

St. Mark's Parish Council

Draft until approved by next meeting

Monday, February 8, 2016

7:00 pm, BRH

Present: Jane Delroy, Cynthia Greer, Penny Miller, Janis Perkin, Brian Kauk, Gillian Morris, Les Cundell, Michael Perkin, Margaret Lodge, Sharon Walter, Suzanne Wilkins, James Kelly

Regrets: Will Knight, Gillian Martin, Laurie Slaughter

Guest: Ray Davidson (choir rep elect), Georgia Roberts

1 Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm.

2 Opening Reflections: Father Brian offered a reading and prayer.

At this point Father Brian welcomed Bishop John Chapman to the meeting. He pointed out that the Bishop had met with the Corporation prior to the meeting. Bishop John noted that those serving on Parish Council should be considered the senior people, chosen by the parishioners and that they were the ones that have their fingers on the pulse of the parish. He then mentioned the Special Vestry called to consider our amalgamation with the parishes of St. Michael and All Angels and St. Richard. The Bishop felt that there might still be feelings on both sides of the fence and wondered how things were going 2 years on. Several members offered reflection on this subject. One felt that the MAP process had been hurtful to the parish and had created trust issues. However the love between members remained constant. Another felt that after the decision had been made by St. Mark's not to join the others that we had been severed from diocesan support. The Bishop compared the decision by St. Mark's to that of a marriage that has been called off, no one feels good at the decision but needs to get on with life. A member pointed out that after MAP the parish gathered their internal resources and started working towards revitalization. It was pointed out that one of the reasons not to amalgamate was that the oldest parishioners wanted to be buried from St. Marks.

The Bishop said that he understood this need and went on to describe the Chaplaincy Model as it is used in West Quebec. The parish is served by a part-time priest (usually retired) and is kept open until the last elderly parishioner has been buried. The church would then be closed. If St. Marks was to consider this model it would be a change in who we are.

Other reflections from the Bishop

Every parish has its niche; St. Marks has been a suburban church which has also been a family church. We are shaped around that model but the area around us has changed and only a certain number of families will drive to a family church. The Bishop pointed out that we have done this very well. However we need to recreate ourselves in this new circumstance. The Diocese knows that it could double the number of Anglicans in the diocese and still need only half of the existing churches. Therefore, looking at the state of our budget for 2016, what are

our next steps? What are we envisioning in the next 5 to 10 years? If we want to fulfil our mission in the neighbourhood how will we finance that? In terms of Social Services, government support is falling away on all levels and people are once again coming to get help from the church. Will we embrace the mission of the gospel or the mission of sentiment? Refugee support is becoming the focus. All parishes need to be pushed to re-evaluate their needs and how to go about accomplishing their mission.

If a church within the city of Ottawa moves to part-time ministry the Bishop would assign a retired priest who would take Sunday services, possibly a day for visiting, an occasional funeral and that is all. It becomes palliative and he was resolved not to do this again in an urban context.

Bishop John said that we are still sustainable and we can still make our own decisions at this time. If the (or any) parish continues to diminish there comes a point where the Bishop then has to make a decision about closure.

He advised us to get creative and start to have some ideas about what our ministry is in this neighbourhood.

4 Approval of Agenda: the following amendments were made to the agenda:

Added to other business- 7a-Budget Meeting Feb. 14- Food, 7b-Lenten Outreach, 7c- Carleton Memorial Summer Rental, 7d-Feb 14 Budget Meeting-logistics

Moved by James Kelly, seconded by Sharon Walter

5 Approval of previous minutes:

Moved by Penny Miller, seconded by Suzanne Wilkins

6 Business arising from previous minutes:

None

7 Other Business

- a) February 14 Budget Meeting-Sandwiches will be provided by Gillian Morris, Jane Delroy, Suzanne Wilkins, Cynthia Greer, Penny Miller. Coffee hour will provide cookies etc.
- b) Lenten Outreach- the three suggestions from Parish Council are: 1) Refugee Support- either seed money for our own group or to support another initiative. 2) Cornerstone-funds to help replenish their coffers after the fire and 3) PWRDF
- c) Carleton Memorial Summer Rental- this rental will be renewed for this summer
- d) Feb 14 Budget Meeting-logistics-It will be held in the church. Father Brian will be the chair and call the meeting to order. A warden will give the reasoning for having the meeting and introduce the Treasurer. The treasurer will cover the 2016 budget. Father Brian will then facilitate the Q & A session. Janis will capture the essence of the questions on a flipchart.

8 Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2016 7pm. With Bishop John Chapman

9 Adjournment: was moved by Gillian Morris and James Kelly

Respectfully Submitted by Janis Perkin, Recording Secretary