**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for 30th., June, 2020**

***Present:***

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair Linda Dancey Susan Hipperson

John Dale, Secretary Terry McCoy Nelson Cuthbert

Jim Fox Cheryl Fox Connie McCoy

Debra Barclay Catherine Carlson John MacKellar

Murray Gamble Mary Ann Millar Tim Goodison

Cameron Olmsted Anne Taylor

***Regrets:*** Adriana Cronin, George Mudry, John Shaw, Greg Butler

***Not Present:*** Charlotte Cromarty, MaryLynn Forrest, Cindy Kellet

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** at 7.06 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

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

**3. Leadership in the Future Church.** (**Fr. Stephen Hendry**). Fr. Stephen stressed that PC would be the leadership team that will guide St. George’s exploration of a future very different from the past. He is cautiously hopeful regarding this process because of the dedication that parish members have shown to St. George’s in the past few months

**4. Approval of Current Agenda**: Jim Fox indicated that item 8c would be an open forum, that he would present item 8d, and that Tim Goodison would report on the current Livestream situation as item 8e.

M**otion**: to accept the current agenda as amended. Proposed, John MacKellar; Seconded, Connie McCoy. **Carried**.

**5. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting**: **Motion**: to accept the minutes for the PC meeting held 25th. February 2020 as presented. Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Catherine Carlson. **Carried**.

**6. Business from PC Minutes**

None.

**7. Rector’s Report**.

For the benefit of Parish Council, Fr. Stephen summarized the contents of the diocesan document entitled ‘Loving Your Neighbour – The Red Stage’ (LYN-RS), which defines current COVID Risk Minimization requirements to be observed by parishes and outlines the process for possible re-opening in September.

There is a possibility that an outdoor service will be held at St. George’s in mid-August, appropriate social distancing being observed. Although the LYN-RS document allows for it, we will not be having a ‘drive-in’ service; there are doubts as to the adequacy of the PA system, and participants would have to remain in closed cars with no air conditioning, which is unacceptable in the summer heat.

There have been pastoral visits from St. George’s (coupled with the delivery of ‘goodwill baskets’) which have observed the conditions outlined in the LYN-RS document. Currently the office is being disinfected twice a day and the upstairs washroom once a day; all unused rooms in the church building have been closed off. Hand-sanitizer is available throughout. The air-conditioning is run when the building is empty, but is turned off when people are in the building since there is some indication that air-conditioning systems can spread contaminated droplets. A Red Stage compliance report will shortly be sent to the diocesan office.

A preliminary plan for limited re-opening in September is as follows.

It is envisaged that there will be 4, and perhaps 5, services per week in the sanctuary on Wednesday morning, Saturday night, and Sunday at 8 and 11 a.m. (and possibly one in the evening). A maximum of 50 attendees will be allowed at each service and socially-distanced seating will be marked on the pews. Parishioners will be surveyed and asked to indicate their first and second choices for attendance times via snail-mail, ‘phone call and email (using ‘Survey-Monkey’), but they will then be allocated a time for attendance bearing in mind the need to avoid numbers in excess of 50 at any service. We do not currently know whether communion or anointing will be possible. Bulletins will be distributed; no service books will be handled. Masks will be worn. There will be no Sunday School (the possibility of distributing packages of written or pre-recorded material to Sunday School participants for use at home is being explored by the Deanery). Officiants will each use different microphones. A list of attendees will be retained for thirty days after each service. Washrooms and the sanctuary will be cleaned after each service. No food or drink will be available.

Susan Hipperson will investigate the zoom-based ‘coffee hour’ in place at St. John’s.

A task team of 10 people to manage the introduction of these changes and communicate them to parishioners was established. Participants are Catherine Carlson, Tim Goodison, Debra Barclay, Cheryl and Jim Fox, John MacKellar, John Dale, Susan Hipperson, Mary Ann Millar, and Terry or Connie McCoy.

**8. Wardens’ Report.**

**a)**. **Update on Activity (John Dale)** The wardens have supported the Livestream programme by facilitating the purchase of the enhanced sound equipment recommended by Nelson Cuthbert. Tim Goodison has undertaken training which will equip him to act as a substitute for Nelson in operating the Livestream equipment.

The wardens have worked with the sexton to modify his schedule in such a way as to ensure our compliance with the requirement s of the LYN-RS document.

With the help of many, the wardens have prosecuted an ambitious clean-up process for many areas of the church.

**b) Plans for the Fall (John MacKellar)** There have been many extensions of the COVID restrictions and clearly there is much uncertainty about what will be possible in September. However, preliminary planning, as sketched out by Fr. Stephen, has been started.

**c) Suggestions and Recommendations and d) Storage and Cleaning Issues (Jim Fox).** The many participants in the property clean-up were named and thanked. The property committee will be providing new storage shelving for the furnace room area. Mary Ann Millar will examine the possibilities for maintaining and utilizing the parish library.

**e) Livestream (Tim Goodison)** Tim confirmed that he will be operating the Livestream equipment in place of Nelson in August. Nelson indicated that, although a reduction in number of attendees would be in line with the trend of church attendance over the summer in ‘normal’ years, the number of people watching the Livestream services (either ’live’, or as recordings) has held up well, running to 130-150 by the middle of a week following Sunday services. Mary Ann Millar said that, in addition, a number of people watched the services using Facebook, and that, in general, our Facebook postings are widely followed.

**9. Treasurer’s Report**.

Anne Taylor reported that non-auto-debit parishioner donations year-to-date were approximately $9000 below budget, but, since we recently received approximately a $14,500 federal wage subsidy for the months of March and April, we are currently above budget year-to-date.

Going forward, it seems unlikely that the diocese will receive any more federal wage subsidies. It has proved possible to prune expenses to only a limited degree and it is clear that parishioners will need to be encouraged to keep their donations up over the summer period. The possibility of incorporating a pathway to donation on our Facebook page was discussed, as was incorporating a passage urging continued donation in the upcoming edition of the Dragonflyer. In the interim, the incorporation of an appropriately worded slide at the end of the Livestream services was floated. A donation statement to parishioners will be issued by the envelope secretary in the fall.

Anne is encouraged by the fact that some parishioners have increased their giving, some new parishioners have started giving and some have adopted new methods of giving, such as etransfer of funds. She also pointed out the wisdom of starting the year with a retained surplus.

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

**10. Committee Reports**

**a) Property Committee (Murray Gamble).** The painting of the sanctuary has been completed, new sound system components installed, and a few minor maintenance items completed. While major projects are currently on hold, the refining of pricing estimates for them continues. An exception is the project to renovate the original sign/memorial which will go ahead, but supply lead time constraints indicate that project will likely not be completed until next year.

**b) Communications (Jim Fox)**. Regular communication with parishioners is now key, and ‘phone calls, eblasts, cards, and contact via The Dragonflyer will continue,

**c) Refugees.** No report.

**d) Childrens’ and e) Youth Ministry.** Fr. Stephen and Cameron Olmsted will meet to discuss the possibility of a meeting for the church youth at a restaurant patio in the fall. CLAY and the Huron Church Camp have been postponed until next year.

**f) Outreach (Debra Barclay)**. Some fall events have been cancelled, for example, the Monica House gala. On the other hand, $987.50 collected from the Lent coin drive and from regular parishioner donations has been sent to PWRDF, and a donation of potatoes was made at Easter to the Food Bank (after St. John’s Kitchen proved unable to accept them).

A meeting of the committee was held on June 10th and there were discussions as to how to continue the committee’s work in the current environment. Donations for Innisfree Hospice might be collected in a car trunk in the parking lot during the summer. Drop-off of gift-cards for the Angel Tree at Christmas is also a possibility.

Catherine Carlson asked that Debra forward a passage on the current work of the committee to her for inclusion in the Dragonflyer.

**g) Atmosphere**. No activity possible.

**h) Synod (Fr. Stephen).** It is not clear how the synod meeting on September 26th will be conducted. A Zoom-based meeting is a possibility, and the potential has been discussed for St. George’s to act as one of a number of Deanery ‘hubs’ where delegates can meet (socially-distanced) in a large space.

**i) Other (Fr. Stephen).** It is expected that the bishop will issue on July 16th a document outlining the measures parishes must put in place for the ‘Amber’ stage of operations.

The bishop has recently issued a document in which he puts aside the requirement for clergy to obtain special permission from the diocese before conducting same-sex marriages. At St. George’s we are part-way through the process of discerning the most acceptable way for St. George’s to move forward on this issue. The discernment and education process will continue.

**11. Upcoming Parish Event Dates**.

All tentative; none certain.

**12. Next P.C. Meeting**:

Date; Tuesday, September 22nd., 7.30 p.m. (in person? Zoom?)

Chair and Devotions; Fr. Stephen. Minutes; ?. Refreshments, ?.

**13. Closing Grace & Adjournment**: 8.40 p.m.