**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for 21st., January, 2020**

***Present:***

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair Valerie Cuthbert Lesley Burland-Prong

John Dale, Secretary Terry McCoy Nelson Cuthbert

Jim Fox Cheryl Fox Connie McCoy

Debra Barclay Catherine Carlson John MacKellar

John Ryrie Murray Gamble Charlotte Cromarty

Cameron Olmsted

***Regrets***: John Shaw, Anne Taylor, April Couzens

***Not Present***: MaryLynn Forrest

***Visitor***: Tim Goodison

**1. Call to Order** at 7.25 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

**2. Attendance/Regrets**. As above. Fr. Stephen honoured Nelson Cuthbert for his long service to both the Parish Council and the Parish Executive, and for his long and valuable service as a Churchwarden. He further pointed out that John Ryrie had agreed to act as Vestry Secretary.

**3. Devotions and Comments on Same Sex Marriage Issue**, by Fr. Stephen Hendry. Fr. Stephen said he was grateful to those who attended the recent Same Sex Marriage seminar hosted by Marilyn Malton. Marilyn will be hosting a second seminar on March 7th (a different date to that previously announced), and Fr. Stephen urged members of PC to attend. After this seminar, a biblical scholar will be invited to talk specifically about the Bible passages which address the same sex issue. In all, St. George’s will undertake a year-long educational process regarding this topic, at the end of which PC will be asked to decide if they feel St. George’s is ready to decide whether we should offer same sex marriage.

**4. Approval of Current Agenda**: **Motion**: to accept the current agenda as presented. Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Catherine Carlson. **Carried**.

**5. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting**: **Motion**: to accept the minutes for the PC meeting held 26th. November 2019 as presented. Proposed, John Dale; Seconded, Nelson Cuthbert. **Carried**.

**6. Business from PC Minutes and 7. Financial Report and Budget for 2020.**

Nelson Cuthbert and Jim Fox paid tribute to Treasurer Anne Taylor who has worked very hard to have a 2020 budget ready for Vestry and for presentation to PC. Unfortunately, the advice distributed by the diocese regarding the calculation of pension contributions was erroneous and this has led to anticipated expenditure being approximately $3500 greater than previously budgeted. The budget therefore will be revisited by the Parish executive on January 22nd. PC will be emailed regarding the results of these deliberations and a balanced budget will be available for consideration by Vestry on Sunday 26th January (as required by canon law). Murray Gamble suggested that it would be possible to ameliorate the situation by withdrawing $2000 from the capital repairs reserve fund, and assured PC that it would be quite possible to deal with such a measure.

Fr. Stephen reviewed the nominations which will be presented to vestry for a vote. These are:

*People’s Nominations to PC*: Terry McCoy, Connie McCoy, John Shaw, Anne Taylor, Nelson Cuthbert, Charlotte Cromarty, Catherine Carlson, Cheryl Fox, Cindy Kellet.

*Rector’s Nominations to PC*: Susan Hipperson, Mary Ann Millar, George Mudry, Cameron Olmsted, Adriana Cronin, Greg Butler, Murray Gamble, Debra Barclay, Linda Dancey.

Fr. Stephen pointed out that our PC will be somewhat larger than that indicated by canon law, but that the territorial archdeacon has given us temporary permission to proceed with this larger body, at the same time requesting that we consider a transition to a smaller number in the future.

*People’s Wardens*: John Dale, John MacKellar.

*Rector’s Wardens*: Jim Fox, Tim Goodison

*Representatives to Synod*: Terry McCoy, Adriana Cronin, Cameron Olmsted.

**Motion**: to submit the above list of nominations for approval at Vestry. Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried**.

Fr. Stephen thanked the following five members of the current PC who will be leaving the council for their past services to St. George’s: Valerie Cuthbert, Lesley Burland-Prong, John Ryrie, Cameron Mott and April Couzens. He also welcomed Tim Goodison to the leadership team.

**8. Mission and Ministry Plan**.

Fr. Stephen reviewed the updated Mission and Ministry document. After approval by the latter by PC, this will be presented at vestry.

New projects and changes include:

a) The introduction of a family service, which will consist of a simple meal, short contemporary service with overheads (projector donated), and activities.

b) A possible Sunday Film Series.

c) The introduction of a Baptism Family Dinner.

d) The six lay-readers in training will have ‘graduated’ in May and will be leading Morning Prayer services.

e) The expansion of the ‘Bells of Christmas’ project with an enlarged volunteer monitor support base.

f) The adoption of the ‘Compass Rose’ project at St. George’s.

g) The hosting of the ‘World Day of Prayer’.

h) Further education regarding the possible offering of same-sex marriages.

I) More mental health workshops

j) An invitation to Canon Linda Nixon to address us regarding ways in which we can ‘renew the earth’ as mandated in the original Mission and ministry guidelines.

k) The introduction of the concept of ‘Seasons of Stewardship’.

**Motion**: to endorse the presentation of the revised Mission and Ministry document to vestry. Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried**.

**9. Rector’s Report**.

Fr. Stephen distributed the minutes of the Worship committee meeting of Jan 14 2020, which includes the results of a strategic planning initiative. He requested PC to take these home and consider them carefully. Specifically, the document contains assessments of what worked, and what didn’t work, at the Christmas liturgies. There is concern regarding the changed timing of the Lessons and Carols service from 7 p.m. to 4. p.m. and it was suggested that the Communications Committee devise a survey to assess the preferences of the congregation regarding this issue. **Motion**: that the Communications committee be asked to devise a survey to assess the preferences of the congregation regarding the timing of the 9 Lessons and Carols service. Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, John Ryrie. **Carried**.

There is also concern regarding the health of the men’s ministry at St. George’s.

The document also contains 20 recommendations regarding future possibilities for changed or additional worship which PC were asked to assess.

**10. Wardens’ Report.**

Suggested meeting dates for Parish Executive and Parish Council were circulated. It was pointed out that the date for the May PC meeting had been advanced a week to 19th. May in order to avoid conflict with the setup for the Spring Tea the following Tuesday. Additionally, and unusually, there is to be a PC meeting in December (the 8th.) to allow more time for considerations of nominations and budgeting for 2021. Connie and Terry McCoy volunteered to provide refreshments for the PC meeting on February 25th. 2020.

Vestry Sunday in 2021 is January 31st.

The three remaining wardens will be taking steps to master Nelson Cuthbert’s extensive knowledge of the physical plant and its maintenance as soon as possible.

The St. George’s organization chart will be updated in the new year. All PC members were reminded of the importance of timely updating of the master calendar in the office, since it is our basal planning document.

**Motion**: to accept the wardens’ report as presented. Proposed, Valerie Cuthbert; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried**.

**11. Treasurer’s Report**.

Tabled. See items 6 & 7.

**12. PC Business (Updates and Reflections)**

**a) Winter Concerts.** Twin City Harmonizers, who will beappearing in concert at St. George’s on February 8th., will be splitting profits 50/50 with the church. PC members were encouraged to attend and bring as many guests as possible. The date for the postponed Steel City Brass concert will be announced as soon as possible, and Fr. Stephen emphasized that the magnitude of the attendance at this concert will be a major determinant regarding whether to proceed with the concert fundraisers. None are currently booked after the end of February. It was pointed out, however, that there will be a Soul Sauce concert at the church on May 1st.

**b) Vision Weekend**. Murray Gamble said that he has worked with the Parish Executive and progress has been made towards the definition of value and purpose statements for St. George’s. Drafts will be presented at the next PC meeting. He is hoping that, once these have been totally defined, there will be a second visioning seminar in March at which planning towards the tactics of implementing the statements will be made.

**c) Floor Waxing & e) Church Maintenance.** The waxing of the floor of the Hall and contiguous areas has been completed. Thanks to all concerned. Murray Gamble asked that the Parish Executive decide on a week during which the sanctuary can be closed. Painting will take perhaps 7 days; hopefully less. No entry for the public to the sanctuary will be possible during painting.

The Sign Committee will be meeting very soon to expedite the renovation of the memorial sign.

**d) 10% from fundraising assigned to Outreach?** Extensive research has revealed that the original vestry motion of 1984 to direct 10% of fundraising dollars to outreach called for the disposition of the money to be under the control of the parish council. Murray Gamble stated that much about the church has changed since 1984 (when St. George’s had just incurred huge debts and mortgages) and that the time had come to revisit this issue, perhaps replacing the rigid 10% allocation with a flexible amount to be defined in the budget presented to vestry each year. **Motion**: P.C. should appoint a sub-committee to review the outreach funding model. Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Lesley Burland-Prong. **Carried unanimously**.

**f) Stewardship**. There were 37 respondents to the 2019 campaign and $88963 was pledged ($56414 was pledged by fewer respondents during the 2018 campaign). The 2020 campaign will introduce the concept of ‘Seasons of Stewardship’. The seasons are as follows: Spring-Time and Talent; Summer-Environment; Fall-Treasure; Winter-Endowments.

**g) Bishop of the Huron Consecration (January 25th)**. The bus from Waterloo will leave at 10.30 a.m. PC members were urged to attend if possible.

**13. Committee Reports**

**a) Painting the Church Sanctuary**. See above (item 12e)

**b) Communications**. Jim Fox reported that there will be a meeting this coming Monday. He pointed out that the tools developed for intra-church communication (Facebook, the sign, eblasts and phone messages) had proved very effective on Saturday 18th January when the Steel City Brass concert had to be cancelled at the last moment because of very inclement weather.

**c) Refugees**. The Deanery Refugee Committee will meet on Wednesday 22nd January. The latest sponsored family is doing well and their Canadian Child Benefit payments have started. Nonetheless, the committee needs money (approximately $1600 per month) to support the family from May to September. It is hoped parishioners will direct some funds to the refugee committee as part of their weekly giving.

**d) Sunday School**. Adriana Cronin will be taking over as Sunday School Chair and will negotiate a starting date with Sue Hipperson.

**e) Youth ministry**. Cameron Olmsted reported eight of the nine youth in the group have registered for CLAY. There is currently $7700 in the CLAY fund. The Youth Group undertook a collection of material for OneRoof in December, and a speaker from there will be coming to speak at the Sunday services. Cameron will coordinate this.

**f) Messy Church**. There will be Messy Church events on February 22nd (theme is ‘God loves you just as you are’) and on April 18th (theme as yet undefined).

**g) ASCEND Final Report**. See report in November’s PC minutes and in the upcoming Vestry Report. There will be a cake at Vestry to celebrate the successful ASCEND campaign.

**h) Outreach.** Debra Barclay reported that thirty bags of warm outerware were collected during the recent ‘Share the warmth’ campaign. Money sleeves will be available to the congregation for accumulating contributions to PWRDF during lent. The Bells of Christmas campaign was a huge success (more volunteer monitors are needed for next year), and the Angel Tree campaign distributed approximately $4000. The lunch at St. John’s Kitchen which St. Georges catered served approximately 260 participants. A Children’s Community Closet will be held in the spring, and the YWCA Women’s Shelter is requesting donations of baby formula and baby and feminine products. These donations can be left at St. George’s. The next Outreach Committee meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. in the Fireside room on March 12th. All are welcome to attend.

**i) Atmosphere.** Catherine Carlson reported that it is hoped to hold a ‘Murder Mystery’ night towards the end of March. The car rally will take place on May 2nd and a Euchre Night on April 17th.

**j) Social Justice.** Contact has been made with the Region regarding the issue of affordable housing, and much information has been received. A petition which members of the congregation would have the opportunity to sign is a possibility and a speaker on the topic may be invited to attend the services. There will also be an update to the congregations on the issue of single-use plastics soon.

**k) Envelope Secretary**. A third update to parishioners regarding their donations will be provided by 16th February. The responsibilities of Envelope Secretary will move from Nelson Cuthbert to John MacKellar in the near future.

**l) Other**. Jim Fox asked PC to consider whether there was any merit in having the monthly calendar handed to parishioners cover a longer period.

**14. Upcoming Parish Event Dates**.

**Feb 8** Twin City Harmonizers 7.00 p.m.

**Feb 16** Soup Luncheon 11.40 a.m.

**Feb 22** Messy Church 4.00 p.m.

**Feb 23** Scout Parade 10.00 a.m.

**Feb 25** Pancake Supper and Parish Council (should be possible to integrate the two events)

**Feb 26** Ash Wednesday 2 services, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Mar 7** Same Sex Marriage Seminar

**Mar 12** Outreach Committee Meeting

**April 17** Euchre Night.

**May 1** Soul Sauce Concert

**May 2** Car Rally

**10. Next P.C. Meeting**:

Date; Tuesday, February 25th, 7.30 p.m.

Chair and Devotions; Fr. Stephen. Minutes; John Dale. Refreshments, Terry and Connie McCoy

**11. Closing Grace & Adjournment**: 9.20 p.m.