**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, February 28, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay MaryLynn Forrest

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Ericka Babb Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Adriana Cronin Tim Goodison Dulcie Tapp

John Dale John Shaw

Absent: Cindy Kellett, Susan Hipperson, Morley King

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer. He then told council members that they are the voice of the congregation and represent them. He asked them to listen to parishioners and ask questions and bring ideas and concerns to council. Stephen handed out a form “Vision 2023” to be filled out by each member and returned by March 7, 2023. Please get feedback from the congregation. Do we want to be political, outreach, healing, family ministries…? These were ideas put forward as examples. Stephen then gave council recent statistics for information. In February we took in $10109.46 in envelopes and $10358.01 from auto debit for a total of $20467.47. Our givings have been consistent over the last several months and St George’s is doing well. Numbers at church on Sundays are averaging 25 at 8:15 and 60 at 10:00. We also average 60 watching on Livestream. Livestream is being considered a third congregation. The Pancake Supper netted $1101.93 with 90 attending plus take out orders. Someone has offered to chair this team next year and help in any way needed. Thank you to this year’s committee who helped make the pancake supper a success.

Stephen then spoke about some other churches in our Deanery. St John the Evangelist has hired Angus Sinclair as their new music minister. Holy Saviour has begun a new building project. All Saints is in the midst of a large building project and recently signed with a new congregation to share their new space when it opens.

Youth leaders met with Stephen to discuss how to meet our teenagers where they are. They have moved the monthly events from Friday evening to Sunday evening to see if we get more attending. CLAY will be at WLU in mid-August.

Tim has started an AV team to research upgrading our AV equipment and Livestreaming.

Ann-Marie has a stewardship and fundraising team beginning to meet

Catherine is chair of the Communications committee

Cindy has begun the Evangelism team meetings

Parish Council is asked for long-term dedication to Vision Casting. There are 22 churches in our Diocese without rectors currently so there will be movement there.

Sunday March 5 will be a healing service at both services. The Altar guild members will be presented with a rose as a thank you for their work at St George.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: John Shaw Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from January 24, 2023 as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Dulcie Tapp Carried

1. Financial Report: No report
2. Rector’s Report:
   1. A Rector’s report was handed out to council. As Canon, Stephen will be asked by the bishop to travel to other parishes. Stephen suggested he may ask council members to go with him to speak about our successes and concerns. Stephen’s new title of Canon was acknowledged by council.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: John Shaw seconded: Tim Goodison Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Tim is happy with the attendance on Sundays considering the number of people with illness right now. He sees new faces at 10am often and sometimes at 8:15. This is good news.
   2. Ann-Marie was happy with the success of the pancake supper and games events. She asked if there was interest in a chocolate fundraiser. Council suggested that timing was important and to have a specific goal or incentive to get more participation.
   3. Catherine is happy with the seniors’ lunch. They are happy to stay and socialize. World Day of Prayer service is at St George’s on March 5 at 10am. March 19 is the Stew Luncheon with proceeds going to PWRDF. Ted and Elizabeth Appleyard will be honoured at coffee hour for their many, many years of service to St George’s.

The Communications committee is happy with the budget given this year. The Kitchener Citizen will run an ad for Easter and Lent. The Dragon Flyer will be out before Easter with an increase to 8 pages and increased number printed.

On Palm Sunday the youth group and Sunday school will participate.

A question was asked about diversity in our advertising. Yes, the posters have hands of many colours and ages represented. During liturgy we use Eucharistic prayers from around the world. Stephen is looking to make the Prayers of the People more inclusive.

Stephen reminded council that they are visionaries for the congregation.

Motion to approve the Wardens’ reports as presented:

moved: John Shaw seconded: Ericka Babb Carried

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: Murray reported that Vestry approved the motion to improve the back steps so that project will move forward this year. There was a small flood in the basement this week and Nelson was able to find the problem after Catherine had mopped up the water. There was no damage done. Murray has a concern that the committee is running out of people who know how to fix things. This will cost us more in the future. Nelson sent a thank you letter to Garland Appliance for the stove repair.

Livestream: Nelson reported average numbers of 60 for January and 70 or February. We can now consider this a 3rd congregation.

Facebook/ website: no report

Communications: Council was asked to make new members feel welcome by saying hello to anyone they don’t recognize and possibly make connections. Nelson mentioned that as people age, it is important to speak clearly and directly to them.

Outreach: Debra re-iterated the success of the Christmas projects. Socks, gloves, mittens were collected for YWKW in January. Lent folders will be used in February and collected Easter Sunday. For international outreach we have a Soup Lunch supporting an African Soup Kitchen, Stew Lunch to support PWRDF, Ploughman’s lunch to support our sister church in Amazonia. The pancake supper made enough money to support the Foster children for this year. For Easter we will collect potatoes and carrots for St John’s Kitchen. The food bank donations are on-going.

Social Committee: 22 people attended the last games event. On May 10, Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore will speak at a Ladies Potluck dinner. The Dinner club runs the 2nd Friday of each month. 30 people are involved with that.

Motion to approve the Committee reports as presented:

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

New Business:

1. Next Parish Council meeting March 21 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:31 pm

Future Parish Council Meetings

April 25

May 23

June 27