

**ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
10:00am, Bishop Reed Hall
MINUTES**

In attendance: Rev. Julian Campbell, Georgia Roberts, Judy Life, Suzanne Bisson, Gillian Morris, John Hancock, Joan Hounsell, Rob Mellon, Laurie Slaughter, Carolyn Findlay, Cynthia Greer, Michael Perkin, Pauline Adams, Janis Perkin

Opening the Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

Opening Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rev. Julian Campbell

Regrets

Joan Grayer, Bill Barber

Approval of the Agenda

Approval was moved by Laurie Slaughter and seconded by Georgia Roberts. *CARRIED*

Approval of the Minutes from the October 18, 2022 meeting

Errors and Omissions:

On Page 1 add Michael Perkin to Attendance

On Page 2 Rector's Report at bottom of page under procedural Matters -should read "John should be advised of all..."

On Page 6 Add Janis Perkin to the Black History Month Report as part of the team.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Pauline Adams and seconded by Joan Hounsell. *CARRIED*

Business Arising

Black History Month 2023

Laurie Slaughter gave an update on the work so far. The team was to meet on Monday November 14, 2022. There will be promotion done through Crosstalk and postering created by Margaret Lodge. The Primate Linda Nicholls has agreed to be the speaker on the 4th Sunday. Our Food Coordinator is Joan Hounsell. There will be music provided on the 4th Sunday by a Reggae band and for the month Carl Bear will coordinate any other music required.

Regular Reports

Rector's Report November 2022

1. Father Julian participated in the internment of Phil Conquer on Saturday, November 5, 2022.

2. An update on George and Juanita Hopkinson was given. Juanita is asking whether there might be someone at St. Mark's who could take the role of companion for Juanita. Father Julian and Cynthia will be coordinating this pastoral matter.
3. There will be two services at Christmas. The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm and Christmas Day will be at 10:00am.
4. The Remembrance Day Service will be on November 13, 2022. Some details still need to be finalized.
5. Chris Dunn, Archdeacon and rector of All Saints, Westboro is taking his retirement in the near future. This means that both a new archdeacon and rector will need to be chosen.
6. Carl Bear: Carl attended the Diocesan Liturgical Workshop led by Rev. Kevin Flynn. Part of the focus was on the supplemental hymnal "Sing A New Creation" of which Carl has suggested we purchase copies.
7. Vestry: Due to the activities planned for BHM 2023 Vestry will need to be moved.

Treasurer's Report

Some comments about October 2022 Financials for Parish Council

Balance sheet as of 31 October 2022

As you can see, we have not yet received our HST and PST rebates from the government. However, we have been notified that most of the quarterly submissions have been approved but that a couple need a correction of a date on them.

The main expenditure from the Reserve Account in October was the \$6,196.97 taken from the GIFT funds for the new lawn sign. \$43.62 was also taken from the Ministry fund.

Income to the end of October 2022

At \$10,394, the October 2022 collection income was the lowest October in the last 5 years, even though October 2022 had 5 Sundays. Also, while collection income from January to October (\$115,171) was \$4,995 higher than from January to October 2021, it was still approximately \$18,000 lower than what we had budgeted.

Income from our assets from January to October (\$18,893) were both higher than what we budgeted (\$15,200) and much higher than the same period of 2021 (\$11,627).

Income from organizations from January to October (\$3,771) were also much better than what was budgeted and than what we earned for the same period of 2021.

Total General Income to the end of October 2022 (\$138,086) was \$15,192 higher than in 2021 but \$11,881 lower than what was budgeted.

Total directed income to the end of October (\$2,194) was quite similar to the amount to the end of October in 2021 (\$2,203).

Total income to the end of October 2022 was \$140,280, which was \$15,183 higher than at the end of October 2021.

Expenditures to the end of October 2022

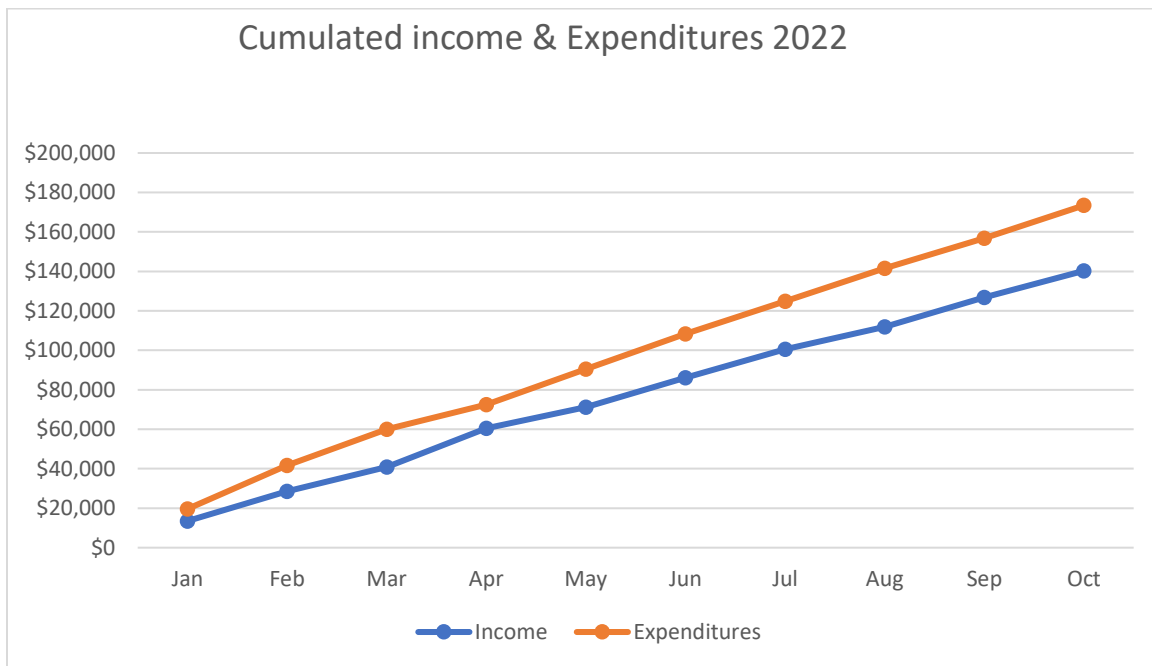
Expenditure in the SALARIES category were \$13,301 less than budgeted for January to October. Two factors contributing to this difference were that we were relieved by the Diocese of the obligation to remit one month of ECOPS (worth \$6,020) and we were paying for an organist fill-in rather than for Ariane in July and August. We also have had less clergy fill-ins than anticipated for that period.

Expenditures in the other broad categories were fairly close to what was budgeted for January to October 2022. However, in total, they amounted to considerably more than in 2021. We did have a couple of high expenditures in the Church category in October to note. One was a bill for approximately \$800 for water for the months of July to September. This included the time period when we had the camps using our building. Also, \$1049.79 was spent on repair and upgrade.

Total expenditures to the end of October (\$173,447) were \$13,979 less than what were budgeted, although \$13,232 more than the same period of 2021.

Bottom line

At the end of October 2022, our expenditures for the year exceeded income by \$33,167. Last year, at the same time, our expenditures exceeded income by \$35,118.



Additional Items

These are answers to a couple of questions that have been posed recently, related to finances.

A. What is the purpose of the Ministry Reserve Fund?

There have been questions asked about what the Ministry Reserve fund can be used for. The following has been extracted from the Parish Council minutes for January 2011 when, I think, the Ministry Reserve Fund came into being:

6. Wardens' report.

- a. Corporation felt that there should be some clarification of the purpose of both the capital projects and ministry reserve funds. Accordingly, the following definitions are provided:

Ministry Reserve Fund - Funds dedicated for the use of both new and ongoing ministry initiatives. They are designed to provide ongoing support of current programs during times of financial hardship and to allow funding of new ministry initiatives during the course of a budget year.

Capital Projects Reserve Fund - Funds dedicated for the use of both emergency and planned capital expenditures. They are designed to cover emergency situations in the facilities which were not budgeted for and also to allow funds to be collected against large capital expenditures.

Moved that these definitions be included in the financial vestry report and that this council

adopts them as policy. (Les, Judy)

B. Parish Priorities for payment of commitments

At the September Parish Council meeting, Cynthia Greer asked about the order in which we were to pay our bills if we did not have sufficient funds to cover them all. The following is extracted from the diocesan document *Regulations -2012 edition*, which is part of the diocesan Canons, Bylaws and Regulations.

R.5.08 PARISH PRIORITIES

When in any year the income of a parish falls behind the budget that was approved by the Vestry of that parish for that year, the commitments of the parish shall be met according to the following scale of priorities:

1. Clergy and lay salaries, stipends, allowances and other benefits and pensions;
2. its share of premiums for the Diocesan insurance policy;
3. essential operating expenses of the parish, including emergency repairs, interest on committed and existing loans; and principal and interest when so contracted in blended payments;
4. its share of the Parish Fair Share;
5. repayment of debt/principal; and
6. capital maintenance or replacement, other expenses, and miscellaneous.

Discussion from the report: Georgia Roberts emphasised the need to be careful how money was spent to the end of the year. With perhaps a later date for Vestry 2023 perhaps there could be a meeting of interested parishioners to look at the budget and make recommendations.

The Black History Month 2023 team is seeking funding for the planned activities and speakers. An initial budget of \$600.00 was set by Georgia Roberts and Laurie Slaughter. Suggestions on the financing of the project included funds from the Parish Ministry Fund and asking parishioners to sponsor different aspects of the celebrations such as the Reggae Band.

Wardens' Report

November 2022 Report

Corporation approved the purchase and installation of the Damp Chaser System, and it will be further addressed in the new year. Any questions that you may not be able to answer about this system, Carl Bear will be able to answer.

Purchase of "Sing a New Creation". Carl Bear attended the diocesan event which introduced the new Anglican hymnal supplement- Sing a New Creation. His recommendations were provided to Father Julian in an e-mail. Corporation approved that the upcoming budget include the cost and further action will be taken to purchase in the new year. It was brought up that perhaps many parishioners would like to make a memorial donation toward the cost of purchasing the new supplement, which I understand is \$27.99 pre-tax per copy. Thus a \$32.00 donation would provide notation on an inside leaf of the hymnal of the parishioner's name etc. Fr. Julian will be announcing this at service.

Synod- Fr. Julian, Judy Life, Rob Mellon and Suzanne attended Synod this year. Some of us also attended the service at the Cathedral where the bishop gave his charge. Some of Rob Mellon's report follows.

Synod Notes

This synod was both the usual and the unusual. On the usual side were CRB amendments, the budget adoption, other presentations and a major update on diocesan communications. On the unusual side was Synod's primary focus, which was the adoption of the three proposals coming out of SPMC (The Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation). There was the presence of the Primate, the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls who offered her reflections and insights throughout the proceedings.

Although I was at first skeptical/ suspicious of SPMC I am now convinced that the adoption and implementation of these motions represents a paradigm shift in who and what we are, how we do business and how we relate with the outside world. It will be incumbent upon parish corporations and parish councils to provide the leadership to get this done otherwise we will be left behind, seen as irrelevant, stuck in the past and non-contributing.

Rob Mellon

Property

Issue: Purchase of a Damp Chaser System for the church piano.

Cost: Approximately \$500. (Funding - Capital Projects)

Purpose: Fluctuations in humidity can damage and shorten the lifespan of a piano. The system is installed on the inside or on the underside of the piano and plugs it into the wall. The device's electronic humidistat monitors the humidity of the air inside/ under your piano and kicks on if it detects a humidity higher or lower than 45%.

Background: Recently Carl and I met with the piano tuner that CCC hired to tune the piano in the hall. At the same time the tuner assessed the piano in the church and recommended that a Damp Chaser System be installed to

prolong the life of the piano, the tunings will be more stable, and the piano will sound and play better.

Carl has requested a quote from the company that the tuner is affiliated with. (Still outstanding) and has let me know that the church he was at in Toronto had two pianos (a baby grand, and an upright) and both had this system.

Issue: Purchase of lighting for the choir and the chancel.

Cost: Approximately \$9000. (\$4000 for the choir lighting and \$5000 for the chancel / piano / organ lighting) It is felt that there may be choir members and perhaps others who would contribute to the costs).

Purpose: To improve the lighting for the choir and the chancel. This will provide lower power consumption and longer life LED lamps (50,000 hours). It should be beneficial in the longer term and provide better lighting. (The two Fresnel lamps would replace the existing 4 spotlights on the side walls of the choir area.)

Background: John Hancock, Cynthia, Joy and Steve Close met recently with a company, Professional, Sound & Lighting. A follow-up email from the company provided the following information along with quotes:

“Following my site visit to your Church yesterday, we are pleased to provide St. Mark’s Anglican Church our quotations for the lighting as discussed during our meeting.

For the Choir Lighting, we demonstrated the LED Fresnel light in a Warm White colour temperature. All agreed that 2 lights installed on the side walls will be sufficient for lighting this area.

I have attached our quote # 19639 for the installation of 2 of these LED Fresnels with a specification sheet. For the Chancel lighting, we recommend the installation of 2 LED Ellipsoidal Lights also in a Warm White Color temperature in the ceiling area of the sanctuary on each side to cover the Chancel area.

I have attached our quote # 19643 for the installation of 2 of these LED Leko Lights.”

<https://www.adj.com/encore-profile-1000-w>

A second quote is in process.

Membership Report November 2022

Sadly, Phil Conquer passed away last week at age 95. He was a very supportive member of our congregation, but you may not know him because he was an 8 o'clocker. Unfortunately for some of us, his funeral was during the bazaar, so we were unable to attend.

The Sunday 10 a.m. service numbers increased by about 10 for the lunch in October and have remained just over 50. The 8 a.m. service numbers are not very high unfortunately.

Cynthia Greer

Stewardship Report

Prior to starting the campaign there is a need to review the focus going forward. Michael Perkin is meeting with Rev. Hillary Murray and Father Julian on Friday, November 11, 2022, to discuss the focus of the “Sermon on the Amount”. Michael Perkin

It might be helpful to mention donations towards “Sing a New Creation” as part of the Stewardship campaign, Michael will see if this can be fit in with the planned themes.

Outreach Report November 2022

There are 2 items to report this month:

- 1) Betty Caughlin donated \$100.00 at the Bazaar for Debra Dynes Family House. Joy and I selected scarves, mitts, hats and neck warmers for the young people. I will deliver them this week.
- 2) Two deliveries of food from the blue bin were made for the DD Food Bank since the last Parish Council.

Joan Hounsell

Choir Report November 2022

I still hear from the congregation that they are happy both to hear Carl sing, and to feel they are fully participating, not watchers-on. The choir and Carl are working well together, but not all are into the clapping part of it!

We are looking forward to an Advent/Christmas Carol service in December.

Cynthia Greer

At this point in the meeting the following motion was made concerning the budget to the end of the year:

“It is moved by the treasurer that between November 9, 2022, and December 31, 2022, only mandatory expenditures be made in the support of St. Marks.” Moved by Georgia Roberts and seconded by Pauline Adams, *CARRIED*

New Business

Financial Committee

In the past a financial committee has met to look at and help set the budget for the next year. If this is to happen it will need to meet before the December Parish Council. It was suggested that the officer for Stewardship be included.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in-person on Wednesday December 14, 2022, at 10:00am.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned with the saying of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin, Recording Secretary

Addendum

Dear Friends,

Since leaving our last Parish Council meeting of Wednesday 9th November 2022, I have had time to assess what transpired. The following are my reflections and unequivocal positions on several issues.

1. **Mini-Vestry:** To call such a meeting implies that there is an emergency or that something untoward occurred. It gives life to whisperings and unfounded assumptions. These only lead to destabilization within the community. There are no financial issues that can't wait until the regularly scheduled vestry meeting next year. The financial issues we face are not unique to St. Mark's Church. As a matter of fact, a few of my colleagues are in far dire straits. **Therefore, I am opposed to calling a mini-vestry and would not be part of such a gathering.**
2. **Lighting:** Obtaining a second quote is advisable because it gives ample time to compare prices. A generous benefactor has agreed to underwrite us with \$5,600 of the cost. It would be totally unwise not take advantage of the generosity. Right now, I still struggle to get through the liturgy, the choir has issues and the overall ambience of the nave is dark. The argument that it has always been this way is not good enough and it is insensitive to those who lead in worship. **My position is that we proceed without delay come 2023 to have this matter addressed.**
3. **Dampp-chaser: This is a mandatory expenditure** and should be done before the end of the year. It makes little sense to delay because it will cost us more if we do so.
4. **Chairperson:** We all need to remember that the **chairperson is in charge** of the meeting. (An aside, at synod we all knew that the bishop was in charge and ran a tight ship). We must always bear in mind the subliminal messages we send when we use our body to bully others. We can all express our views without devolving into disrespect.

Please let us continue to work for God's kingdom which is one of life, respect and positivity. The time has come for us to be more lifegiving in our approach to ministry and to put into practice the message of Christ where he states that "I have come to bring life and to bring it in all of its abundance."

Peace,
Fr. Julian