**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for 25th., February, 2020**

***Present:***

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair Adriana Cronin Linda Dancey

John Dale, Secretary Terry McCoy Nelson Cuthbert

Jim Fox Cheryl Fox Connie McCoy

Debra Barclay Catherine Carlson John MacKellar

Greg Butler Murray Gamble Charlotte Cromarty

Cameron Olmsted Anne Taylor John Shaw

MaryLynn Forrest Tim Goodison Susan Hipperson

Cindy Kellet Mary Ann Millar George Mudry

**1. Call to Order** at 7.03 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

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

**3. ”Leadership”.** Fr. Stephen Hendry. Fr. Stephen stressed the leadership role expected of the members of PC. He requested them to dialogue with their neighbours and bring the collective opinions of the church community to the table at future meetings. It was agreed the use of nameplates at future meetings would be useful.

**4. Approval of Current Agenda**: Catherine Carlson asked that a discussion of the provision of funds to support the World Day of Prayer be added to the agenda as item 11e, and Mary Ann Millar requested a discussion of Compass Rose as item 11f. M**otion**: to accept the current agenda as amended. Proposed, Nelson Cuthbert; Seconded, Catherine Carlson. **Carried**.

**5. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting**: The minutes to be amended to include the following: The incorrect spelling of the names Cameron Olmstead and Tim Goodman to be amended to Cameron Olmsted and Tim Goodison; also the date of the upcoming Outreach Committee meeting to be amended to March 12th. **Motion**: to accept the minutes for the PC meeting held 21st. January 2020 as amended. Proposed, John Dale; Seconded, Catherine Carlson. **Carried**.

**6. Business from PC Minutes**

None.

**7. Mission and Ministry Plan**.

Fr. Stephen indicated that the parochial Mission and Ministry documents were a particular focus of Bishop Todd, and explained that every month PC would be examining different parts of the document with the aim of exploring and expanding it. He therefore requested that PC members bring the document to each meeting.

**8. Rector’s Report**.

**a) Scouts’ Ministry**. A successful service involving the scout group was held last Sunday and sixteen scouts have completed their Religion and Life badges. Thanks for this were offered to George Mudry.

**b) Youth Leadership**. April Couzens is taking a temporary break from the Youth Ministry and Allison Olmsted is retiring after this year’s CLAY conference. Appreciation was conveyed to both for their valuable work. Fr. Stephen and Joyce Hendry will temporarily step in to leadership positions in the Youth Ministry, as will Adriana Cronin and Cameron Olmsted. Two others may become involved.

**c) Childrens’ Ministry Leadership**. Sue Hipperson will finish as Leader at the end of this term, and will be replaced by Adriana Cronin, supported by Jim Stirling and Kate Durden.

**d) Same Sex Blessing Conversation**. Marilyn Malton from Renison College will give her second presentation at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday March 7th., as we work towards a Vestry vote on this issue when the congregation feels ready to make a decision. It was suggested that it would be useful to record the presentation and make it available to those unable to attend. Fr. Stephen will negotiate this with Marilyn.

**e) Funeral and Burial Booklet**. St. George’s Funeral and Burial Booklet, designed as a guide to end-of-life procedures and necessities and as a means to record wishes regarding the latter, has been revised. It will be distributed to congregation members shortly, but needs PC approval. The draft was given out to PC members, who were asked to read it and let the office or Fr. Stephen know of any issues or concerns they have concerning this document.

**f) Other**. Brother Mark will be holding a Lenten Quiet Time entitled “No Greater Love” on March 25th from 7 to 9 p.m.

A provisional framework for Holy Week services was distributed.

New blue wall hangings will be installed in the chapel, in memory of, and designed by, Gladys Grant.

**Motion**: to accept the rector’s report as presented. Proposed, Terry McCoy; Seconded, Connie McCoy. **Carried**.

**9. Wardens’ Report.**

**a) Contact List.** The contact list will be circulated by email for correction; please advise Valerie of any necessary corrections. Nelson Cuthbert indicated that his phone number is 519-578-8671, rather than that shown on the chart.

**b) A Refreshment Schedule** for PC meetings was available to fill in and a list of meeting dates was circulated.

**c) A Revised Laity Organization Chart** for 2020 was circulated showing the names of chairs, Pex representatives to committees, mandates and sub-groups and activities. Items that have been confirmed are bolded on the chart, and PC members were asked to advise of any necessary changes to unconfirmed entries. The wording of the mandate for Parish council was discussed and changed by consensus approval of P.C. to the following, “The Council, confirmed at Vestry, is a leadership and governance group representing our parish family which gives assistance and direction to the Church Wardens in the discharge of their duties.”

**d) Storage and Cleaning Issues**. In view of the need for our space to present a tidy and attractive appearance to visitors, it was suggested that the Spring Clean-Up include the tidying up of storage areas around the building, particularly the space below the stairs.

**e) Other**. Because unauthorized incursions into the furnace room (a space containing toxic chemicals) have been reported, the lock on the furnace room door has been changed.

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

**10. Treasurer’s Report**.

It is very early in the year to identify trends, but revenue and expenses for January were as budgeted.

**Motion**: to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried**.

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

**a) Winter Concerts.** TheTwin City Harmonizers on February 8th generated about $500 in revenue, but, in view of the very considerable effort involved in organizing the concerts, a question has been raised regarding whether we should arrange any more concerts after the Soul Sauce event on May 1st, and the Steel City Brass concert on June 13th. Various comments and suggestions were made. First, that we should avoid having too many events too close together, should continue with the concerts but cut back on the number, and also consider having them in the afternoon rather than the evening. Second, that the concerts were valuable in that they brought people from outside the congregation into the church (about 60% of the attendees at the Twin City Harmonizers concert were non-parishioners). Third, that a ‘Talent Night’ for church members might be a good idea. A ‘Cookie Walk’ was also proposed as a valuable fund-raising concept; this has been successful elsewhere.

It being clear that PC was not ready to abandon the concept of at least occasional concerts going forward, a group of four volunteers to form a concert organizing committee was called for; those in PC interested in this role should contact Fr. Stephen. There will also be an announcement in the bulletin.

**b) Vision Weekend**. Murray Gamble said he hoped there would be a second Visioning meeting in late March or April to keep momentum going on this initiative. He will ask Pex to suggest a date. PC members were asked to sign up to work on sub-committees in one of four key areas: Spirituality; Caring for Others; Engaging Others (Marketing); Youth and Family Engagement.

**c) 10% from fundraising assigned to Outreach?** There were four volunteers to form a sub-committee to review and revise the policy currently in place: Greg Butler, Debra Barclay, John Shaw and Cheryl Fox

**d) Stewardship** **2020.** The Seasons of Stewardship program has been introduced. This season, winter, is the season for encouraging endowments. **Motion**: To ask Paul Thomas to design a seminar for parishioners emphasizing the necessity to make a will which is acceptable under the current laws of Ontario, and offering advice on how to establish legacies.

**e) World Day of Prayer**. This event will take place at St. George’s on Friday March 4th and 50 to 60 people (from five or six churches) are expected to attend. We will provide lunch. The script has been written by Zimbabwean churchwomen. **Motion**: to provide $180 for World Day of Prayer expenses. Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Nelson Cuthbert. **Carried**.

**f) Compass Rose**. This initiative was initiated in 1994 by the Archbishop of Canterbury and it provides funds for overseas projects such as an ophthalmology centre in Ghana and the Green Anglican group in southern Africa. It costs $10,000 to establish a chapter and there are ongoing yearly expenses. There is a plan for the Waterloo Deanery to form a chapter and St. George’s can be part of it if we wish. Mary Ann Millar will circulate the Compass Rose website address to PC members and will request a decision as to whether St. George’s has any interest in being part of this project.

**12. Committee Reports**

**a) Painting the Church Sanctuary / Property**. The estimate for the sanctuary painting over March Break has been revised to include painting the central HVAC duct and the application of primer to preclude stud ‘ghosting’. The estimate for the work has increased a little and is now $7500. We are providing a partial advance to cover some of the cost of materials. Our organ maintenance contractors will be taking steps to protect the organ from the painting process and tune the organ afterwards, so the organ will not be operational on the Sunday before and the Sunday after March Break.

The quote for the replacement of the wireless transmission system, as approved at Vestry, is now $3727. This replacement needs to happen quickly; perhaps within the next month.

The sign committee will be called together again to carry the reconstruction of the existing memorial/sign to completion. The design is finished and a reputable contractor has been identified; the pricing and ordering remains to be done.

Murray Gamble indicated that, although he cannot do the Hazardous Substances Report for the diocese himself since it would constitute a conflict of interest, he believes it can be done for approximately $2500. A diocesan rebate of up to $1500 is available from the Diocese of Huron. Pex will be asked to approve the choice of inspector.

**b) Communications**. The monthly calendars have been issued and the ‘highlights of the year’ have appeared in the bulletin. The DragonFlyer will be issued three times this year, and PC members will be approached to provide bios to appear in it. The suggestion was made that the DragonFlyer be made available on-line to those who would prefer to receive it that way. Various other methods of publicizing our existence and activities are under consideration; e.g. billboards, doorhangers. A rolling video presentation has been prepared which will greet the congregation as they enter the narthex on Sundays going forward.

**c) Refugees**. No report.

**d) Sunday School**. See 8(c).

**e) Youth ministry**. A Toonie Collection has amassed $360 in three weeks (two weeks left to go) towards CLAY expenses. The Youth Group will be undertaking coffee hour for both services on March 8th. The church youth have been encouraged to attend the Same Sex Marriage presentation.

**f) Messy Church**. There was a successful Messy Church event on February 22nd. Thirteen young people plus associated parents and grandparents attended.

**g) Outreach.** There has been no meeting since the last PC meeting. The recent Soup Luncheon raised $268 which will be donated to PWRDF.

**h) Atmosphere.** There will be a gangster-style ‘Who Dun It’ night on Saturday March 28th.

**i) Social Justice.** Further advice (verbal, handouts and posters) has been given to both congregations to help them avoid the use of single-use plastics. There has been dialogue with the Regional Chair and other staff at the Region of Waterloo regarding affordable housing and possible legislation ensuring the provision of an adequate number of affordable housing units in all builds. A petition for parishioners to sign, similar to that regarding single-use plastics, may be created once the appropriate target has been identified,

**j) ‘Thy Kingdom come’ Global Prayer Movement.** This program is an evangelistic initiative, which originated in the U.K., to reach out and invite people (who are currently not attendees) into the church. An explanatory video is available. The Waterloo Deanery is planning a series of events, and St. George’s has volunteered to hold the final ‘banquet’ (exact format not yet defined—could be pot-luck) on either Friday May 22nd, or Saturday May 23rd. Music might be involved. Catherine Carlson, John Shaw and Connie McCoy volunteered to help with this event.

**Motion**: that St. George’s will hold a pot-luck supper as the final event in the Deanery ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ initiative towards the end of May. Proposed, Tim Goodison; Seconded Catherine Carlson. **Carried**.

**13. Upcoming Parish Event Dates**.

**Mar 3**. Meeting of Worship Committee.

**Mar 4**. World Day of Prayer at St. George’s.

**Mar 7.** Same Sex Marriage Seminar.

**Mar 8**. Evensong.

**Mar 12.** Outreach Committee Meeting.

**Mar 25**. Lenten Quiet Time programme with Br. Mark 7-9 p.m.

**Mar 27**. Spring Tea

**Mar 28**. ‘Who Dun It’ night.

**April 17** Euchre Night.

**May 1** Soul Sauce Concert.

**May 2** Car Rally.

**June 13**. Steel City Brass concert.

**14. Next P.C. Meeting**:

Date; Tuesday, March 24th, 7.30 p.m.

Chair and Devotions; Fr. Stephen. Minutes; John Dale. Refreshments, Mary Ann Millar/ Linda Dancey.

**15. Closing Grace & Adjournment**: 9.40 p.m.