**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, April 25, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay John Shaw

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Ericka Babb Dulcie Tapp

Murray Gamble Cindy Kellett Susan Hipperson Morley King

Tim Goodison

Absent: John Dale, Adriana Cronin, MaryLynn Forrest, Catherine Carlson

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer. Stephen proposed a new method of gathering information quickly that was accepted and adopted at this meeting. The question was asked, “How can we move our imagination from the 1970’s to 2025?” Council broke into small groups to come up with 15 questions that might address this question. Then council returned to the large group to share these questions. Each member is asked to answer these questions for next month’s meeting.

* How do we get different cultures involved?
* How do we attract younger demographics?
* What can we do to make the parish inclusive?
* How do we support older parishioners while encouraging and attracting new parishioners?
* Do we need to expand outreach?
* What groups would we like to reach out to?
* Do we need to modernize our building, especially the worship space?
* How do we expand our reach to parishioners who can’t be here but want to be involved?
* Can we make this place more fun?
* Is there a way to modernize communications with parishioners and the community?
* Do we need more social events?
* Can those events be used to broaden our appeal to the community?
* How do we increase our donations?
* What’s working now?
* What’s not working?
* Why change?
* Why now?
* What are we looking for?
* What would it entail?
* Are we stuck in the 1970’s?
* Where would we start to change?
* Would the congregations be involved in the solutions?
* What is the impact if we don’t involve them?
* Why?
* What’s different in 2 years? (2025) We are almost there.
* When was the last major change?
* Divided by decades – solutions for growth?
* How can we grow our youth ministry?
* How are we different now as compared to 1970?
* What do we offer now/ future as compared to 1970?
* How do we attract more people?
* How has our community changed?
* Do we need more services to address needs of families?
* How do we modernize the church (St Georges)?
* Do we need to expand our advertising into other spaces?
* What other service delivery models could we use?
* Can we begin “Messy Church” again?
* How can we increase volunteerism in our church?
* How should we change the music program?
* Would it be possible to have the congregation 4-5 times a year to respond right away to the homily?
* Does communion taken every week become too much of a habit?
* How do we retain what is integral to our faith, not lose it and have it all?
* Do we continue with the same traditions from the 70’s?
* Should baptism focus so much on Satan and sin and not be more about Christ and joy and being part of a community?
* What is the general public really looking for?
* Are we looking for something different than what we were in the 70s?
* How can the church better survive in a secular age?
* How can we appeal to the younger generation if their parents are no longer bringing them?
* How do we expand Sunday school?
* Can we improve the church’s link with the general community?
* How do we become more ecumenical – how do we connect in a stronger way with other branches of Christianity and celebrate our similarities?
* How do we honour the “old” and not lose it?
* In which ways can we become intergenerational and intercultural?

Next month’s question is “What does it mean to prepare for an intergenerational and intercultural faith community?”

Stephen then asked for thoughts about the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. Here are some responses of what people enjoyed:

* Children
* Music
* Liturgy
* Number of people participating
* Props
* Intergenerational
* Intercultural
* Marketing and advertising worked well
* Fun
* It was a celebration
* It was less Anglican and more Christian
* Children were welcomed to come up to the altar more than once

Other ideas:

Tradition vs modern progress is not exclusive. It is “and” – not “or”.

We need to have what people are looking for.

How often do we have “fun” services? And how do we pay for those?

There are government grants for parish internships and parish groundskeepers, and others

The 8:15 Easter service was quiet and traditional

Could baptism language be changed to more uplifting wording. There is a clergy task team looking at liturgy right now.

“You want to feel better when you leave this place than when you arrived”

When speaking with people it could be worded as “you need to try us or try us again”.

Pentecost will be a spectacular experience. Perhaps we could have special services 1x per month.

There are grants for staffing that can be used to “staff for success”.

If we build a vision then the funds to support it will happen.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Spring clean-up will be May 13 or possibly May 29. Should read …May 27.

moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from March 28, 2023 as presented:

moved: John Shaw seconded: Morley King Carried

1. Financial Report: The financial report was sent to council ahead of the meeting. Nelson researched the increase in Hydro bills last year. It was found that we have returned to pre-covid levels and hydro usage that was down during Covid has gone back up.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: John Shaw seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. The report was handed out and there were no concerns.
   2. Murray asked Stephen how he felt about the Easter experience. Answer: Delighted, pleasantly surprised by increased attendance, inspirational, encouraging, hope for ministry at local and regional levels, pastoral visits showed that people are grumpy about missing out on 3 years during covid, increased concern about each other is a good thing.
   3. Deanery Evensong on May 18 at 7:00. Deanery Confirmation September 16. Deanery Council meeting May 2 at 7:30.
   4. Diocese has resolved the increased insurance costs issue by extending grants and loans to parishes who cannot afford the extra cost. There are 24 churches in the Diocese without clergy and only 6 people to be ordained this year.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. The AV task team will meet on May 3 via zoom. More members are welcome. Contact Tim at [timmybgood@live.ca](mailto:timmybgood@live.ca) or 519-841-9115
   2. Cindy gave us numbers for the Communications committee: 698 Facebook followers, 1389 google hits from November to April; 10,000 TikTok users watched Eunice and John.
   3. Ann-Marie told us about the Chili Cook-off on June 23 at 5:30pm. A free-will offering will be accepted for the meal. 6 pots of chili are being made. A silent auction will take place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. To contact Ann-Marie 519-998-3436 or annmarie.s.shaw@gmail.com
   4. Cindy spoke about Evangelism. The committee members are reading books about evangelism and will put together a program from there. To contact Cindy, 519-721-4587 or cindykellett@remax.com

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: May 13 will be Spring clean-up. A dumpster will be rented to clean out inside and outside. A notice will go into the bulletin asking people to claim their items and store them properly.

Livestream: Nelson reported average numbers of 71 for April. Yearly average is at 67.

Palm Sunday 83, Maundy Thursday 55, Easter Vigil 56, Easter Sunday 98.

Facebook/ website: numbers mentioned earlier

Outreach: We will collect for Innisfree Hospice in June. The Synod Deacons’ collection is for be socks, underwear, etc. Ann-Marie delivered 315lbs of potatoes and 108 lbs of carrots, plus chocolate and $1265 to St John’s Kitchen from our Easter Campaign. Holiday from Hunger campaign will take place in the summer. Monica Place gala is on hold. Next meeting is May 25 at 6:30pm

Social Committee: Bagel Sundays continue. May 6 is the International Labyrinth Event, May 10 is the Ladies’ Potluck Dinner with guest speaker Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore.

New Business:

Special Vestry meeting May 7 at 11:30am to select 1 or 2 additional Synod delegates.

Youth event April 30 at 6:00pm – bowling and dinner

Ladies Lunch April 28 at 12:30 pm at Kypreos

1. Next Parish Council meeting May 23 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:25pm

Future Parish Council Meetings

May 23

June 27