**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, January 25, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Tim Goodison Adriana Cronin

Mary Ann Millar John Dale Terry McCoy Connie McCoy

Murray Gamble Nelson Cuthbert Deb Barclay MaryLynn Forrest

Catherine Carlson Anne Taylor Ann Marie Shaw Fr Craig

Ericka Babb Cindy Kellett Jim Fox Cheryl Fox

Susan Hipperson John Shaw

guest: Claudette Meyer

Absent: Greg Butler, Charlotte Cromarty

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Anne Taylor Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from November 23, 2021 as amended:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Ann Marie Shaw Carried

Financial Report: Year-end reports and 2022 budget were sent to council. We have a $90,000 GIC that is fully cashable and will be used as needed. The Allocated Funds are special donations that have not been given a designated purpose. The Designated Funds are for a specific purpose. The Dorcas Folds fund is being used for the new Eternal flame fixture. The Retained Surplus from Operations is an accumulation of savings over the years. That means we have funds in savings if needed. The 2021 budget included a very conservative estimate of $250,000 for donations, and we exceeded that by $17,000.  The 2021 budget also included an estimated loss from operations of $10,000, but we ended the year at break even.

2022 does not have a budget for capital repairs because we usually fundraise for large projects as needed. In 2022 we will use our savings to pay for projects that have been on hold due to covid. The Communications Committee has asked for $6000 budget for 2022. There was discussion about how that would be used as presented by members of the communications committee. The committee has worked hard in 2021 to prepare an advertising campaign. Now they want funds to build on that for future growth of the church. That budget was approved by council. The Worship budget was arrived at by using 2019 figures as a better guide than the last 2 years during covid. $24,000 was transferred to the Capital Fund because we haven’t done repairs in the last 2 years. The property committee has been asked to recommend how to spend their $40,000 budget. 2021 ended with a net surplus of $645 which we add to the retained surplus for a total of $47968.

The budget for 2022 is proposed as a balanced budget that will break even.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: John Shaw Carried

Motion: BIRT the operating budget for 2022 be endorsed by parish council and sent to Vestry for approval.

Murray asked why the increase for personnel was only 2%. That was the recommendation from the Diocese. Nelson asked why the bank charged doubled in 2022 verses 2021. We expect to buy cheques in 2022 which cost $250 and bank fees were lower in 2021 with less than normal transactions. Nelson asked if there was a contingency for a new office computer. Executive has thought about that and also a dedicated laptop for Livestream. These funds could come from the Ascend funds not used yet or the Dorcas Folds fund as needed. moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. Fr Stephen thanked Anne and Valerie for the work putting together the Vestry report and financial report.
   2. We are staffing for success by welcoming Fr Craig. Br Mark will officiate Evensong on January 30, 2022. Rev MaryLynn continues to do an “awesome job”. Canon Christopher Pratt has joined as honorary assistant.
   3. Fr Stephen thanked each council member individually for their work on council in the past year and their support of St George’s. He did a very nice tribute to each council member. Then Catherine thanked Fr Stephen for his leadership, his encouragement and clear direction.
   4. Fr Stephen told council that we will “explore new ideas together”. The number of services will increase in the next few months and a third bible study will be added. Fr Stephen thanked everyone for their time, talent and energy as we grow together.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Tim noted that since covid cases rose in December, we closed to in person services after Christmas Eve for one month. In person services resumed on January 23, 2022. January 30 will have an in person 8:15 service, then Vestry via zoom at 10:00 then Evensong in person at 7pm. Tim expressed appreciation for all council members efforts.
   2. Catherine admires the resilience of the people at St George’s. She thanked the greeters and the Livestream team. She thanked the music team. She thanked Fr Stephen and Valerie for their work on the bulletin each week. Catherine said that we are blessed to have a clergy team of 5 people who have different voices and work well together. She thanked the parishioners of St George’s for their financial support and their support of each other. She is excited to get back to fellowship later this year.
   3. John thanked the Livestream team for their hard work. The petition for clean water for First Nations communities was sent with 80-90 signatures on it.

The Senator’s report

Jim has created a resource manual as an educational tool and a decision making tool. Jim thanked Fr Stephen for his collaboration on this project. He also thanked everyone on council for their input and thanked Valerie for her support. This is a living, working document that can be updated and changed over time.

Motion to approve receipt of the Rector’s, Wardens’ and Senator’s Reports:

moved: Ericka Babb seconded: Terry McCoy Carried

Fr Stephen mentioned that Ann Marie Shaw is nominated as Deputy People’s Warden for 2022. Adriana Cronin has agreed to stand as alternate lay delegate to Synod. We have a complete slate of officers to take to Vestry. Fr Stephen will ask for nominations from the floor. Then the slate of officers will be accepted as it stands or there will be an election.

Motion: BIRT that parish council has reviewed the Nomination Committee recommendations and approve it being sent to Vestry.

moved: John Shaw seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

1. Committee Reports

Communications: Jim thanked council for the support of the budget. There will be a banner ready soon and it will be used at events. The Dragon Flyer will be distributed by April 10. The use of social media to reach people outside our church has been very successful and the committee will continue their work in this area. Facebook has people viewing and commenting regularly. 2021 saw 117,659 views. Mary Ann is always looking for content to add to the page. Cindy Kellett maintains our Tiktok page and Catherine has recorded some videos as well as others from the parish. Google is a free app that has received over 9000 views. This has generated phone calls, people going to our website and looking at pictures. Cindy asked council to use these apps and click “like” to spread viewership. The website will continue to be updated and kept relevant. Fr Craig has been asked to be the clerical liaison for this committee.

Outreach: The committee met on January 12 via zoom. They discussed the recent article about St George’s in the Kitchener Citizen. They were very pleased about that. Bells of Christmas was a very successful event which supported 65 seniors with gifts. The Angel Tree supported a family of 6,

1 young adult, a family of 3 and 10 youth with financial donations. St John’s lunch raised $2275 in donations in lieu of hosting a lunch. The outreach committee will partner with the communications committee to promote events on social media. The News Bytes will continue to update the congregation. Ray of Hope asked for blankets and many blankets were donated then delivered by Dianne McCandless. We are currently collecting socks, mittens and underwear for YWKW for the homeless. Used eye glasses continue to be collected and distributed. At Easter this year our donation to St John’s Kitchen will likely be financial again due to covid. The Community Clothes Closet will be deferred until fall when a decision will be made about hosting again. Lenten coin holders for PWRDF will run again this year but likely as a straight donation. Monica Place will be asked if there is anything our Deanery can do for the graduates.

Motion to approve the Outreach report as presented:

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

Building and Property: The Memorial Sign is completed. There will likely be some landscaping done around it this Spring. Charlotte has asked that the dedication of the sign be in the Spring when people can be outside at the sign. The Eternal flame fixture has been replaced. Thank you to Nelson for his work on this project. Looking forward, there are some projects to be looked at. The Rectory deck needs replacing. Murray will be putting forward a motion at Vestry to look at the back entry stairs. It will ask for a feasibility study to see what can be done with the opportunity to address accessibility issues kept in mind. The Committee hopes to take options and a budget to council later in 2022.

Catherine asked about the ceiling that needs repair in the Narthex. Murray says there is a long list of repairs needed and it will all be looked at in the coming months.

Motion to approve the Property report as presented:

moved: Jim Fox seconded: John Shaw Carried

Livestream: Nelson informed council that the numbers recorded are per computer and there is no way to know if that is an individual watching, a couple or a family. January to June 2021 showed 120 viewers on Sunday and 50 on Wednesday. Summer numbers were 80 on Sunday plus in person and 33 on Wednesday plus in person. Fall services were in person plus 72 watching Livestream on Sunday and 29 on Wednesday. The numbers show that the Livestream services are making an impact on the community. The numbers are stable and the services are well-watched. Blue Christmas had 80 watching, Lessons and Carols 89 watched, and Christmas Eve had 125 viewers. Nelson also thanked everyone for the cards, phone calls, flowers, support and prayers during his recuperation.

Facebook/ website: These topics were discussed earlier in the meeting.

New Business: none

1. Next Parish Council meeting will be February 22, 2022
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 8:50 pm