**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, June 27, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay Adriana Cronin

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Dulcie Tapp Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Susan Hipperson John Dale Tim Goodison

MaryLynn Forrest

Guest Adam Alcroft Guest Speaker Rev Dan Bowyer

Absent:, Morley King, Ericka Babb, John Shaw, Cindy Kellett

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
   1. Rev Dan Bowyer presented “Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care Through Understanding and Compassion.” Fr Dan is an ordained priest and also a licensed social worker. His passions are Pastoral Care and Outreach. He believes the church can learn from the principles of social work. His work is primarily with youth in our parishes. If a child has a traumatic event while the brain is still developing, it can have lasting effects decades later. Trauma is an emotional response to an event that is deeply disturbing. Trauma is very prevalent and has impacts on a lot of people. 76% of Canadians report having experienced some form of trauma in their lives. These events may cause poor health or other seemingly unrelated symptoms. Care givers need to change from treaters to healers. ACE is Adverse Childhood Experiences. Some people may have 1 traumatic event while others experience several in their lives. Fr Dan spoke about 5 principles of caring for youth. 1. Safety – both physical and emotional safety is important. 2. Building trust must happen to have a relationship in order to help. 3. Peer Support and Collaboration is important to help people know that they are not alone in their feelings. 4. Empowerment, Voice and Choice means showing respect and allowing people to have autonomy of their choices since trauma often takes that away. 5. Cultural, Historical and Gender Considerations must be acknowledged. Why is all of this important for Christians? In our Baptismal vows we say, “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”, “Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?” As care givers it is important to ask the right question. Not, “What is wrong with you?”, but “What happened to you?” This was a short overview of the issue and Fr Dan promised to come back if we wish.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: John Dale Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from May 23, 2023 as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Dulcie Tapp Carried

1. Financial Report: The financial report was sent to council ahead of the meeting. No questions.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. The report was handed out and there were no concerns.
   2. Stephen handed out an attendance report to show that our numbers are strong. There was a discussion about Livestream as a 3rd congregation and the numbers show that it is a worthwhile endeavour. Nelson did an informal survey and found that more than 1 person was watching Livestream at a large percentage of the households watching. We can only track the number of households, not the number of people. Susan asked “What can we do to make the people watching on Livestream feel included. Stephen has asked that question while visiting people who cannot physically get to church. The answer was, “bring me the eucharist, call me, check in.” Dulcie asked, “What can we do to get people in church to believe Livestream in worthwhile.” Answer: testimonials, frame it as outreach.
   3. Confirmation is September 16 at 4:00pm at Holy Trinity Church. We have 1 candidate from St George’s.
   4. We give $50 annually to the Anglican Foundation.
   5. Stephen is going to a preaching course in October to learn “how to preach in a post covid context”. He wants to connect with people so that they want to be in church every week. Who teaches the course? A team of people who excel at preaching. Our bishop recommended that Stephen go to the course.

Motion: Council will support Stephen going to the Preaching Course on October 30 for 1 week.

Moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Murray Gamble Carried

* 1. Altar Guild is looking for 3 new members. Council admires the long term members who have so much experience and do such good work for St George’s.
  2. Stephen thanked everyone who participated in the Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction event. Many have asked for the recipes for the chili dishes so a book may be put together.
  3. Adriana and Adam shared some reflections on the youth group recent experiences. They stared the year with 3 or 4 attending who were timid and shy. Over the course of the year, the group has grown in numbers and in trust in each other. Relationships are growing and they want to support each other. Adriana was thanked for speaking at Synod about our youth program and both Adriana and Adam were thanked for their work this year with the youth group. The group is too young to attend CLAY but would be interested in meeting other youth from the Diocese.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
   1. The AV task team met with a consultant, Jon Hiser who is very experienced. He had answers for all the questions asked. Nelson submitted a report. Michael DuBoulay will arrange for visits to other churches. When the committee knows what they are looking for, they will hire Jon Hiser to do a plan. More people will be needed to run the new equipment. Upgrades can be done in stages as budget allows. The committee will bring options and a recommendation forward when they have that prepared.
   2. Catherine told council that the Dragon Flyer is ready for distribution. We will advertise in the Kitchener Citizen in September. Mary Ann keeps Facebook up to date and has submitted items to the Huron Church News. Pictures have been taken for the directory. That project is ongoing. New TikTok videos have been posted.
   3. Ann-Marie told us the Chili Cook-off was a success. Thank you to all the participants. We hope to have raised approximately $3000.
   4. The Evangelism team will meet in July.
   5. Return to Church BBQ is September 17. Catherine will help with set-up. Ann-Marie will help with organizing the food. Susan Hipperson and Dulcie will help with clean-up.

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: The accessibility report is ongoing. Murray is getting pricing to re-pave the driveway. The Rectory had a flood when the dishwasher broke. There is a new dishwasher and water heater.

Motion to accept report

Moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Tim Goodison Carried

Livestream: Nelson reported average numbers of 56 for June. Numbers are down a bit but more people are attending church.

Facebook/ website: no report

Outreach: A collection for Innisfree was very successful in June. They are very grateful for our support. St John’s Holiday from Hunger is on until July 2. Monica Place Gala is still on hold so the committee will look to put those reserved funds elsewhere. The Children’s Community Closet will occur in the Fall. The committee meets next on September 13.

Motion to accept report

Moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

New Business:

The Memorial Garden committee submitted 3 motions to council for approval.

Motions for Parish Council

MOTION: Be it resolved that Parish Council endorse and approve of an increase in the cost of an engraving and scattering in the St. George’s Memorial Garden to $900 per person.

* Note: the current $600 fee was established in February 2012, 11+ years ago.

MOTION: Be it resolved that Parish Council approve of fund raising by the Memorial Garden trustees for the additional monies needed for the cost of the third pillar.

MOTION: Be it resolved that Parish Council support the decision of the trustees to move ahead and order the third granite pillar at a cost of $10,000.

Moved: Murray Gamble seconded: John Dale Carried

Discussion began with the question of why such a large jump in cost from $600 to $900. The motion was amended to include “the church will help pay costs for parishioners who cannot afford $900.”

Motion: Tim Goodison seconded: Susan Hipperson Carried

Council would like a presentation from the Memorial Garden committee to get more information and ask questions. It was decided that the motions would be deferred to the August Parish Council meeting in expectation of a presentation.

Motion to defer the discussion until the August parish council meeting.

Move: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

1. Next Parish Council meeting August 29 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:42pm