**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, March 22, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Tim Goodison Adriana Cronin

Murray Gamble Nelson Cuthbert Catherine Carlson MaryLynn Forrest

Ann-Marie Shaw Fr Craig Ericka Babb Susan Hipperson

Jim Fox

Absent: Deb Barclay, Cindy Kellett, Dulcie Tapp

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
   1. Fr Stephen made a presentation about “Faithful Innovation Navigating Change”. Every congregation goes through “life cycles of renewal”. We are not stagnant but always in transition. When things are going up we are in “Thriving order”. Then we go through a period of struggle and disorder which is often painful and difficult. These times are balanced by the joyful moments. Then we have “surrender and disorder” but we don’t stay there. We then have new beginnings and possibilities. That’s when we are looking for new ideas and “creative transformation”. We want to add on new ideas while keeping our traditions. Then we move back to “Thriving order”. Every cycle has something new. We need to ask ourselves often: Who are we?, Who is our neighbour?, Why are we here?, What shall we do? Jesus asks, Who do you say that I am?
   2. Fr Stephen welcomes helpful feedback. Please feel free to speak with him about what you see the church doing.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from February 22, 2022 as presented:

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

1. Financial Report: Anne Taylor provided a financial report for February which is attached. There was a notice in the bulletin about Stewardship on March 20. Catherine asked about the CLAY funds in the account. Fr Stephen and Joyce are taking the youth out to dinner on March 25 and 27 and hope to re-establish the youth group so that those funds might be used when CLAY is next held.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Tim Goodison Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. Fr Stephen has been working on the liturgical line-up for Holy Week. It will be emailed out to all and follow-up phone calls will go to each participant. Fr Stephen has added an 8:15 service on Good Friday for those wanting a quieter service that day. The 10:00 will be more contemporary with a dramatic reading.
   2. Fr Stephen is hosting a Lenten Book Study called “Chocolate for Lent” featuring the movie Chocolat.
   3. The 8:15 service attendance is going up while the 10:00 attendance is steady. We are still in transition from covid and have to be flexible. Murray asked if we have some hybrid attendance with in person and Livestream and do we expect that to continue. Is Livestream encouraging people to stay home? Tim responded that yes people are staying home who would have been in attendance pre-covid. The executive is working on ways to get people comfortable to return to church. Fr Stephen has been attending seminars about this very topic. He is working on a 2 year plan for recovery. The 2 years is based on research being done world-wide by “Credence and Company Navigating Change”. We hope to re-introduce social events this summer that will be outside. Notes, phone call, visits and follow-up are ways being used to engage people. A wide variety of worship services may bring more people to church. The use of technology and Livestream will be enhanced. “We need to be where people are, not ask them to be where we are.“ When the Diocese updates the protocols, then we can update ours. They make decisions based on covid numbers.
   4. Fr Stephen and Rev MaryLynn have been visiting seniors again.
   5. The nursery will be open on Palm Sunday with a volunteer there to watch the children.
   6. The updated Laity chart invites people to see where we are and where we want to go. Everyone is invited to attend meetings and join as they are able. All committees are open and inclusive.
   7. Please continue to have conversations with parishioners to get a sense of what they are thinking and feeling.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Tim reported to council that the tape will be removed from the seating areas of the pews but not the ends of the pews for now. The announcements have been moved to the end of the service and we have not had feedback on that yet. Outreach Bytes were in the bulletin March 20. If you have any questions about Outreach, ask any committee member.
   2. Catherine met with Rev Ros Elm and John Ryrie about the bursaries for indigenous youth. Catherine hopes to invite the recipients to visit St George’s at some point. Council had approved 5x$500 bursaries. Rev Ros has asked if that could be changed to 4x$500 bursaries and 1x$500 be used for social events at the reservation so that more youth could benefit.

Motion to alter original motion from 5x$500 bursaries to 4x$500 bursaries and 1x$100 be used as

discretionary funds.

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Murray Gamble Carried

1. Committee Reports

Communications: Jim Fox has updated the Laity Organizational Chart and distributed it to council. A large copy is on the Narthex bulletin board. Promotion for Easter will begin next week via social media, emails, posters and an ad in the Kitchener Citizen. An attendance survey will go out April 2. Mary Ann Millar is updating the Welcome Booklet which will be ready for distribution in June. A directory will be produced in-house late this Fall. The Dragon Flyer will be available April 8. Murray asked if we know of the impact that advertising has had on our numbers. We don’t have a definite answer to that.

Tim put forward a motion: Renew Survey Monkey for another year at a cost of $408 +HST.

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Murray Gamble Carried

Outreach: St John’s Kitchen is asking for monetary donations instead of potatoes and chocolate for Easter. A notice is in the bulletin for that. Ann-Marie will send updates to Valerie for the website.

Building and Property: The first meeting since pre-covid will be April 7. There are 2 main projects to be looked at: the rectory deck and the back entrance stairs. There is a long list of smaller repairs to be made. If you notice anything that needs fixing, please contact a committee member.

Livestream: Nelson handed out a report of stats. He noted that the numbers have remained steady over the last months. We had large numbers tune in for recent funerals. Nelson will ask for volunteers to join the team. Council will need to purchase a dedicated laptop for Livestream. Nelson will provide costs depending on the quality needed to do what is wanted for Livestreaming. There is a need/desire to continue Livestream as we have some who cannot attend in person but like to stay connected in this way. Jim asked if there was money from the ASCEND fund that could be used for a computer. Yes, some.

New Business:

* 1. Ann-Marie presented a contract for a new cleaning company. She had 3 quotes from professional cleaners and presented the best one for council for approval. Tim explained that Allan Lee no longer works as Sexton at St George’s. The new contract is for a similar cost that we have been paying for cleaning with a detailed outline of duties expected. The company will not be given keys but will clean during an agreed upon timeframe when someone will be in the building to let them in. The company will supply products and equipment. St George’s will supply paper products as needed which executive will monitor. Murray suggested that someone meet with the company liaison every 4 months to update both sides on any issues. Fr Stephen expressed gratitude for the work done on this matter.

Motion to proceed with Control Janitorial Services beginning April 1, 2022 for a 1 year term.

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Murray Gamble Carried

* 1. Nelson reminded council of the importance of keeping the office calendar up to date. Also a reminder to close all hallway doors as they act as a fire barrier if needed.

1. Next Parish Council meeting will be April 26, 2022
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:25 pm