**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, February 22, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Tim Goodison Adriana Cronin

Murray Gamble Nelson Cuthbert Deb Barclay MaryLynn Forrest

Ann-Marie Shaw Fr Craig Ericka Babb Cindy Kellett

Jim Fox Susan Hipperson Dulcie Tapp

Absent: Catherine Carlson

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
   1. Fr Stephen welcomed the new members to the council for 2022.
   2. Jim presented the new Operations Manual. It is a starting point and will be adapted and updated as needed. It is a tool to be used by Parish Council as needed. Feedback is important. Jim gave an overview of each section but encouraged all members to read the manual thoroughly. There will be a digital copy kept on the office computer to make changes in the future. Fr Stephen thanked Jim for the many hours he put into preparing this manual. Each member of council was given a copy of the Operations Manual to be used during the next year. It is expected that these will be returned in January of 2023 to be updated then distributed to all those on council for that year.
   3. Fr Stephen asked council members to speak to 3-10 members of the congregation each month to keep up to date on how people are feeling and thinking.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from January 25, 2022 as amended:

moved: Jim Fox seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

\*Fabric Lenten coin holders will be distributed\*

Financial Report: Anne Taylor provided a financial report which is attached. There are no financial statements for January.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Tim Goodison Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. Fr Stephen has been re-appointed as Regional Dean for the next 3 years. Fr Stephen will spend approximately 6 hours per week in this position. St George’s will host events for the Deanery but the deanery will pay for the events. After 12months, Fr Stephen will assess his position as Regional Dean and make sure it does not take away from his work at St George’s.
   2. Looking Forward - God is doing something new that is for our benefit. We can learn from all generations. All voices need to be heard in the church. When speaking with people of our congregation, council was encouraged to ask, “What has been life-giving in the last month?”. We are making changes and it may seem to be moving quickly. We must reassure everyone that “we will not move forward without you.” Everyone has a voice. Council is asked to “be curious”. What new ways can we function in this church? Holy listening is listening to what is being said and then responding. We have work to do with our youth and we need to reach the youth where they are. To do that we must ask questions that they are interested in talking about. We look to have all generations involved in worship every week. We must find out what people are good at and their talents they are willing to share. Fr Stephen recommended a book called “Making Sense of the Church”. There are 2 principles of leadership: Be Present and Be Personal. People want to connect with the church and we must make that available to them. 75% say that they are “spiritually starving during the pandemic.” We need to help them find God and can do that by small groups and worship. We must meet people where they are and invite them to grow.
   3. We are adding staff and adding services. Right now we are capped at 70 people in attendance to keep social distancing. This may change in the near future or may last longer. We will add services to accommodate all who wish to attend church.
   4. Fr Stephen and Joyce plan to host the senior youth group for dinner at a restaurant in March. Planning has begun.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Tim reported to council that Allan Lee is no longer employed as our Sexton. Ann-Marie has made inquiries to companies as to cost but has not response yet. No decisions have been made.
   2. Greg reported that services are going well and attendance is good. We have adapted well over that last 2 years to the many changes.

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

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: Cindy Kellett Carried

Fr Stephen asked council to keep Allan in their prayers during his full-time seminarian studies.

Fr Stephen asked council to keep Fr Craig in their prayers. He is an ordained Deacon at St George’s to focus on administration and is fully immersed in the committees and workings of St George’s.

1. Committee Reports

Communications: The committee plans to give quarterly reports to the congregation of their activities. They are now planning advertising for Easter services with the Kitchener Citizen which is targeted to the west end of Kitchener within our target area. Social media will be used along with communications from the church office and the Dragon Flyer. Input is needed early in March for the next Dragon Flyer issue. The Kitchener Citizen runs a “Church Listings” for $10/month and St George’s will be in that listing going forward. The committee is researching door knockers and other ways of advertising for Easter.

Facebook had 18710 hits in January and 12764 in February. Tiktok and google have been popular. 2750 viewed the pictures and 12 people called to ask questions about St George’s. There is interest online so we should have a presence there. Joyce and Cindy have offered to help with the website. An in-house workshop on social media is an idea the committee is considering. Next meeting is March 14 at 7pm.

Motion to approve the Outreach report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

Outreach: The Ray of Hope blanket drive was a success. 19 bags, 1 box, 3 sleeping bags, 12 blankets were delivered. 48 nighties were collected for Winston Park LTC. Lenten fabric coin holders are in the Narthex for distribution to collect for PWRDF. The next outreach meeting is March 9 at 6:30pm

Motion to approve the Outreach report as presented:

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: Cindy Kellett Carried

Building and Property: The motion passed at Vestry is being moved forward. The committee will get quotes for different levels of repair/accessibility for the outside back stairs. The committee meets early in March to discuss this. There are 3 new members of the committee and more are always welcome

Motion to approve the Property report as presented:

moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Greg Butler Carried

Livestream: Nelson predicts that Livestream is now a long-term endeavour. It is a worship outreach as we know that many people watch it from far away. The numbers have stayed consistent over the last several months. The service remains on the Livestream site for 1 month then is deleted. John Dale does the Livestreaming on Wednesdays and Nelson does it on Sundays. He spends 3-4 hours each week to prepare the slides and put together the presentation. He is developing a library of slides and recorded music. He is always looking for more help with this ministry.

New Business:

* 1. Fr Stephen asked for volunteers for the new garden initiative that was passed at Vestry. Please contact Fr Stephen if you are interested.
  2. Fr Stephen told council that each month council will receive an agenda, minutes from the previous meeting and motions. 80% of each meeting will be discussion and 20% reports. Council is invited to contact Fr Stephen anytime if they have concerns or questions.

Questions:

Susan: Commented that when we ask people about their talents, we ask permission to share that information.

Murray: With new Covid restrictions will the Diocese follow the provincial guidelines? The answer was yes and we will hear from the Diocese soon. Greg mentioned that in the last 2 years, the Diocese has followed provincial guidelines quite closely.

Ericka: In the Operations manual there is a page showing the Deaneries within the Diocese. Why is Kitchener not shown? Kitchener is within the Waterloo Deanery and Deaneries are usually named after the region.

Jim: Will we adhere to social distancing when the province lifts that. We will follow Diocesan rules.

Ericka: Will there be a pancake supper this year? If so, it will be later.

Fr Stephen will be at a Diocesan council meeting on Saturday February 27.

1. Next Parish Council meeting will be March 22, 2022
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:30 pm