**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, May 24, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Tim Goodison Deb Barclay

Murray Gamble Nelson Cuthbert Catherine Carlson MaryLynn Forrest

Ann-Marie Shaw Fr Craig Ericka Babb Greg Butler

Absent: Cindy Kellett, Dulcie Tapp, Adriana Cronin, Susan Hipperson

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
   1. Fr Stephen made a presentation about an additional service. The Sunday or Wednesday services would not change. This would be an additional service. The Draft Proposal is attached. Discussion followed the presentation with suggestions for a survey to find out what time slot would be best for those who wish to attend. Saturday 5-7pm time slot was suggested. Perhaps readings or poems could be done in place of some music. This could be a variation of the Messy Church theme with food being offered to get a sense of community. Families would be invited to attend with children and youth as well as adults. It would be a more informal service with no bulletin. Fr Stephen will also take this idea to the Worship committee for input.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Greg Butler Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from April 26, 2022 as presented:

moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Tim Goodison Carried

1. Financial Report: Anne Taylor provided a financial report for April which is attached. Our annual donation to PWRDF of $8098. was sent to Synod. The Dorcas Folds fund has $21577 left. Nelson thanked all the supporters of St George’s for their contributions. Deb asked why the sign fund had a deficit. There are still donations coming to cover that.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. Fr Craig will facilitate Thursday bible studies for the next 3 weeks.
   2. Council is grateful for all the work that Fr Stephen does.
   3. There was discussion about the ever changing opportunities to go into Long Term Care facilities. Fr Stephen and Rev MaryLynn visit when they are allowed in.
   4. News from Synod: Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore has been appointed as Regional Archdeacon with her area of responsibility doubling. The Bishop has appointed 4 instead of the traditional 8. There were some language changes to some of the canons. The Diocese will continue the relationship with Indigenous communities.

Motion to approve the Rector’s report as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Tim reported that the back stairs project is under Murray’s control and moving along. Tim also commented on the future of Livestream. We are looking to make it a permanent fixture at St George’s and how can we monetize it instead of having it as an expense. There is money in the budget now to expand or improve the Livestreaming. Tim and Nelson will discuss this. This will go to Vestry for more approvals.
   2. Greg spoke about Children and Youth ministries as well as Men’s ministries. How do we bring in young people and get them engaged and wanting to stay? Greg’s own children said they want to support the church and be involved in the church community. How do we build children’s ministries so they find value in the church? We have a Jr and Sr youth group. How do we engage the 2 different groups? Feedback is encouraged. Greg attended the last Men’s Breakfast and would like to expand Men’s ministries to encourage younger men to join. How do we make these events inclusive? Fr Stephen suggested that we don’t change a successful event but add something new.
   3. Ann-Marie spoke about the plan to add gardens and a bench to our greenspace. She sent to council several ideas for a bench at different price points and qualities. Ann-Marie also looked into plants that are native to our area and also plants for a butterfly garden. Other ideas are welcome. Ann-Marie and Murray will discuss further and come back to council with a proposal. We would like to have the youth group involved in the whole process of choosing, planting and maintaining the gardens.
   4. Catherine spoke about the pneumonia vests being knit by volunteers and sent to South America through “Canadian Food for Children”. St George’s recently donated 176 vests and since 2009 over 2000 vests have been sent from St Georges. We are always looking for donations of wool and people to knit the vests.

Motion to approve the Wardens’ reports as presented:

moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Committee Reports

Communications: The committee was granted a budget of $6000. Funds were used for ads in the Kitchener Citizen and the Dragon Flyer newsletter. $1604 was spent on advertising for a billboard on Fischer Hallman for 1 month.

Motion to approve the Communications report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

Outreach: St John’s Kitchen was given $1300 from our Easter drive. A new initiative for St John’s is funding for a BBQ during the summer. The committee hopes to continue the ice cream program this summer but will need approval from St John’s. The Lenten folder drive for PWRDF raised $1450. A mental health workshop was held on April 30 with disappointing numbers attending. Other ideas are welcome. Children’s Clothing Closet will likely not run until 2023. Innisfree donations of food items are being collected until June 5. The cost to support Foster Children has gone up to $1056 annually. Monica Place will host an outside graduation at Creekside church. St George’s will likely send a monetary donation. News Bytes will be coming out again soon. Fr Stephen asked for minutes to be sent to the office after each meeting.

Motion to approve the Outreach report as presented:

moved: Greg Butler seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

Building and Property: The back stairs repair is under control. The committee is gathering information about prices and feasibility. Options will be presented to council in the Fall and Vestry in January. Some projects will be completed this year.

Motion to approve the Building and Property report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

Livestream: Nelson reported on average numbers from Jan – May; Sunday 78, Wednesday 33. During the summer, Sundays will be Livestreamed but not Wednesdays. Fr Stephen mentioned that we have received letters and cheques from viewers.

Motion to approve the Livestream report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

Facebook / website: no report

Social Justice: Catherine mentioned that petitions had been sent about the protest to privatizing health care and also urging the installment of tiny homes in an encampment in Kitchener. Catherine received a letter from the “Music for Spirit” program asking for 6 bursaries instead of the 5 we had approved.

Motion: to add 1 more bursary of $500 to the approved 5 bursaries for “Music for Spirit”.

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

New Business:

* 1. Fr Stephen told council that he received a letter from Jim Fox resigning from the Communications Committee and Parish Council for personal reasons. Jim has asked for privacy in this matter.

1. Next Parish Council meeting TBA
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:30 pm