**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, October 25, 2022**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay Dulcie Tapp

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Ericka Babb Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Susan Hipperson

Absent: MaryLynn Forrest, Tim Goodison, Greg Butler, Cindy Kellett, Adriana Cronin

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. We have had 9 baptisms to date in 2022. “Baptisms lead to success” as they bring in people who are trying out our church. Fr Stephen suggested that everyone read the book “Church for the Unchurched” by George G Hunter III. How are we going to meet people’s needs where they are? How do we welcome new people? They catch the confidence of members of the church. We invite them to be part of leadership. Council is asked to project that they are part of leadership as an example. What are we trying to do? It is about adding value to people. It’s about relationship and the power of connection. Fr Stephen invited council to consider staying on for another year and consider adding 4 new people to the council. Council needs to have a “growth” mindset. More people will then share the burden of finances and duties.

Motion: Add four voices to the 2023 Parish Council

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

Ann-Marie will chair a Nominations Committee and is looking for 2 or 3 more people to be on the committee. Fr Stephen will select two wardens and the rest are to be selected by the congregation. Each nomination will require a signature from the nominator and the nominee.

We will introduce a new service “Music and Message” on November 27 at 7:00pm. John Shaw will play favourite hymns. The atmosphere will be casual with no robes. Choir members may choose if they want to attend.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from September 27, 2022 as presented:

moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

1. Financial Report: Anne Taylor provided a financial report for September. Auto Debit is very close to the same amount as in church donations monthly. Grocery voucher sales have increased by 25% since announcing it recently. The budget is encouraging.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. A Rector’s report was handed out and council thanked Fr Stephen for all that he is doing. Members appreciated the Harvest Letter and the letter about the Queen’s passing.

Motion to approve the Rector’s report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Ann-Marie reminded council about the New Members Gathering on November 29 at 7:00pm. Council is encouraged to attend and welcome our new members. New members have received emails and phone calls to invite them to the event.
   2. Catherine is excited about the growth of the congregation since September. She is happy to see events and activities starting up again. The Seniors’ brunch on October 19 was a success when 19 enjoyed the sit down meal in the hall after service.
   3. Livestream ministry will continue. As other churches are scaling back their online services we will advertise to the Diocese that our ministry is ongoing. Please forward the email with our link to your friends.

Motion to approve the Wardens’ reports as presented:

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: The memorial monument has a new light. The propane cage has been painted. Fall Clean-up is November 5. The Back entrance preliminary report is expected soon. The kitchen stove requires expensive repairs. Nelson is researching parts at a lower cost than quoted by Garrity Appliance. Murray suggested having a fire drill in the Spring. A refresher course for the AED will be planned. Other small items are maintained as needed.

Motion to approve the Building and Property report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

Livestream: Average January – October is 74 viewers, Average for September – October is 53 viewers

We have invested $4500 into equipment so far. Nelson will continue to monitor numbers.

Motion to approve the Livestream report as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

Facebook / website: no report

Social Justice: no report

Communications: Thank you for the extra $500 given to the budget. Catherine asked if council would consider emailing TikTok videos to the congregation.

Motion: Explore the idea of attaching some serious TikTok videos to e-blasts to the congregation.

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

There was discussion about Advent and Christmas services

Blue Christmas December 11 at 3:30pm

Lessons and Carols December 18 at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day 10:00 am

These dates and times will be taken to Worship Committee at October 26 meeting.

A Christmas card will be sent out with Fr Stephen’s Christmas letter.

Motion to approve the Communications report as presented:

moved: Ericka Babb seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

Outreach: no report

Social Committee: Games night was not well attended but those there enjoyed the evening. The committee meets again in November to discuss events for January.

Grocery Vouchers: Sales have improved since announcements in October.

New Business:

* 1. Please push the Christmas Market on November 19 9am - noon

1. Next Parish Council meeting November 22, 2022 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:55 pm