

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of

Tuesday, Feb 21, 2023

10:30am, Bishop Reed Hall

MINUTES

In attendance:

Suzanne Bisson, Gillian Morris, John Hancock, Joan Hounsell, Rob Mellon, Laurie Slaughter, Carolyn Findlay, Cynthia Greer, Pauline Adams, Joan Grayer, Bill Barber, Rev. Julian Campbell, Joy Bowerman

Opening the Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:37am.

Opening Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rev. Julian Campbell.

Regrets

Judy Life, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin

Approval of the Agenda

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

Business Arising From Previous Meeting

None

Approval of the Minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting

Approval of the minutes was moved by Gillian Morris and seconded by Cynthia Greer. *CARRIED*

Financial Report

Financial Report and Budget.

The January financial reports are never anything to write home about. It is short because there is very little that has occurred in one month. There are a couple of things of note. When you look at the balance sheet, you will notice that the Retained Earnings/Accumulated Funds have decreased significantly from last month. At the end of the year, everything resets. Any imbalance in income is subtracted from the Accumulated Funds. The HST/PST refunds have been applied for.

When you look at the budget for this year, there are several things of note.

INCOME

The collection's income is budgeted to be the same amount as last year, hoping that post-pandemic life will see an increase in attendance and giving. The CTF dividends are significantly higher. While preparing the budget, it was discovered that one of the CTFs was not disbursing its dividends at the end of the year. That has now been changed and we will receive the accumulated amount this year only. User Fees are significantly higher since we will hopefully be allowed to rent for the whole year this year and we have seen a number of new groups starting to use the church. If you wish to look at the number of rentals" 1. go to the website and look at the bottom of the home page. You will see a box which says Full Events Calendar. 2. Click on Full Events Calendar. This will show you the parish calendar and does not include the rentals. 3. At the top left of the calendar, you will see the words Parish Calendar v. Click on the box and select Rentals calendar.

EXPENSES

The staff salaries were significantly lower last year for two reasons: 1. the diocese covered the cost of priestly services for the month of March last year. 2. we had a supply organist over the summer last year. This year's budget number is based on information from the diocese.

Black History Month has been added into the program expenditures but it is expected that the majority of the expenses will be covered by donations.

Last year's Church: Repair and Upgrade included the work in the basement. No major expenditures are being planned for this year.

The insurance, arranged through the diocese, went up by 25% in 2023.

The telephone and internet are being switched to Bell in the near future. This is resulting in significant savings in both of those areas.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The 2023 budget is projected to have our expenses exceed our income by ~\$20,000 . If this happens, it will reduce our Accumulated Funds/Retained Earnings to almost nothing. There is nothing in our expenditures that we can reduce to balance the budget unless we start to look at staffing. We must be very careful spending the funds we do have. The

reserve accounts should be touched as little as possible so that there will be money in the bank to pay the bills. It is time to start looking at our long-term plans and examining viability

Approval of the Budget

Approval was moved by Joan Grayer and seconded by Joan Hounsel. CARRIED

From the meeting:

Suzanne is to find out from the Diocese how and if we can access the fo St. Mark's CTF funds.

Regular Reports

Rector's Report February 2023

Bible Study breaks 15th February and resumes the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. This year's theme is Seasons and Reasons. All sessions begin at 6: 30 pm via Zoom.

The Pastoral Care Team met and we further cleaned up areas of concern. As a result, visitations are shared among all group members via email without personal information being shared. Pastoral Care is now involved in phone calls, emails, friendly visits and Holy Communion.

A meeting was held with Georgia Roberts pertaining to her role as treasurer. She has decided to not offer herself as treasurer citing a number of personal as well as personality differences.

The rector met with Carl Bear where various matters pertaining to the choir and the way forward were discussed. On another note, Carl will be out of the parish the evening Feb. 19 and returns Feb. 28. Don Marjerrison will fill in for him the following days, (Feb 26, choir rehearsal and Ash Wednesday). This will be his first visit with family in the States since 2019. It's convenient for him because it will be Sarah's reading week.

The diocese has in conjunction with the Ottawa Hospital has the rector on call for the following dates: March 13th 19th.

BHM has been going well based upon the responses virtually and in-person. Our first 2 guests Dr Joy Mighty who was very academic in approach and Yolande Parsons who was more personal have given us much food for thought. This Sunday we will have a familiar face in the person of Camille Isaacs-Morell. The final Sunday, Primate and Archbishop Linda Nicholls will be our guest preacher.

The Ottawa West Clericus meets this afternoon at 12: 30 pm via Zoom.

Let us remember Canon Rhondda MacCay and family on the passing of Robin MacCay on 12 Feb. He was Chancellor Emeritus of the diocese. Bishop Shane reported that he suffered from Parkinson's disease and experienced a rapid decline. May his soul and all those of the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

From the meeting:

It was decided that a thank you should be extended to Georgia for her time as treasurer.

Discussion re St Mark's 75 year celebration: Starting in October, Father Julian recommended there be some type of celebration each month.

Father Julian thanked everyone involved in their efforts put forth for Black History month.

Black History Month

Laurie was given positive feedback from the speakers of Black History Month who have spoken so far. They noted the positive initiative and desire for inclusivity that is apparent at St. Marks.

Rector's Warden Report February 2023

Lenten Outreach

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) - Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief

The PWRDF is currently accepting donations for the ACT Alliance which is already working on the ground to help in Turkey and Syria. PWRDF has made an immediate donation of \$35,000 to ACT Alliance.. ACT has been working on the ground in Syria since day one of the quake, doing the hands-on assessment of the needs that can be best carried out by Christian resources.

ACT member the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East-Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (GOPA-DERD) is providing food, blankets, mattresses and medical aid in affected communities in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia. ACT member the Middle East Council of Churches states "all the Churches in the Middle East have put their resources at the disposal of the affected and displaced people due to the earthquake, since the first moments of the disaster.

The Churches in the Middle East, which always supports their people, will spare no effort in doing all they can to relieve their pain and lead them towards prosperity and progress." Plans are underway from other ACT members to supply winterization materials, ambulances, and other needed supplies as the extent of the need is known.

Matthew House Ottawa is a non-profit organisation that provides shelter, furnishings and community to refugees and those transitioning to permanent Housing.

It is a faith-based, volunteer-driven, registered charitable organisation that helps Ottawa's marginalised population to establish connected, safe, healthy, and dignified homes within our community. There are two programs within Matthew House: Refugee Services. They provide shelter, food and refugee settlement assistance, including volunteer opportunities, in a family atmosphere to refugee claimants so that

they may begin their journey to independence as members in Canadian society.
<https://www.matthewhouseottawa.org/refugee-services>
 Furniture Bank. They distribute quality used furniture and household goods to Ottawa's marginalised population.

Mark your envelope PWRDF Syrian/Turkey Earthquake AND/OR Matthew House Ottawa or donate via CanadaHelps

Message Board External Sign

Weather permitting Joan Hounsell and Bill Barber will install a message on the sign to welcome Archbishop Linda Nicholls on Sunday, February 26 at 10 am. There is sufficient room on the sign to include this message along with the times of our service and the senior coffee hour.

Pedalheads

Again this year, we shall be renting the back portion of our parking lot to the Pedalheads.

Pedalheads is a summer bike camp for kids ages 2 to 12 and they provide a safe and fun cycling program with specialized equipment to teach cycling. They are best known for helping kids get off their training wheels. Last year they conducted well run and professional sessions.

They have asked Penny if they could put up a sign advertising their company. Corporation have approved this, as does the Diocese. Corporation want to foster good relationships with our local community.

Penny has been advised that they can, with a stipulation that the advert not be attached to the church building, that it should be on church property, and not obstruct driving visibility.

Nominations/Appointments for Parish Council

The Committee consisted of Suzanne Bisson, John Hancock and Georgia Roberts. We spoke with members of the congregation, and each position has been tentatively filled by a parishioner who accepted the nomination. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Vestry meeting, by a proposer and a seconder.²

Position to be filled	Nominee
Deputy People's Warden (2 yr tenure)	Janis Perkin
Property Coordinator (2 yr tenure) new position approved by Corporation	Bill Barber
Synod representative (2 yr tenure)	Michael Perkin
Alternative Synod (1 yr tenure)	Pauline Adams
Member at Large (special events) (2 yr tenure) new position approved by Corporation	Bev Muma

Position	Member who will continue in 2023
People's Warden	John Hancock
Outreach Coordinator	Joan Hounsell
Stewardship	Michael Perkin
Member at Large	Gillian Morris
Member at Large	Joan Grayer
Parish Council Secretary (non-voting position)	Janis Perkin
Membership	Cynthia Greer

Position	Member - Appointed by Priest 2023
Rector's Warden	Suzanne Bisson
Deputy Rector's Warden	Laurie Slaughter
Acting Treasurer	Joy Bowerman
Church School/Youth	Carolyn Findlay

Position	Member - Voted by choir member
Choir Rep	Cynthia Greer

From the meeting:

Moved by Pauline Adams and seconded by Carolyn Findlay that the Lenten Outreach be divided between Matthew House and the Primate Fund for Turkey and Syria Relief. Motion passed unanimously.

Warden's Property Report February 2023

There is now an electronic device in the furnace/electrical room which is supposed to discourage mice.

Membership Report February 2023

Likely because of Black History Month, and special speakers and food, we have had more parishioners and visitors in the congregation. That is always a reason to rejoice.

The last Sunday of the month, 26th, which is the first Sunday of Lent, we will have a special visitor and speaker, the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, our Primate..

We are looking forward to her message, and to speaking with her afterwards, while enjoying the extra special luncheon.

Choir Report

This month the choir has placed its emphasis on Black History Month. Most of the hymns have had their basis in African or Caribbean worship, often from our hymn book. The congregation have enjoyed the liveliness of the songs.

Stewardship Report

Happy to report that the Stewardship report for vestry has been submitted, unlike previous years it is not the day before or the day submissions were due.

With respect to this year's Financial Stewardship Campaign it is too early for all the details and much will depend on vestry response to a deficit budget. At present I am working on an initial approach:

- Work on a narrative description of our expenditures
 - Outreach
 - Diocesan Fair share (requires detailed explanation because it also covers other areas of support to the diocese)
 - Lenten/Special (directed)
 - Mother's Union
 - Others
 - Church functions
 - Choir
 - Altar guild
 - Pastoral care
 - Others
 - Essential
 - Staff
 - Cleaning/Snow
 - Bills (telephone, electric, insurance...)
 - Other areas
- Develop Campaign
 - Theme
 - Scriptural inspiration
 - Spiritual Direction and Support
 - Prayer
 - Study
 - Other
 - E.g. We Reach for the Light. Twelve Baskets Full. Throw your Bread Upon the Water
 - Explanation of both financial situation and the campaign via various communication methods prior to implementation/launch.
 - Composition
 - Team

- Core
- Implementation and conduct
- Determine approach.
 - Combined financial donation in combination with increased regular giving
 - Pledging
 - other approach.
 - Combination of multiple approaches
 - Volunteering
 - Get feedback on interest in volunteering in all aspects of the work of the parish.
- Develop team.
 - production of potential conversations
 - how we approach,
 - telephone conversation
 - in person discussions
 - scripting
 - saying thank you.
 - timeframe
- Launch & conduct finalized campaign with regular updates.
- Feedback to Parish Council/results published/final report for vestry.

This is a significant effort, one which I cannot do alone. Participation from all parties will be needed if we are to do this effectively and successfully. As mentioned above our approach will be influenced by vestry in determining the will of the parish to undertake a significant personal investment in the continued well being of St. Mark's. This is a serious issue and, in my perspective, cannot be candy coated as our existence of a viable parish is at stake.

My timeframe would be to initiate the process after Easter working up to a launch in Sept/Oct timeframe with significant communication in the interim.

Michael Perkin

Outreach Report

On February 10th, I made a delivery to Debra Dynes of food from the blue box and dolls that Cynthia had cleaned up from the pre-Covid Sunday School collection.

I brought home the milk bags that were in the cloakroom. After BHM, I am going to investigate donating them to All Saints, Greely for sleeping mats and "sit-upons". These items are made at the church and donated locally. (See Crosstalk for Jan 2023 page 10 for full details).

Joan Hounsell

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in-person on Tuesday February 28, 2023; if weather is bad then we will meet via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 am with the saying of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Grayer, Acting Recording Secretary