**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, November 22, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay MaryLynn Forrest

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Ericka Babb Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Greg Butler Adriana Cronin

Absent: Tim Goodison, Cindy Kellett, Dulcie Tapp, Susan Hipperson

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer. Fr Stephen provided some numbers of recent attendance and recent givings to show council that he is hopeful for the future of St George’s. The prediction was that 70% of congregations would return to church after Covid. We are very close to that number. Thinking of the future of our church. What are the building needs? What human resources do we have? What are our priorities? Fr Stephen suggested 3 priorities; Seniors – How do we respond to the needs of this group? ; Children/youth - How do we respond to the needs of this group?; Neighbours – we need to reach out in a 3600 radius within a 15 minute drive for advertising. Ask yourself… If we had a major building issue, what level of debt could this congregation deal with? Are we a middle-class congregation? What does that look like? Do we have building/people resources to live as we wish to? Right now we are doing well, but close to the line financially. Next steps… How many new people do we need to continue to live as we wish? Fr Stephen is optimistic and hopeful. Can we sustain our current budget? How do we do that? Fr Stephen proposed a new fundraising project and asked council to think about it. We would sell turkey pies. Another church would lend us equipment and teach us how to proceed. They make $2 per pie and have been successful. Nelson commented that we are very close to budget so doing alright.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Ericka Babb Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from October 25, 2022 as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

1. Financial Report: Anne Taylor provided a financial report for October. There are funds in the CLAY account from the last conference that can be used for the 2023 conference to be held in Waterloo. The WRDSB is renting 70 parking spaces and helping with snow removal for those spots. We received $1500 for the use of the parking lot. The office supplies expenses are over budget. The flowers expense was down for October because October and November flowers were paid in November.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. A Rector’s report was emailed to council. We have 15 youth group members, 9 baptisms in 2022, 3 weddings, 19 at the last senior’s lunch and 11 new families. There is a Music and Message service on November 27 at 7:00pm.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Greg mentioned that a new office computer has been purchased within budget. The office computer will be linked with Fr Stephen’s office computer and his home computer.
   2. Ann-Marie took a $1440 donation to St John’s Kitchen along with 59lbs of ground beef. It has been confirmed that we will provide a New Year’s lunch to St John’s but a date has not been set. Ann-Marie provided an inside master key to the custodian.
   3. Catherine spoke about the Communications committee who have done advertising in the community. We have new families and baptisms so this is working. We will advertise in the Kitchener Citizen for Christmas services. The Dragon Flyer will be out soon. We will soon send TikTok videos by e-blast to the congregation. The committee hopes to expand their budget for 2023 to enable further advertising. They are considering providing hand-outs when the community is invited to our church for events. The website needs work to keep it updated and accurate. The Social committee is looking at events in the new year. The Refugee committee is still looking for housing so that a new family may be sponsored.

Motion to approve the Wardens’ reports as presented:

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: Murray reported on the accessibility feasibility report for the back stairs. There are 3 ½ options that he presented.1) fix the existing stairs with new railings and new concrete ; $15-20,000. 2) put a ramp through the garden $120,000; 3) install an exterior lift $100,000; 3 1/2) fix the stairs and enhance the existing doors with power doors and small ramps $40,000. Murray would like council to have a recommendation to take to Vestry in January. Are there grants to help pay for any of this? There are, but not a significant amount of the total expense. An internal elevator would cost $300-500,000 and that is too much. Our current washrooms are not up to accessibility code but there are small things we can do there and around the building to improve accessibility. This topic will be discussed at the January meeting so we have a recommendation at Vestry. Murray also mentioned that there is too much “stuff” around the building that makes it crowded. Each group should be asked to review their “stuff” and remove what they can. Nelson has been sourcing parts to repair the kitchen stove. The original manufacturer came to see it and will make up a new circuit board to install. We don’t have a cost for that. A new stove goes for USD $17500.

Motion to approve the Building and Property report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

Livestream: Average January – November is 69 viewers, Average for October is 56 viewers. Nelson is using the Sunday School TV monitors for the Livestream which will need to be returned in January for Sunday School use. Another monitor will be needed. Murray said he may have something available.

Motion to approve the Livestream report as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

Facebook / website: An e-blast was sent on November 22 with numbers for Facebook. That is going

well. Nelson and Fr Stephen recorded several videos about upcoming events that will go on the

website and Facebook.

Social Justice: no report

Communications: mentioned in Catherine’s warden report

Outreach: The Share the Warmth campaign saw 70 coats and several bags of outwear taken to Emmanuel Church. Other clothing was taken to St John’s Kitchen. The Angel Tree and Bells of Christmas runs November 20 – December 11. Susan Hipperson will coordinate the St John’s New Years Lunch. More details to follow. January will be the sock drive for KWYW emergency shelter. Cheques totalling $2150 for the annual distribution of funds were sent out November 23. Foster children sponsorship will be supported through the Pancake supper and extra funds needed from the Outreach fund.

Social Committee: mentioned in wardens reports.

New Business:

* 1. Council decided there will not be a December meeting.
  2. The Christmas tree will go up December 2
  3. The Sunday School will be using Holy Moly curriculum in January.
  4. Seniors Brunch is November 23.

1. Next Parish Council meeting January 24, 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:25 pm