

**ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of
October 19, 2021
10:00 am, Zoom Meeting
MINUTES**

In attendance: Rev. Julian Campbell, Georgia Roberts, Bill Barber, Gillian Morris, Pauline Adams, Suzanne Bisson, Michael Perkin, Janis Perkin, Cynthia Greer, Terry Frederick, John Hancock, Joan Hounsell, Judy Life, Gillian Martin

1. Opening the meeting

Call-to-order: Suzanne Bisson opened the meeting at 10:04 am

a) Opening Prayer: Offered by Rev. Julian Campbell

b) Regrets: John Hancock

c) Approval of the Agenda: Add Website update
Approval was moved by Gillian Morris and seconded by Gillian Martin.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:

On page 2 Shape of Parish Ministry- remove Penny Miller

Approval of the September 2021 minutes was moved by Joan Hounsell and seconded by Cynthia Greer

3. Business arising from previous meeting

a) Website Update:

b) The Archdeacon contacted Father Julian after taking a look at our website. It was suggested that we needed to update our information on Registration for Services. A flag will be added to the website letting people know that it is Under Construction.

c) Lower Hall/Basement

There are boxes of paperbacks, assorted glassware and bags of clothing being stored which now needs to either be sorted and stored properly or discarded. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to accomplish this.

d) External Signage:

A question from Suzanne Bisson: Would it be a good idea to get some prices for an electronic sign? There was a review of costs some years ago and I can follow up on this as well as look at other options.

Our sign is old and probably needs replacing. As we investigate it is a good idea to determine what it is that we want to advertise as it will dictate the kind of sign that will work for St. Marks. Outreach into the community might be one aspect. We know that solar panels for lighting aren't

an option as there are too many trees to allow enough sunshine through to the panels. Suzanne Bisson has offered to investigate pricing for new signage and will report back to Parish Council.

e) Greening of Sacred Spaces:

Bill Barber has spoken to this audit in his property report.

4. Regular Reports

a) Rector's Report

Father Julian will be on vacation leave from November 9th to the 30th. During this time Canon Rhonda MacKay will be covering the services and any pastoral needs that may arise.

Baptisms will take place on October 30th with 2 children being baptised and November 7th with 3 children receiving the sacrament of baptism. The preparation courses have been conducted using Zoom.

There have been pre-Synod meetings happening with Synod happening on Saturday October 30, 2021.

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays.

Father Julian offered thanks for those parishioners who have invited him into their homes.

b) Warden's Report

Rector's Warden Report

October 2021

Snow Clearance - Winter 2021- 2022 Contract: The cost of the contract between the Corporation and Blue Teal Construction is \$2876.98 including HST and is payable in 5 monthly instalments of \$575.40 on the first day of the month, beginning December 1, 2021 and ending April 1, 2022.

This includes snow clearance and salting/sanding of the parking lot, front sidewalk, linksidewalk and the office and choir entrance stairs.

Overnight snow of more than 5 centimetres is cleared and salted before 8:30 AM from Monday to Saturday and before 7:30 AM on Sunday. As well snow clearing is done during the day when accumulation is more than 5 centimetres.

c) Treasurer

Further to the comments in the report:

The payment for our website development has been made.

Income is concerning. The "In this Together" policy is starting to let us open back up to some of our rentals. Some groups want to wait a little longer before returning to in-church meetings. Other parishes are suffering as well so we are not unique. It is probably advisable to communicate to the parish where the finances stand. It could probably be in letter form. It is also possible that the diocese may give another jubilee gift to the parishes.

Some comments for Parish Council about September 2021 Financials

Balance Sheet for 31 August 2021

GIFT Funds have decreased by \$2182.38 since 31 August to pay the remainder owing to Merge 9 (with billing name of Union Eleven) for livestreaming equipment.

Income

Collection income just for September (\$10,714) was again one of the lowest months for collection income in the past 5 years. Collection income from January to September was **\$23,733.01 below budget**, and **\$11,133 lower than January to September in 2020**.

Another good month for income from solar.

No rental income has been received in July, August or September.

Total General Income from January 1 to the end of September was about **\$20,703 less than budgeted** and \$12,431 less than end of September 2020.

Total Directed Income from January to September was \$2,123.

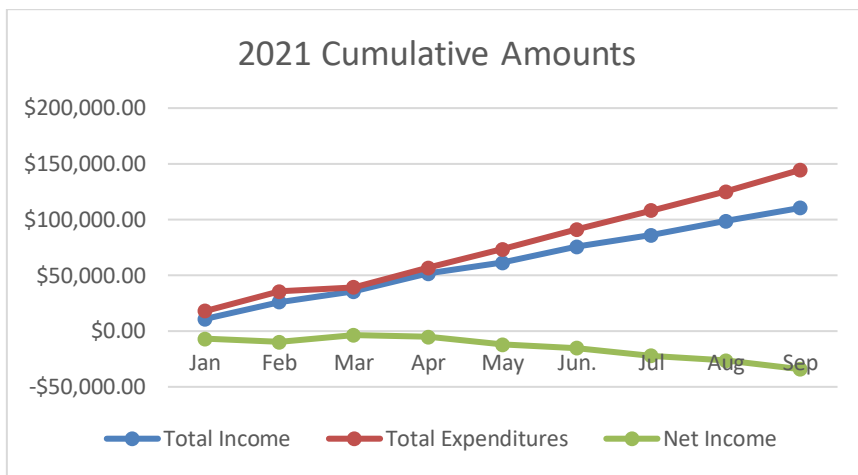
Expenditures

The amounts paid for ECOPS, clergy housing, lay staff salaries, Fair Share, and Insurance from January to September are less than budgeted since we did not know that we would have a one-month Jubilee gift when we passed our budget.

Total expenditures from January until the end of September (\$144,578.98) were **\$17,141.18 below budget**, mainly due to the one month of Jubilee but also due to keeping other expenditures in check.

Bottom Line

From January to September, our expenditures exceeded income by \$34,121.76. While being fairly close to budget, this is much worse than in 2020 where, at the end of September, expenditures exceeded income by approximately \$11,900. While we have to remember that we had 2 Jubilee months in 2020 and only 1 Jubilee month in 2021, the bottom line is concerning. We have had to count nearly completely on collections as our source of income this year, but collection income is quite low compared to the last 5 years.



d) Property

Property Report October 19, 2021

Do we proceed with the energy audit or not?

We have recent gas furnaces which have larger and better filters installed.

We have an air purifier in the basement.

The roof was inspected and the leakage has been fixed.

The solar panels are now operating normally.

The office windows have been replaced.

Many of the incandescent light bulbs have been replaced with LEDs.

I am not sure where any significant improvements can be made.

The heavy rain on the weekend caused the usual flooding in the basement.

Thanks to Paul who changed the sump pump there with a spare one.

I had gone over Saturday and Sunday to squeegee as much out as possible.

The pump was certainly churning but was not removing much.

The pump may have become clogged with debris so that will be checked.

Regardless, the problem with water coming in at the bottom of the basement

wall will not get any better so I will call a company to get a free estimate as to

the problem and how to fix it.

Thanks to Paul and Russell for replacing bulbs so that heavenly light can once again

shine upon the choir. Whoever designed the lighting in the church certainly

had no forethought about replacing bulbs.

Our sign at the corner of Inverness and Fisher is well past its prime if it ever had one.

It is too low and the colours are too dark to make it easily readable when driving by.

The cost of replacing it with an electrical one may be too expensive but the current one

needs replacing. We can look at the signs for other churches and where they are placed for inspiration.

Bill Barber

Further information about the sump pumps at St. Marks came in an email from Cynthia Greer.

St. Marks Basement- Sump Pumps

Simple facts

1. Cement is porous, and water moves through it without its apparently disintegrating.
2. The basement floor is below the water table
3. The basement floor is also below the level of city pipes.
4. The toilets are at the highest point possible in the basement to prevent having to use a pump when the toilet is flushed.

Given those facts, here are things I can remember about the basement.

Given fact #2, with any heavy rain there will be water coming up and on to the cement floor.

There were 2 sump pumps.

- A. There's one in the furnace room behind the door, which causes a problem very infrequently, such as when the pump wears out, or vibrates enough to make it unstable. Paul has put a bracket in to prevent the latter from happening . We haven't had trouble there for many years.
- B. The other pump is down a hole in the link garden beside the church, and has a heavy lid on it.

Many years ago Paul had to go down to fix things or change the pump. It is not a place people like to go. Again it causes very little problem.

- C. The third sump pump gives the most difficulty because it is below the water table.
- D. About 10 or 12 years ago, because the floor frequently was wet after a heavy rain, or fast thaw, Lorne decided to put in the third pump, in the electrical room beside the stairs from the Link entry. Trevor Dee and Paul worked with him on that.
- E. Lorne also made a channel in the cement of the basement floor to encourage water to flow towards the pump. The downside of that is that grit, paint bits, and other small junk also flowed into the sump hole, and eventually blocks the pump.
- F. You must have also noticed that there is paint on the floor only in certain places. Lorne tried every substance known to man to keep paint on that floor. Because of water and possibly other problems it just won't stick.
- G. Paul bought a new pump in 2017, because this one 'broke' and we had a big flood. He found out on checking the pump that a tiny piece of stick had prevented the impeller from turning, so that pump is now good, and at this moment it is in the basement sump pump hole.
- H. The one that stopped working this past week is likely fine, but needs to be taken apart from the bottom to see what dirt is in it causing it not to function.
- I. Sump pump failure causes a big flood, which you likely haven't seen.
- J. High water table causes water to flow in near the wall on the Fisher Ave side, near the pink box.
- K. Any other flood we have had is because of high water table, which clogged the inside hole, and stops the pump.
That's the sump pumps themselves.

Pipes

There is ABS pipe going from pump #3 up to the pipes going round the basement ceiling on the Link side. There is a back flow preventer also in that pipe, so water from pump #2 can't go down to pump hole #3.

The water from pumps 2 and 3 then join. This in itself causes a flow problem when there is too much water. It didn't happen before pump hole 3 was made.

The water from 2 and 3 then join 1 near the furnace area, and go out through the sewer pipes.

When there was a sink in the old kitchen any excess water because of the extra flow, came up into the sink, and then subsided and no-one knew about it.

The sink was then removed and not capped so it allowed excess water at high flow periods to simply land on the floor, and junk bags etc. in the old kitchen.

About 3 years ago, Paul noticed water coming up that pipe, and capped it.

This meant that obviously the water had to find a release somewhere else.

It now goes into the sink in the first basement wash room, which is frequently dirty. It also causes the sink in the sacristy to gurgle, but nothing has come up there.

The city either didn't or still doesn't allow you to put your sump pump into the sewer line because it would put too much water in. There is supposed to be a pipe coming out of the building and the water flows into the ditch, or is now connected to the outside street pipes.

Nearly all the houses in the neighbourhood had a sump pump, and you could see the water flowing into the ditch.

I hope that after many re-readings explains it.

Cynthia Greer (via email)

e) Membership

Membership Report October 19, 2021

Fran Jodoin left us in July to live with her son in Thunder Bay. She has unfortunately passed away at 97 years of age.

We welcome back Joan Grayer, who left us 5 years ago to go out west but has returned and is getting involved.

The 8 a.m. service is starting slowly because of the age of the parishioners, who don't feel well enough to come in person.

There were 11 people at the 8 a.m. service. There were close to 40 I think at the 10 a.m. Most of those were 'regulars' but with some different faces.

If anyone feels they can join the roster of readers, sidespersons, counters, and people to open and close the church they would be welcomed with open arms, 6 feet distant of course.

There will be a virtual bazaar, like last year, with pies, jams and other preserves.

We are also selling puddings and calendars, and likely many other things.

Cynthia Greer (via email)

Further to the Membership Report This past Sunday (October 17th) there were 45 people at the 10 am service.

f) Stewardship

Following on the Treasurer's report Michael Perkin wondered if we need to arrange a financial campaign in the near future. This will be explored by Michael Perkin and Father Julian. if needed.

g) Outreach

Outreach Report October 2021

On October 8, I was once again outside the church accepting food donations for Debra Dynes Family House. Over the course of 3 sunny hours, I received fresh and canned food from several parishioners. The following day, the church was decorated for Harvest Sunday. The drop off (of food and some cash) to Debra Dynes was on Oct 12. I spoke to Barbara Carroll who asked me to thank all those who donated.

As reported in The Newsletter, there is a community outreach event during the week of November 25. DDFH is looking for gloves, mitts, hats etc. particularly for the children in the community. I will keep the Safe and Warm notice in the Newsletter for the next few weeks. Nothing else to report this month.

Joan Hounsell, Outreach Coordinator (via e-mail)

h) Choir

Choir report October 19, 2021

Choir has been rehearsing weekly since the end of August.

Half of the choir sings each week, but we always need all of the men, Kate our present tenor, and usually one or 2 who can change voice parts when necessary.

We are happy to be singing more of the service and mainly will be happy to be back to wearing choir gowns, which are intended for uniformity, and the invisibility of each specific member.

Some find that the choir practice is what really lifts their spirits at this point in time, although we keep our distance, and wear masks.

We are not expecting at this time to prepare for special Advent and Christmas services but will obviously try to make the best musically of whatever the situation is, and again obviously not follow them by fellowship or food.

Cynthia Greer (via email)

5) New Business

None

6) The next meeting

The next meeting will be by Zoom 7pm, Wednesday November 17, 2021 at 7pm

7) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 am with the saying of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin, Recording Secretary

