

St. Mark's Parish Council

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

7:30 pm, BRH

Present:

Joy Bowerman, Wanda Bowman, Judy Corbishley, Les Cundell, Fr. Brian Kauk, Penny Miller, Gillian Morris, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Sheila Vaudrey

Regrets: Stephen Coaker, Allen Deering, Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew

Guest: Georgia Roberts

Absent: Mani P Mani

1. **Call to Order** at 7:33 by Judy
2. **Opening Reflections** Look upon them as wounded. Discover where people hurt and you will understand them. Find their invisible bandage and you will know how to help them.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Approved (Les, Michael)
4. **Ottawa West Deanery Shared Ministry Discussions**
 - a. There have been 2 meetings called by archdeacon Chris Dunn and facilitated by Ron Brophy, of the diocesan Parish Growth and Renewal Committee.
 - b. The first meeting was to start exploring concerns and expectations regarding the future of ministry in the deanery, to gauge willingness of parishes for area ministry planning and to discuss a possible process to guide future discussions. There was a short brainstorming of expectations and an open discussion of the question: "What can we do together that we cannot or do not want to do alone?" The suggested process for moving forward was based on a model developed in New Westminster called the Ministry Assessment Process which includes the steps: the beginning, the design, the story, the decision, making it happen
 - c. The second meeting was a sharing of "the story". A parish profile was prepared and shared by all the parishes involved. A copy of our parish profile is attached to the minutes. The parishes found they had many things in common such as an aging demographic and fewer volunteers. There were suggestions of shared ministry such as parish nurses, social activities, ministry to and for children and youth, increased communication within the deanery.
 - d. There will be another meeting in September. Members were asked to share the discussions with the parish, particularly parish council, think about it over the summer and then make a decision about next steps in the fall.
 - e. A discussion of the parish profile followed. The point was raised that our deanery is in the unique position of losing (through attrition) the influence of our founding members and having to establish new direction. It was also brought up that our society has changed and we need to adjust our expectations to make them more realistic for today's society. It was

also suggested that music was a strength and we could look at that to build on in our ministry in the community, particularly to youth.

5. Approval of previous minutes.

Approved (Les, Janis)

6. Business arising from previous minutes

Business arising from minutes will be discussed under Stewardship.

7. Rector's Report

- a. A thank you card was received from Leonora, Theodora and Thomas Nemet and the Hadzihaskic family in response to the generous donations made for a family in need. The card will be posted in the link.
- b. The Diocesan Refugee Working Group has recently been reconstituted with Rosemary Anderson as chairperson. The announcement is posted on my bulletin board for any parish groups that might be interested.
- c. At the last Clergy Day, Diocesan clergy were briefed on Growing in Faith Together. There is much in this financial campaign that directly benefits parishes. St Mark's, along with every other parish, will be encouraged to take part fully. As reported previously, St Mark's Financial Committee will meet with the campaign staff on June 15th. A presentation of the Diocesan case for support and a Frequently Asked Questions document are available, and will be attached to the minutes of this meeting so that they can be posted online. If you would like a paper copy, please request one from the office.
- d. The last Congregational meeting held in the parish made use of some principles of consensus decision making to great effect. Since then, I attended a workshop on Formal Consensus Decision Making. I believe this holds a lot of promise for us as a faithful community. I would ask each member of this Council to please read the document that will be attached to these minutes online. In order to put something like this into practice, we would need a number of people to volunteer for training as facilitators. Suggestions Again, if you would like a paper copy, please request one from the office.
- e. Summer vacation dates for parish staff are as follows:
 - Fr Brian – June 27 through July 20 and August 25-31. Coverage for Sunday services in July, the Reverend Dana Fisher; in August, Archdeacon Gordon Worden
 - Patti Robillard – July 11-22, and August 1-5
 - Margaret Pirnat – August 22 through September 5

8. Warden's Report

No warden's report at this meeting. All items are covered under other reports.

9. Treasurer's Report

Givings in May were down about \$2,000, so that our givings are now about \$4,000 behind. There are several odd looking things. The photocopier expenses are significantly more than budgeted. This is because, although a cheque was written in February, the company did not receive it so a second cheque was written in May. If the first cheque is found and cashed, it will credit our account, otherwise, it will stale date. Flower expenses also look significantly higher. Because flowers are paid for with a gift card, the gift card is issued before the money is spent.

A new gift card was just issued and the donations have not yet come in to cover it. Lenten Outreach has not yet been paid. When that is done, our net income will be very close to budgeted.

10. **Property Report**

- a. The skunk has vacated for parts unknown.
- b. Connie & Helen have worked hard on the flower beds and they look good.
- c. The Property Crew had a quiet month doing a lot of routine things.
- d. Lorne has spent quite a bit of time on garbage in support of the Corporation. We have a long way to go before we can get this problem completely solved. The major concern is training the users of our property on what goes into what bin, box, or bag.
- e. We had a visit from an Electrical Safety Authority inspector regarding our power lines coming into the Church. We have 200 amp service which is split into 150 amps to the Hall, 100 amps to the old kitchen (Rummage room) and 60 amps to the Church (Sacristy). We have water coming in the conduit. The electrical boxes are old and rusted. We just don't look good. We do not meet today's electrical safety code. Trevor & Lorne are working on it. We may have to boost our lines to 400 amp which has to be underground. We are working on trying to bring off the same or the next pole north on Fisher, or from Normandy, then underground to the north east basement corner where the chairs are stored, then to a main switch inside the basement, and then over to the panels in the electrical room. We are trying to get a cost on the changes.

Moved that parish council approve an expenditure up to \$15,000 to upgrade our electrical system. (Les, Gillian) Carried

11. **Membership**

No membership report at this time.

12. **Stewardship**

St Mark's has been advised by the city that they must keep the number of bags they put out to 3 bags or they will be cut off from city garbage collection. If that happens, we will have to pay for garbage collection. To try to keep our garbage collection, we are putting the following measures in place.

- a. **ALL GROUPS USING THE FACILITIES**, you are welcome to rent the use of the kitchen or to use paper plates and cups. If you use Styrofoam cups, we must ask that you take the cups with you when you leave.
- b. We have Green, Black and Blue bins throughout the facility. The green bins are in the kitchen or outside the door. The black bins are in the office, in the church and also outside the kitchen door. The blue bins are in the link walkway and outside the kitchen door.
- c. **Kitchen Waste:** Large Green Bin in the kitchen – All food scraps and paper should be placed in the green bin located in the kitchen. Paper includes paper cups, paper plates, paper napkins, paper towel, pizza boxes, etc. Basically any paper which has come into contact with hands or food

Optional – We have a separate container out for coffee grounds which will be used in the gardens of the church or parishioners. Please only put coffee grounds in there.

- d. If you are using cans or bottles, please place them in the blue bin which is located outside the kitchen door or in the walkway into the link.
- e. **Washrooms:** Paper towels which have been used to dry your hands can also be composted. There are two (at least) containers in each of the upstairs washrooms. One is clearly marked for paper towel. Please dispose of paper towel in that container and any other garbage (eg gum) in the garbage container. The women's washroom also has a diaper disposal.
- f. We believe that in following these measures we are acting responsibly both financially and environmentally.

13. Choir

No report at this time.

14. Outreach

A sample was shown of a milk bag mat. These are mats which are made out of cut up milk bags and which can be used for sleeping mats in disaster zones. Both McDaniel's Independent and Merivale High School and collection bins for the milk bags. In our parish, Gail Volk has been collecting milk bags for several years.

15. Other Business

No other business

16. Next meeting in September.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 with the Grace. (Brian, Joy)

Submitted by Joy Bowerman