

St. Mark's Parish Council

Draft until approved by next meeting

Bishop Reed Hall

October 30, 2013

Present : Les Cundell, Brian Kauk, Michael Perkin, Jenny Morphew, , Gale Deering, Allen Deering, Gillian Morris, Georgia Roberts, Coralie Sheehan, Jane Delroy, Joy Bowerman, Cynthia Greer and Audia Barnett, (*Judy Darling joined at 7:55 p.m.*)

Apologies : Suzanne Wilkins, Pamela Rogers

1. **Call to Order:** 7 32 p.m.
2. **Opening Reflections** - Michael had circulated the following reflection by email : "Thomas Merton said that the way we have structured our lives, we spend our whole life climbing up the ladder of supposed success, and when we get to the top of the ladder we realize it is leaning against the wrong wall—and there is nothing at the top anyway. To get back to the place of inherent abundance, you have to let go of all of the false agendas, unreal goals, and passing self-images. It is all about letting go. The spiritual life is more about unlearning than learning, because the deepest you already knows and already enjoys." (1 John 2:21).
3. **Approval of Agenda** (Allen, Michael)
4. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
The Minutes of September PC meeting, were amended as follows :
 - Item # 7. Arianne should read Ariane
 - Last line in Treasurer's Report, remove "on" in "on par"; to be replaced with PAR .
 - Under AOB, Rummage sale - second sentence, add "that" to "Michael suggested that some items..."
A motion to approve the minutes as amended was then made by Coralie and seconded by Georgia. Passed.
5. **Business arising from September Minutes**
The Parish Breakfast will not take place as planned in November due to the number of other activities being undertaken. In addition, the Chair of the Membership committee did not think it suitable to use the Breakfast as the forum for welcoming new members since the time between services is too limited.
6. **Rector's Report**
None

7. Warden's Report

a) Ottawa Hydro Lighting Use Reduction Plan

At their meeting on October 2, Corporation approved the proposal for St. Mark's to participate in this plan. Lorne agreed to handle the project. See the Property Report for more details.

b) Wheelchairs in the church

The Health Committee at their September meeting discussed the suggestion to remove a long pew midway down the Nave in the center left of the church and replace it with a short pew. This would make room for 1 or 2 wheelchairs plus make room for a friend to sit beside them (or transfer from the wheelchair to the pew). It would also allow a parishioner to keep a walker with them. The Corporation agreed to this suggestion and Lorne and his helpers have made the change. Appreciation has already been expressed for this action.

c) Snow removal contract

Jane and Georgia met with Elio Rocca to discuss a snow renewal contract for 2013-14. More sanding & salting would be needed and changes would therefore be made in the contract.

8. Treasurer's Report

At the end of September, our financial position is actually much better than expected. Our net income for the year is -\$13,275. Our budgeted income at this point in the year is -\$26,452. After the unevenness of the summer, our collections income is still on track with budgeted. Our solar income is also on target with the predicted amount. Our savings have come mostly from staff costs. Since we did not have to pay an organist over the summer and our organist was paid on a week by week basis from April to June, we have spent \$6,679 less on staff than budgeted. Other savings have come mostly from heat and electricity.

\$772.50 was given to St. Luke's Table, as part of Lenten Outreach.

9. Property Report

- a. Further to the item last month on the \$1500 energy saving lighting update from Hydro Ottawa, we had a visit from an electrical contractor. It turned out that the only thing they were interested in was the conversion of the fluorescent units to energy saving ballast replacements. For the \$1500, they can do 24 units. We chose the office, Rector's office, choir room, and kitchen. We will look at converting some of the rest of the units in the budget for next year. It is hard to get a definite figure, but it looks like the saving would be about one-quarter of the usage value for each unit.
- b. Over the summer, the radiator cover beside the toilet in the Men's washroom in BRH became really rusted. The team sanded and painted the top and cover. It came out well. We will repaint the area near the urinal as well.
- c. Helen and Connie have been busy with the flower beds. The Lavatera in the Link bed has been really showy.

Judy Darling joined the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

10. Membership Report

The following report was presented by Cynthia Greer.

- a. The Parish Directory is about ready to be printed. It will contain name, address and phone number. There are at present no email addresses included, although quite a few people were willing to have theirs published.
- b. There is still some concern about the legality of not having signed permission. The process involved having as many people sign their consent on the sheets as possible, as they checked to ascertain that we had the correct information. Most of the regulars did exactly that. However, there were quite a number who attend only sporadically, or who are unable to attend because of health issues. These are the very ones we need to connect with.
- c. I called everyone who hadn't signed. Sometimes I called several times, and left a message in their voice mail if possible.
- d. I marked down the names of those who declined, separately from those who didn't respond, or whom I couldn't contact. I have all the sheets. I believe we have done 'due diligence'
- e. Obviously it will be out of date as soon as it is printed. Changes will be made from time to time. All new parishioners are being asked if they wish to be in the directory.
- f. Georgia asked if I wished to do a breakfast for New Members. I declined because choir now starts at 9:15. I think a simple soup/sandwich lunch would make more sense, especially since I don't think there is anything this year in the membership budget ! There are probably 12 to 15 new people or families.
- g. Several weeks ago, Father Brian invited people to sign upon sheets in the hall if they were interested in specific aspects of ministry. This has brought 2 new nursery helpers, so our program is now secure, and several more to the coffee roster.
- h. James Kelly is our main greeter for the 10 o'clock service. He goes out to the bus and helps people into church. He is a great asset to St. Mark's. Lorne and Connie Bowerman also greet people in the link.
- i. I speak to all newcomers after church, and I know other people also do. It would be great if members of P.C. would also actively welcome people. All you have to say is 'Hi, my name is ----. I don't believe we've met' Then you can't upset a person who has been here for 40 years!

Father Brian added that Parish Council members would be a good group to welcome persons. The possibility of hosting training workshops will be explored.

11. Stewardship Report

Michael noted that as a congregation, we were in the process of being good stewards (selves, finances, property). He also indicated that he had been mentoring St. Richards and will be working with St. Mark's on Post GIFT initiatives.

12. Choir Report

Jenny presented the report.

A joint service was held at St Richard's on September 29, after the Planning Conference that took place on September 27 and 28. The choir, composed of choir members from the three churches, was led by Timothy Piper who composed some of the music for the Service.

Jenny noted that St Richard's building presented some challenges for the choir that day. The sanctuary is wide and with the choir on each side, there was a time lag between the two sides,

and neither side could hear the other. Even on the same side, Jenny understood, the basses could not hear the sopranos who were in front of them. It was also reported to her that the congregation couldn't hear the organ.

13. Outreach

Father Brian invited participation, ideas and people interested in outreach activities.

14. Any Other Business

i) Ministry Assessment Process (MAP)

At the open meeting of the PC held on October 9, two main concerns were raised – the time frame for the process and the scope and quality of the data that the Discernment Team will have for its work. The St. Mark's MAP team members advised PC that both concerns were addressed during a meeting of the full MAP team on October 24. It was agreed to extend the process (both the length of time for the Discernment Team to work and the time until decisions have to be made), with the deadline for a decision from all parishes being by Palm Sunday. The other two churches in the process may be willing to make a decision at their Vestries in February 2014. The Terms of Reference for the Discernment Team were adjusted so that new sources of information may be requested if the need arises. Rationale for the members selected from each parish for the Discernment Team were shared. Members from St. Mark's are : Keith Wilkins, Penny Miller, Karen Roberts and Audia Barnett . Extensive discussions ensued among members in an effort to address the concerns shared and in order to have a transparent process. Having noted that the MAP team has addressed the concerns raised at the October 9th meeting, PC agreed to own the process, while monitoring closely, and also asking parishioners for their concerns.

Motion : Parish Council agrees to engage in the process of discernment as a continuation of the MAP exercise (Allen, Michael). Motion carried.

Motion : The PC commits to reviewing the progress of the MAP exercise at each meeting of the Parish Council until the Parish decides MAP is concluded. (Joy, Jane). Motion carried.

A statement was prepared to be shared with the congregation:

At the special meeting of parish council on October 30, parish council agreed to proceed with the discernment process as the next stage of the MAP exercise. This decision was taken after consultation with our MAP team who met with the full MAP leadership team on October 24th. At that meeting, in response to St Mark's concerns, the time frame was extended and the terms of reference for the discernment process were broadened. Parish Council committed to reviewing the progress of the MAP exercise at each parish council meeting until the process is concluded. A facilitator will assist with several consultations in the November to February time frame to engage St Mark's parishioners in the process. All concerns and comments regarding the MAP process are welcomed by parish council members by speaking to them in person, sending them by email to lesliecundell@rogers.com or by placing written comments on the offering plates.

ii. Nomination

Cynthia Greer was nominated to a position on PC as Chairman of the Membership Committee (Brian, Joy). Motion Carried.

iii. Advent Programme

Beginning November 6, there will be an Advent course called Animate Faith. The sessions will take place for 7 weeks each Wednesday at St. Mark's at 11 am (followed by lunch) and at St. Michaels 7p.m. (followed by wine and cheese).

iv. No PC notes will be prepared for the Bulletin in light of proximity of the next PC meeting.

15. **Date of Next Meeting** : November 12. Opening Reflections - Jenny

16. **Adjournment** at 9:25 p.m. (Allen, Joy)