mott undertook to approach groups and request them to 'adopt' and maintain the spaces they use.

Everyone needs to coordinate time and space requirements through Fr. Stephen and Valerie. It was suggested that this kind of coordination might also be appropriate at a Deanery level to prevent different churches booking events on the same night.

b) Rector's Report.

Fr. Stephen circulated a report showing a summary of his activities during February 2019 and a copy of a handout detailing the services of the Lenten experience (their purpose and origin), which he intends to include in the Sunday bulletin. He urged attendance at the Pancake supper on March 5th, the Optimists' Spaghetti Supper on March 8th, and the Mediaeval Feast on April 5th. The proceeds of the Spaghetti Supper will be donated by the Optimists to support St. George's Vacation Bible School this summer: this in recognition of the fact that the latter includes substantial leadership training for youth. He announced that the VBS will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 15-19 July and 19-23 August. Attendance of 30-50 is expected for each of the weeks, and sign-up will begin on March 10th. The theme is 'To Mars and Back.' Fr. Stephen encouraged P.C. members to volunteer for a variety of roles involved in the running of the VBS. It is possible that childcare to cover the period after 3 p.m. might be arranged, if volunteers are available to run it.

One of four Music Concert Fundraisers will take place in September. A group called 'Pleasant Ridge' has been hired to perform at a cost of \$350.00. Advertising will start in June. Other similar concerts will occur in October, November and December.

Fr. Stephen also reported that, at Evensong (7 p.m.) on 24th March, the preacher will be the Very Reverent Paul Millward, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He will speak on the kidnapping of young girls for the purposes of prostitution (this is currently occurring in S.W. Ontario), and will indicate how we might become involved in ending this pernicious practice.

On Sunday, March 31st., the preacher at both Sunday services will be Kevin Dixon (ex-dean of the cathedral, now President of the International Justice Mission, which coordinates international efforts to shut down the prostitution of young girls and the production of pornography).

Motion: to accept the Rector's Report as presented. Proposed, Lesley Burland-Prong; Seconded, John Shaw. **Carried.**

c) Lay Readers: John Shaw has joined the EFM group.

d) communications: Jim Fox said that, in addition to the re-design of the mailboxes, the committee will undertake the production and distribution of the next Dragonflyer by the end of March. Catherine Carlson reported that two designs are being evaluated for the retractable banner to be used at events (like ice-cream distribution at St. John's kitchen) where St. George's has a presence.

It was suggested that an exercise be undertaken in the fall to evaluate the impact and usage of the single-sheet event summary calendars which are handed out now each month.

e) Finance: No report.

f) Property: The new sign is fabricated and will be installed when the unfreezing of the ground allows conduits to be dug for the electrical supply. Fr. Stephen congratulated the Property Committee on the careful process by which the Sign Project was moved forward, and noted that this had reduced disagreements and complaints

g) Worship – Lent and Easter: On Good Friday there will be two services, a traditional 8.00 a.m. ‘High Mass’, and a Family Service at 10.00 a.m. at which there will be no sermon. However, children will perform the Stations of the Cross, and the youth group will be invited to produce and perform a drama.

h) Atmosphere: Catherine Carlson reported that about 40-50 people attended the Newcomers’ Wine and Cheese event on February 9th. A similar event involving wine, Cheese, Coffee and Desserts will be held in the Fall. All but 15 tickets have been sold for the Mediaeval Feast and Murder Mystery (April 5th.) and a few more may be made available beyond the 60 planned. This is primarily an event for adults. Wardens will provide wine between 5 and 6 p.m. Sign-up sheets to help with set-up and tear-down will be going up.

The Car Rally is on May 11th., and the Picnic (this year at St. George’s) is on June 9th.

Social Justice Committee:

Social Justice Report for Parish Council - Feb. 26, 2019

Feb. 15, 2019

The Committee met for close to two hours on Saturday morning, Feb. 9th. John Dale brought forward a letter requesting our federal government address the destructive environmental impact of single-use plastic materials, which five members of the committee agreed to sign. I brought forward a letter focused on the extent of poverty in our Diocese (as highlighted during Vestry). With a few minor revisions, this letter was also signed by five members of our committee and has been sent to Ontario Premier Doug Ford; a copy has been forwarded to all of the local MPPs in our Region. A list of books with topics related to social justice is now on the bulletin board, as is a letter addressed to the President of TD Bank about some of its insurance practices (as publicized on Global TV prior to Christmas). We are hoping that Frank Thompson, a former rector of St. George’s, will agree to let us print a very well written brief letter he sent before Christmas to John Shaw concerning the environment. We are hoping in the not-too-distant future to involve the parish and our congregations

in the committee's concerns and initiatives. For the moment, we are still finding our way forward and trying to determine how we can be effective as a small group.

The Committee meets next on March 11 and April 13, at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

John Ryrie, Acting Chairperson

j) Refugee Committee: No report.

k) ASCEND: No report.

l) Messy Church: March 2nd., 16 children and 18 adults already registered.

m) Sunday School: No report.

8. Upcoming Parish Dates.

Mar. 1st. World Day of Prayer (11. a.m. at St. Francis)

Mar. 2nd. Deanery Warden and Treasurer Training and Messy Church.

March 5th. Pancake Supper and Worship Committee meeting.

March 24th. Evensong. Preacher Paul Millward (Dean of St. Paul's, London).

March 31st. Preacher Kevin Dixon (President, International Justice Mission) at 8.15 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

April 5th. Mediaeval Feast and Murder Mystery.

May 11th. Car Rally.

June 9th. Parish Picnic, at St. George's.

9. Upcoming Lenten Dates.

a) Ash Wednesday March 6: 10.00 a.m. Communion

7.00 p.m. Communion with Choir (no Bible
Study at Rectory).

b) Lent: Thurs. March 7th 1.30 p.m. Lent Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Sun. March 10th 8.15 & 10 a.m. Communion

6.00 p.m. Dinner & Book Study (Rectory)

Wed. March 13th 10 a.m. Communion

7.00 p.m. Bible Study (Rectory)

Thurs. March 14th 1.30 p.m. Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Sun. March 17th 8.15 and 10 a.m. Communion

6.00 p.m. Dinner and Book Study (Rectory)

Wed. March 20th 10.00 Communion

7.00 p.m. Bible Study (Rectory)

Thurs March 21st 1.30 p.m. Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Sun. March 24th 8.15 and 10 a.m. Communion.

7.00 p.m. Evensong. Preacher Very Rev.

Paul Millward (Dean of St. Paul's, London)

Theme—'Courage for Change'.

Wed. March 27th 10.00 a.m. Communion

7.00 p.m. Bible Study (Rectory)

Thurs. March 28th 1.30 p.m. Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Sun. March 31st 8.15 and 10 Communion Preacher Kevin Dixon.

6.00 p.m. Dinner & Book Study (Rectory).

10. Next PC Meeting.

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

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

Refreshments: ?.

11. Closing and Adjournment.

After a call for new business, there was brief discussion of a topic which came up at the last Deanery Meeting. This is a proposal to shorten the period for seniority salary increases for clergy in the Diocese of Huron from 35 to 15 years, thus effectively capping the salaries of senior clergy. This seen as a solution to the difficulty of moving senior clergy to new parishes (who frequently cannot afford them). Many details remain to be clarified, but it seems likely that the proposal will be adopted by the Diocese later this year. Existing senior clergy will have their current salaries grandfathered, it seems. The proposal will affect new hirings only. In addition, salaries remain a matter of negotiation between priests and parishes. Annual cost of living increases will continue.

Adjournment and Grace, 9.55 p.m.

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

_____ John Dale: Secretary; Parish Council.