**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for May 23, 2017**

***Present:***

Nelson Cuthbert, Chair Valerie Cuthbert Lynne Skanes-Bannon

John Dale, Secretary John Coleman Murray Gamble

Terry McCoy Anne Taylor Mary Ann Millar

Matt Brown Lesley Burland-Prong MaryLynn Forrest

Connie McCoy Vivian Harris John Ryrie

Reta Risto Cheryl Fox Catherine Carlson

Jack Nahrgang Jim Fox Charlotte Cromarty

***Regrets***: John Shaw, Mike Stredwick, April Couzens, Katherine MacLean,

***Absent:*** Nathaniel Couzens

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.30 p.m., by Nelson Cuthbert.

**2. Devotions:** Matt Brown.

**3. Current Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Nelson Cuthbert requested that Valerie Cuthbert should address recycling under item 5e; Nelson himself would talk about the parish hierarchy chart under item 8g. Catherine Carlson is responsible for speaking about the work of the Atmosphere Committee (item 7e). **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the May 23rd, 2017 meeting as amended: Proposed, Matt Brown; Seconded, John Ryrie. **Carried**.

**4. Reading and Acceptance of the April 26th, 2017 Minutes**: With reference to item 8d, Lesley Burland-Prong indicated that St. George’s is on the waiting list for large recycling bins at the Regional Waste Management facility. Regarding item 7e, it was Catherine Carlson that reported for the Atmosphere Committee, not Mary Ann Millar. **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the April 26th., 2017 meeting as presented: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried**.

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

**a)** Nelson Cuthbert’s request for the group’s reaction to Bishop Linda’s article “The State of Huron” in the May 2017 *Huron Church News* resulted in much discussion. There was a consensus that the article aligned well with Dr. Paulsen’s recent seminar in Waterloo in contrasting outward-looking and welcoming churches, mostly concerned with the church as a spiritual entity, with inward-looking churches, mostly concerned with the church as an institution and a physical building(s). The form of services was considered to be crucial in the matter of attracting new members of the congregation. It was thought these would likely welcome personal witnessing to religious experience rather than theological discussion. An awareness of the everyday needs of attendees was also considered important—Dr. Paulsen had indicated that churches with upstairs areas for toddlers separate from, but within sight of, the congregation were prospering. However, it was also felt that St. George’s was addressing many of the issues raised by the Bishop and Dr. Paulsen through its active social engagement and also the ASCEND/RENEW initiative—particularly the attempt to motivate parishioners to contribute ‘time and talent’ to parish activities. This seems very close to the ‘witnessing’ for which the Bishop has called.

b) New large recycling bins will be available soon from the Region. Valerie Cuthbert has visited the Regional Waste Management Facility and clarified exactly what should be put in blue, and what in green, bins. Images and text with purpose of directing users in sorting materials will affixed to bins (it being particularly important to educate outside groups using our facilities about the correct use of the bins). Terry McCoy indicated that outsiders are dumping garbage into our outside garbage bins—he will look into acquiring cable locks with combinations. Nelson Cuthbert said that a biohazard container is to be placed in the upstairs bathroom—primarily for the use of diabetics.

**6. Old Business.**

No discussion.

**7. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented the financial reports as of the end of April and said that parishioner donations for the year up until April 30th were slightly above budget, although a preliminary look at May’s figures indicated a drop below the budgeted figure. We continue to control those expenses that are controllable, and look forward to income which has not been budgeted for from the Food Trucks event.

**Motion** to accept the financial report as presented and described above: Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, John Ryrie. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto indicated that, as detailed in the bulletin, there will be a June drive for items needed for Innisfree House, followed by a financial collection in January 2018. Helpers are needed for the Monica House Gala in June. Training for Little Dragon counsellors begins soon. Jim Fox inquired how the Outreach committee decided which projects to support, and expressed concern that resources might be being stretched too far. MaryLynn Forrest replied that some of the projects had been ongoing for many years (like camp), but sometimes the committee is approached with new ideas for projects; similarly, projects are occasionally dropped. She indicated that the committee made an effort to support projects lacking support from elsewhere, and emphasized that outreach activities engaged new members of the congregation and that ‘time and talent’ was in greater demand than ‘treasure.’ Nelson Cuthbert said that the work of the Outreach Committee would be featured in an upcoming issue of the *Dragonflyer*.

**c) Property.** Murray Gamble reported that good progress is being made on the rectory renovations, and he expected that these would be largely complete by the end of June, at the budgeted cost of around $25,000. Spring Cleanup is between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 27th. John Ryrie said that, in the absence of John Shaw, he would try to cut the grass before the funeral for Susan Butt’s mother this Friday.

**d) Worship.** MaryLynn Forrest said that Canon Davidson is returning to officiate at the funeral for Susan Butt’s mother, but the diocese had indicated that this practice would no longer be possible after the appointment of a new rector.

**e) Atmosphere**. Catherine Carlson indicated that the Food Truck event was on-track for this Saturday, and that posters have been made up for the parish picnic at Mannheim on June 11th. She is considering expanding the weekly bulletin to include thought-provoking and engaging items.

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. No report.

**g) Selection Committee**. John Ryrie said that, although he cannot provide a firm end-date, the work of the selection committee is drawing to an end. Interviews have been held, and visits made to other churches have occurred. The next step will be for the committee to meet and reach consensus on a chosen candidate who will be recommended to the bishop.

**8. New Business.**

**a**) **Parish Council June Potluck**. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

**b) Judy Paulsen Workshop Feedback.** Feedback was given Lynne Skanes-Bannon, Catherine Carlson and John Coleman. The concept of adult baptism or re-affirmation met with approval. In general Dr. Paulsen had emphasized getting ‘outside’ people to use the church and always bearing in mind how your church appears to newcomers—this has great relevance to the form of services and the re-invigoration thereof. Witnessing in the course of services was considered important, as was the use of a screen to make it easier for newcomers to follow the service. Dr. Paulsen had recommended study of a number of websites and has herself produced a book—*Christian Foundations*. It was suggested that a Friday evening coffee hour might be devoted to watching and discussing one of the recommended videos.

**(c)**. **Fire Alarm Memo and Drill**. It was proposed that we choose a Sunday and have a fire-alarm drill; also, the Fire Plan needs to be inspected, and, if necessary, updated. Lesley Burland-Prong pointed out that we really need to practice drills for a number of different kinds of emergencies—fire, tornadoes, intruders etc.

**(d) Valerie O’Reilly’s vacation**. Valerie will be on holiday the weeks of June 7-12, and August 7-11.

**(e) Parish Website**. Nelson Cuthbert said that he would produce an announcement and bulletin item encouraging the heads of all committees to send updates for the website to Valerie, since it was essential that the website be fresh, and, above all, up-to-date. Nelson felt that the website still had an important role to play in spite of the growing popularity of other social media vehicles.

**(f) Short/Long-term Planning Calendar**. The office calendar is agreed-upon primary planning tool for the church and people planning events must first check available dates on the calendar, bearing in mind the need for set-up time for events subsequent to theirs, and clear-up time for events previous to theirs. There was discussion concerning the adoption of a method to ensure that church events obtain priority. Valerie might canvass Committee heads to enter the dates of church events by a certain deadline, and only open the calendar to out-of-church bookings after that date.

(g) **Parish Hierarchy Chart**. Nelson Cuthbert circulated a draft chart he has produced clarifying the governance of St. George’s and including details of all committees, their chairs, executive representatives and mandates. Subgroups are also included. After review, a copy will be posted in the narthex.

**9)** **Correspondence.** None

**10) Other**.

John Ryrie reported on the activities of the Deanery Refugee Committee. Many churches involved in this are attempting to identify new primary contacts so that a fifth refugee family can be sponsored, since funds are available to support this.

**11. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

**May 24th**. Church Tea.

**May 26th. -28th**. Huron Church Youth Conference (at Huron Church Camp).

**May 27th**. Food Truck event at St. George’s (11.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.).

**May 27th**. First Aid and CPR course at St. George’s (9 a.m. – 3p.m.).

**June 4th**. Contemporary service and presentation of quillows.

**June 10th**. Waterloo Deanery walkathon in Waterloo Park for St. Paul’s cathedral, London. Sign-up sheet for teams in narthex.

**June 11th**. Joint picnic for Kitchener churches at Mannheim Community Centre. 8.15 a.m. service at St. George’s; joint service for all participating parishes at 10.00 a.m. at the picnic.

**September 10th**. Back-to-Church Sunday and BBQ. Theme-Red and White.

**October 20th**. Games Night.

**11. Next PC Meetings**. Tuesday, June 27th. Potluck 6.00 p.m.

Tuesday August 25th, 2017. Chair, Nelson Cuthbert; Minutes, John Dale; Devotions, Mike Stredwick; Refreshments, Charlotte Cromarty.

**12. Adjournment.** Proposed 9.25 p.m. by Matt Brown. **Carried.**