

**ST MARK THE EVANGELIST  
PARISH COUNCIL  
Meeting of January 17, 2018  
7:30 pm, Choir Room  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling, Jenny Morphew, Gillian Morris, Kate Greer-Close, Margaret Lodge, Georgia Roberts, Penny Miller, Cynthia Greer, Bruce Lodge, Ray Davidson

**1. Opening the meeting**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

**Opening Prayer/Reflection:** offered by Rev Jessica

**Regrets:** Laurie Slaughter, Maria Padin

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by Jenny Morphew, seconded by Gillian Morris; carried

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Moved by Ray Davidson, seconded by Michael Perkin; carried

**3. Business arising from previous meeting**

The 2018 Budget will be discussed after Georgia Roberts reports on the finances of December 2017 to years end.

**4. Regular Reports**

**Rector's Report**

**Service of Prayer for Christian Unity - update**

The service of Prayer for Christian Unity is planned for Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm, here at St. Mark's. We will be having finger foods at the reception following the service. We will set up the hall after the Sunday morning service that day. Help is needed for the set up and clean up. We also need people to bring in food to share. Please plan to support our Parish by attending this important, ecumenical event.

**Visioning Day planning details - update**

On Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> we will be having one service at 9am followed by a time of discussion. I will meet again on Thursday with a group of parishioners to help plan out that day. We had a good meeting with Rev. Monique Stone before Christmas. At the end of that meeting we decided to move the day that she will facilitate until a date in May. In the mean time we will do some background work and prepare ourselves so that the day in May can be effective.

Over the course of the winter and spring, we will be looking at our strengths and weaknesses as a parish. We will also discuss our hopes and dreams for this place. In May, we will have a full day that will focus on coming up with a 5 year ministry plan. This will be a great way to pin point concrete goals and help us to focus our energies on areas of growth.

More details to come. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of the planning for these conversations.

## 5 Marks of Mission Lenten Focus

I am planning to have the 5 Marks of Mission as our focus during Lent this year. Each Sunday we will look at one of the Marks of Mission. The Sunday themes will be;

Lent 1, February 18<sup>th</sup> – To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Lent 2, February 25<sup>th</sup> – To Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers (Vestry Meeting Sunday)

Lent 3, March 4- To Respond to Human need by Loving Service

Lent 4, March 11<sup>th</sup> – To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation

Lent 5, March 18<sup>th</sup> – To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

There will also be a study group on Wednesday mornings and evenings to focus on the theme of the week.

So far I have invited two guest speakers to join us during Lent this year. On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> I have invited Larry Langois to come and speak to us about Aboriginal Issues. Larry is married to Sue Garvey, the director of Cornerstone. Larry has worked at Centre 454 and with the homeless population for most of his career. He has researched his Native American heritage and is now an elder in that community.

Larry will preach that Sunday. He is also prepared to lead a smudging ceremony before the service. Larry would set up at 9:30 am and lead the smudging at 9:40 am. When I met with him and we looked at the sanctuary, he said it would be ideal to be in a circle for the smudging. We may move a couple of the front pews back to make a circle space at the front of the church (in front of the steps). Or make enough room at the back of the church for the circle to be by the back doors of the sanctuary.

The smudging entails Larry using cedar and sage, that have been lit and are smoking. He will walk around the circle and waft the smoke towards people as a ritual cleansing ceremony. This is why he said it was appropriate to do the smudging before our church service as it is a way to cleanse and prepare ourselves for worship.

This will be a very different experience for many in our congregation so I will alert people to this with lots of advance notice. There may be some people who are affected by scents and incense that will not want to attend that day.

On Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> I have invited Randal Goodfellow to come and speak to us about Greening Churches and environmental issues. I worked with Randal when I was at the Parish of March as he was a member of St. Mary's church, 6<sup>th</sup> Line.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping plan the Marks of Mission conversations or if a particular Sunday theme mentioned above interests you.

Submitted by: Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling

**Comments:** Rev. Jessica mentioned that she will be preaching at the ecumenical service on January 21, 2018. She will be creating a sign-up sheet to find out if there is an interest in an evening study during Lent. There was some discussion about where the March 11<sup>th</sup> smudging ceremony would take place within St. Mark's. Because of sensitivities due to perfumes etc. it could be held out-of-doors, weather permitting. It was pointed out that this is also Mothering Sunday.

## **Warden's Report**

Our report consisted of things which Rev. Jessica also put in her report, so we did not forward ours.

Several of us were away in December, travelling or sick.

There was a request to use the remaining dollars from a committee leader's budget, towards a gift of money to a specific charity at Christmas. This was accepted by the group.

However, there were some people concerned, as were the Wardens when they heard about it.

It was decided that Corporation should clarify how the money can or cannot be used.

It is not to be used as a way of giving money to a person's favourite charity. Planning a fundraiser could raise money, and is the best method for that. For example the church school raises money from wreaths/ candles, and from Lenten boxes so that they can buy farm animals for Africa, or school or medical supplies.

It is, in many cases, meant to pay for program, or materials, books etc., a visiting person for a specific topic, offering an honorarium.

If money is left, it does not go into your fund for next year, it ceases to exist.

When we are in a deficit position any money unspent saves us from increasing our debt.

When we had more money, it didn't matter, but again for 2018 we are presenting a deficit budget. Simply put, we don't want to spend more money than will come in.

We are therefore asking you to consider what you might want to do with your budget, and itemize suggestions. If you have increased it, consider why. Please send your budget ideas to Bruce or Cynthia. They do not need to be detailed.

This is not written in stone. We are not trying to make it difficult. If you want to do something you haven't written down then check it with the Wardens.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Georgia pointed out that St. Mark's Fair share is lower due to our expenditures regarding the new furnaces. It will continue to be lower for 2018 and 2019 but will rise again after that.

### **Budget 2018**

There have been some changes to the draft budget. The amount for envelope giving was lowered to \$157,000.00 due to a review of the Stewardship campaign givings/pledges. The Vitality group discussed the fundraising amount that we requested to be put in the budget and they agreed to the amount of \$2,000.00. We have received the 2018 numbers from the diocese regarding the Consolidated Trust Fund dividends and the amount expected has been raised accordingly. Under Expenses, \$200.00 will be added to Publicity. We are still looking for estimates for lawn cutting services and have suggested some companies to be contacted. The \$200.00 set aside for new hymn/service books will be removed from Worship Expenses.

## **Property Report**

### **Property December 2017 and January 2018**

There was nothing really to mention until last week.

Paul Greer goes around fixing anything that needs fixing.

However, last week the roof leaked in the sacristy, after very warm weather.

It seems that there is still snow up there on the flat roof over the office, where it meets the steep roof from the church. and that, for whatever reason, there is melted water coming through. There is nothing that can be done for the moment. In the spring we will need to call in the roofer who replaced the roof a few years ago, and goop the area, or whatever he suggests. It can't be fixed now.

Cynthia Greer

## **Membership / Vitality / Communications**

**Membership**                      death: 1                      move: 1

### **Parish events:**

January 14	8:45am	Parish Breakfast
January 21	5:00pm	Service of Prayer for Christian Unity and refreshments – St Mark's hosting
January 28	9:00am	Joint service and Vision 1 for St Mark's future
February 13	5-7:00pm	Pancake Supper
February 14	10:00am / 7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
February 21	10:00am / 7:30pm	Lenten Study to March 21
February 25	9:00am	Joint service and Vestry following

### **Vitality**

The Group was informed about the Corporation/Treasurer's request that we include a \$ figure for fundraising in the 2018 budget. We will aim for \$2000 for 2018.

The Group met on January 4 to expand plans for the first 6 months. It was noted that some parish events have been moved, some possibly removed and new ones added.

- We discussed food, specifically as the parish is hosting the Christian Unity service.
- Vitality has two events in the next few months that will also require food planning.
- Card Party for the Ottawa area in March
- St Mark's Patronal parish lunch Sunday April 22. This will require some funding so it was suggested that as in the past we ask for a freewill offering, with a suggested \$10, with proceeds going to our parish sponsor-a-room for Cornerstone.
- We are hoping to do the Big Give and Doors Open Ottawa again June 2/3. This will require a Parish Clean-up day May 26.

### **Communications:**

Next MTW will be Lent. Deadline January 29, for February 8/9 printing.

Margaret Lodge  
Membership

### **Stewardship**

There was nothing to report at the time of the meeting.

### **Outreach**

There is little to report at this time. In March promotion and requests for support for the Multifaith Housing Initiative's "Tulipathon Walk" will begin. It is Brian Harrison's and my hope that we will have an even greater St. Mark's presence at this year's walk, both in walkers representing our church and in donations for the new housing projects that the MFHI is involved in creating.

I received a note at Christmas from the director of the Ottawa Mission (that came with a tax receipt from the Mission to me) that again expressed thanks for our support of their hospice.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Slaughter

## **New Ministry Initiative for Seniors**

On the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> just before Parish Council, a meeting with several people from Julian of Norwich will have taken place with St. Mark's represented by Rev. Jessica, Georgia and myself. A report of this meeting will be given at the Parish Council meeting. As previously reported, we learned that Julian of Norwich also were considering how they might meet the needs of seniors in our community. It is hoped that a joint endeavour to provide some services may come out of sharing thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Slaughter

**Comments:** Julian of Norwich was unable to attend the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group is looking at other dates.

## **Choir / Church School**

### **Sunday school:**

There was a great turnout (over 20 children) for the pageant on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Based on two Christmas readings with youth/children reading and in tableaux and incorporating familiar carols/songs. We have yet to decide on where to send our Advent wreath/donation funds. I hope you saw our pasta creche creations last week!

### **Junior choir:**

The children led the Christmas Eve early service. Sarah and Alex Dee joined them. The Juniors also participated in several carols for the 9 Lessons and Carols service.

### **Senior choir:**

Senior choir finished up a busy season of Advent carols, 9 Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve late service

e-mail from Kate Greer-Close

## **6. Other Business**

- a. Vestry date- February 25, 2018 will be the date for Vestry. We will have a combined service at 9:00 am.
- b. Lenten Outreach- Our focus this year will be the new Cornerstone Housing on Princeton Ave. People will still be able to designate their offerings to other charities as long as they are registered with CRA. There will be an article in MTW covering this.
- c. New position on Parish Council: Parish Council made the following motion regarding a new Church School position:  
"It is moved that a new 2 year term position be created on Parish Council to represent the Church School" moved by Margaret Lodge, seconded by Ray Davidson, CARRIED
- d. Next Meeting- Wednesday, February 7, 2018

## **7. Adjournment**

Business being completed the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by  
Janis Perkin, Parish Council Secretary