**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, May 23, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay John Shaw

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Dulcie Tapp Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Cindy Kellett Susan Hipperson John Dale

Tim Goodison MaryLynn Forrest

Absent: Adriana Cronin, Morley King, Ericka Babb

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer. Council reflected on the question that was asked last month, “How can we move our imagination from the 1970’s to 2025?” Nelson noticed that many of the questions were similar to questions asked 10 years ago. John D noticed an emphasis on youth and thinks we need to also remember other generations. Ann-Marie would like to see a “bring a friend” event for all ages. Dulcie thought if we had that event it would be a good time to ask “what do you think?; What would you like to see?” John S says there is a hunger and thirst for the “big questions” out there for all ages. People are looking for certainty but there is no certainty in religion. Faith is educational. Sue Hipperson is reading a book about Evangelism and thinks we need to nurture spiritualism at home every day. Deb was impressed with the number and scope of the questions brought forward in a very short time.

We then looked at anther question, “What does it mean to prepare for an intergenerational and intercultural faith community?” We broke into small groups to discuss. Here are the responses:

* What appeals to multiple generations?
* What appeals to people from different cultures that would draw them into SGFH?
* We need to talk to people who have disabilities to find out their perspectives
* “Make plans with me not for me” – involve people  - How do with do this
* What will make church work for you? – ask youth
* How do we encourage tolerance and acceptance of other culture’s spirituality?
* Can we host an international cultural celebration day – learn about other’s traditions and cultures
* In the advent season, learn how other cultures celebrate and prepare for Christmas and share
* How do we do more to include eucharistic prayers from other cultures e.g. south Africa
* At surface level this involves including as many generations and cultures as possible in our events/ services
* At deeper level focussing on common elements such as caring, environment, peace, etc., would likely resonate with all and establish a starting set of points across generations/ cultures.
* We could have different cultures and ages presenting/ reading at services
* Could we have different cultural music at services?
* Host an intergenerational night/ family day.
* Ask those attending what they would like to see.
* International pot-luck, Messy Church

Now we need to form these questions into possibilities and then into plans. Council was asked to consider if they heard something at the meeting that spoke to them, to pray about how they would make it happen. What people would you choose to help you make it happen? The church will move forward if we pray about it and don’t give up.

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Tim Goodison seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from April 25, 2023 as presented:

moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Dulcie Tapp Carried

1. Financial Report: The financial report was sent to council ahead of the meeting. The snow removal costs were down this season due to the school board paying $1500 to use part of the parking lot. The insurance cost is up this year, but fortunately we are able to pay it. Youth expenses are up a bit but that is important for St George’s.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: John Shaw Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
	1. The report was handed out and there were no concerns.
	2. Dulcie asked about Dinner Club and it was explained. Dinner club will resume again in September if there is interest. We have 1 Confirmation candidate to be confirmed in September at Trinity Church.
	3. MaryLynn was asked about her Pastoral Care ministry. She gave an outline of what she does to support patients and their families at end of life.

Motion: MaryLynn will research courses and retreats to enhance her ministry or self-care that St George’s will support financially.

Moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
	1. The AV task team met to look at deficiencies in our current system of Audio, Video, Lighting and Livestream. They will look at other churches to see their systems. They will enlist the help of professionals hopefully at little or no cost. They hope to have a proposal for Vestry 2024. Contact Tim at timmybgood@live.ca or 519-841-9115
	2. Catherine told council that the Dragon Flyer will be ready for June 25 and will be 8 pages of full colour. Facebook continues to do well. We are grateful to Mary Ann Millar for administering our page. The Eunice and John TikTok video had over 10,000 views. More pictures will be taken for the Photo Directory on June 11. Many pictures of our events have been published in the Huron Church News.

Move to accept this report Cindy Kellett seconded Debra Barclay Carried

* 1. Ann-Marie told us about the Chili Cook-off on June 23 at 6:00 pm. We have chefs to make the chili. Jim Fox is in charge of the silent auction items. Plantables fundraiser is going slowly. Ann-Marie purchased some plants to sell at the church. To contact Ann-Marie 519-998-3436 or annmarie.s.shaw@gmail.com. Move to accept Tim Goodison Seconded: Nelson Carried
	2. Cindy spoke about Evangelism. The committee members enjoying the books they are reading. They hope to have a presentation in late June.

Move to accept report: Tim Goodison seconded: Ann-Marie Shaw Carried

 To contact Cindy, 519-721-4587 or cindykellett@remax.com

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: The accessibility report is ongoing. The Clean-up day was a success with 23 people helping. Boiler repairs are needed at a cost of $1907. Motion to spend $1907 on the repairs:

Moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Murray Gamble Carried

Murray will get an estimate to repair the driveway.

Motion to accept report

Moved: Catherine seconded: John Shaw Carried

Livestream: Nelson reported average numbers of 66 for April. May numbers are at 46 so far.

Numbers are lower than last year but that may because more people are attending in person now.

Facebook/ website: no report

Outreach: Committee will meet this week and will have a report for next month. The Deacons’ Outreach campaign collected 336 pairs of socks and 146 pairs of underwear that will be taken to Synod.

Social Committee: There will be a church picnic on June 11 after the 10am service. 35 people attended the Ladies’ Potluck with Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore. Sue and John MacKellar made 3 labyrinths that people walked on May 6. In August several people are going to Drayton for a play. The tickets purchased ahead are sold out. The Deanery Ascension Service was a good evening with 70 people attending.

Motion to move acceptance of report; moved: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Cindy Kellett Carried

New Business:

Special Vestry meeting May 7, Terry McCoy and Adriana Cronin were voted in as 2 additional Synod delegates.

Youth events: June 4 – discussion during service; June 25 - Dinner and bonfire.

With covid restrictions lifted, Messy Church was proposed for September. Stephen will discuss this at Clericus in June. There was interest from council to make this happen.

Catherine proposed a Block Party in the Fall with outside events where the community will be invited.

Motion to have a block party/ fundraiser in September. Catherine will propose a budget.

Moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Cindy Kellett Carried

The Bishop will not allow Intinction yet, even with covid restrictions lifted. Stephen will remind the congregation of this at services.

1. Next Parish Council meeting June 27 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:45pm

Future Parish Council Meetings

May 23

June 27