

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting

7:05 PM

Attendees: Alistair McCollum, Chris Eve, Joan Huzar, Karen Coverett, Lorraine Gates, Susan Bangrove, David Buckman, Grant Crowell, Carol Denton, Joel Durkovic, Joel Hefty, Marguerite Heppell, Penny Holt, Bill Huzar, Erin Kelly, Ruth MacIntosh, Patrick Sibley, David Stratkauskas, Carol-Ann Zenger

Guests: Graeme Brown, Andrew Gates, Pat Anderson

Clerk: Merle Wall

Regrets: Bill Williamson

Chair: Chris Eve

Prayer: Karen Coverett

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: That the Agenda be adopted. Mover: Karen Coverett Second: Carol Denton Carried

Adoption of the Minutes of April 21 and April 28 ,2020

Motion: That the minutes be adopted. Mover: Alistair McCollum Second: Penny Holt Carried

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Summer Student: Not this year.

Reports

Ministry Report (report page 8) Alistair McCollum

Financial Report (report page 6) David Buckman

Motion: That the Financial Report be approved. Mover David Buckman Second: Joel Hefty Carried

Finance Committee Joan Huzar

Motion: To approve the new financial policies. Mover: Joan Huzar Second: Chris Eve Carried

Property Committee (report page 4) Andrew Gates

Report of Precinct Security Review Team Graeme Brown

Motion: That the Interim Report be received by Parish Council. Mover: Chris Eve Second: David Buckman Carried

Motion: That a committee be made with three representatives from the St. John the Divine Church and three representatives from St. John's Court to meet and review the Interim Report and bring recommendations both to the next Parish Council meeting and St. John's Court Board meeting. Mover: Alistair McCollum Seconder: Joan Huzar Carried with one negative vote.

Motion: That Parish Council expresses its' sincere appreciation to the team members who researched and prepared the Interim Report. Mover: Joel Durkovic Seconder: David Buckman Carried

Music Report (report page 5)

David Stratkauskas

Family Ministry (report – page 3)

Ruth MacIntosh

Motion: That the Committee Reports be accepted Mover: Karen Coverett Seconder: Patrick Sibley Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Keeping in Touch

Lorraine Gates

The Parish Phoning Group has been making regular contact with the parishioners by phone or email. This has been well received and will continue as an Outreach Ministry.

POV Request to extend lease

Joan Huzar

Motion: To extend the POV release for two years. Mover: Joan Huzar Seconder: David Buckman Carried

Councillors' Question Time

10 minutes

via Zoom

Motion: That Parish Council directs the Property Committee to begin formulating a plan for a phased reopening of the parish physical plant. Mover: Alistair McCollum Seconder: Grant Croswell Carried

Curate in Waiting will be finished her Pastoral Ministry course soon. She will begin work with us June 1.

Laity are being asked to be responsible for the Daily Prayers.

Sue Ward who is heading the Food Bank at St .John the Divine will be introduced to our congregation and will be recognized in some way. the volunteers should be recognized, too.

Announcements

Next Meeting June 16, 2020 at 7:05

Volunteer for Prayer

Patrick Sibley

Blessing and Adjournment 8:58 PM

Family Ministry: 50 Days of Easter in COVID Times! Update for Parish Council – May, 2020

Family Ministry is ministry with Littles, Middles, Teens and their Adults (that includes you!) Care and attention for one another happens when we are together AND when we aren't gathering in the same place! Here is an update on what ministry has been put in place and how things continue to develop. I am happy to say that Family Ministry continues! We are resilient and creative!

Faith Formation with Families & Sunday Connections

As we continue to have Sunday morning zoom services, families are finding ways to participate. Children had fun putting together the Easter video, and a "good shepherd" video and offering for Pentecost are in the works! Stay tune for these wonderful creations!

We will continue to include the children's candle and the church family prayer as a sign of our "distanced" connection.

We have our Sunday Ministry with Children on Sunday evenings at 6:00 on Zoom. We have had 3 gatherings so far, and we are finding our way together. This provide a space for families to gather for story, song and theological reflection.

I hope you got a chance to watch the bible studies that Kevin and Julian prepared. They are wonderful!

I have also created a Godly Play at Home video and provided some links (on facebook & on our website) to Holy Moly videos. (We often use these on Sunday mornings and our kids really like them)

I will be recording the Daily Prayers on Fridays.

Maintaining Meaningful Participation and Belonging

There are still plans to make intergenerational connections. This has taken a little longer to get organized. In the next while I will be encouraging kids to make cards and messages to some older parishioners who might be particularly alone during this time. I will also be encouraging some members of the parish to write to our little ones to let them know that we are thinking of them too.

kidspace

Our first zoom kidspace was a great success. We had an "around the house" scavenger hunt! We meet again next Friday, and hope to have an actual "appropriately distanced" parking lot event in the near future!

TRY (Tolmie Region Youth)

Jaime and Caitlin continue to offer thoughtful leadership to the TRY Youth!

Since my last update, they have had morning yoga, trivia nights, cake baking for Mother's Day, and the leaders delivered wonderful care packages to the teens!

The interesting thing is that by offering "youth group" online, we are not limited by physical location. We are actively encouraging youth from around the diocese to join in the fun! It will be interesting to see how this ministry develops over the next while.

Pastoral Care & Mental Health

I continue to connect individually with families at least every two weeks. If you know families that would appreciate a check in or who might benefit from specific support, please let me know, or let them know that I can direct them to a

wide range of community supports during this time. I am providing links (on facebook and on our website) to useful community mental health resources.

Knowing What is Happening!

Please take the time to look at the family ministry portion of the website, and to like and follow the family ministry facebook page. These are the best ways for you to know what is happening with family ministry in the parish (and beyond!). You are always welcome to contact me directly with questions, concerns and ideas!

Peace,

Ruth

St John the Divine Property Committee Meeting Via Zoom Saturday, May 9, 2020

Present: Andrew Gates (Chair), Graeme Brown (host), Tony Barlow, Marguerite Heppell, Kelly Somogy, Sue Fraser. Both Chuck Neilson and Mile Bugslag were not able to connect with us.

The purpose of the meeting was to up date the work to date and hold a conversation about the security measures being contemplated by the special Task Group of church and Court.

The meeting opened with prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were not presented. The chair reported that he had come out of retirement to assist through the pandemic closure of buildings, and hadn't bargained upon becoming involved in this major security discussion.

It was reported that Bob Brandle, the consultant to the Diocese on Asset Management, has been contacted to advise on the process by which our proposed project can safely move through the Diocesan structure of administration.

It was also reported that though the church and parish house are closed, deep cleaning has been accomplished, a toilet has been replaced, the cover on the access drain in the crypt has been repaired, new outside lighting has been installed, the computer system has been partially updated, an attempt has been made (unsuccessfully) to remove the church sign on Quadra Street. Conversations have taken place with the Food Bank reference of installing tenting at the entrance to the fencing on Mason Street to protect product, volunteers and customers. This is on going. Quotes were also requested for alcove fencing and for the gate in the opening of the perimeter wall on Quadra Street. These were requested months ago and are still pending.

The meeting was then opened for a general discussion of the items collected by the Task Group. Apart from a general agreement that something must be done, nothing specific, other than what had already been suggested, was presented. It was noted that whereas the Court Board and residents have been dealing with many of these items for some time, members of the parish often come new to these. It was suggested that as broad a discussion as possible be engaged in with our fellow parishioners so that this matter can have a proper venting and solution. Perhaps the most helpful item raised suggested that the parish look again at where we physically find ourselves. We have been an urban church, we are now a downtown church, defined by the population gathered around us. This has implications for both The Court and the parish.

The Committee wanted to pass on thanks to our custodian and to Graeme Brown for their care of the property.

The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted

Andrew Gates (chair)

Anglican Church of St John the Divine, Victoria Music Report for Parish Council, May 2020

This report could really be considered a COVID-19 report; pretty much everything discussed below is in response to the Pandemic and the suspension of corporate activity!

SERVICES

- Initially, in March, we started with live-stream services, the first of which (Mar 15) had no choir (small groups had been suspended) but a congregation; the second of which had no congregation, but a cantor. Concern to avoid elitism led to live-streamed services being replaced with Zoom meetings from March 29th. Once access to church was relaxed again to allow practice and recording with a maximum of one keyboardist and one singer, suitably distanced, we began adding pre-recorded music to the Zoom services, which remains current practice (as of May 17th).
- Evensong was pre-recorded (with one singer and organist in the church, and officiant and reader at home) and 'released' at its usual time on the first Sunday of April (May 3rd).

CHOIRS and SINGING

- All choral activity ceased Thursday March 13. I've been staying in touch with both choirs via email and zoom meetings. As noted above, we have been able to use a single choral scholar as a soloist, except for the period of strongest restrictions (Mar 22 - April 12). Using multiple singers hasn't been permitted in our Diocese outside the Cathedral, however, and there is emerging concern about the safety of group singing generally, which means it is very hard to say when we will be able to return to choral or congregational singing. I am monitoring these developments very closely (along with every other choral director and singer in every corner of the world!).
- We decided to keep paying our choral and organ scholars through the end of the normal choral/school season (i.e., the end of May) despite the suspension of services, in order to support them in these difficult times. The scholars who are still in town have been contributing as soloists to the recordings for our website and zoom services.

CONCERTS

- Two major Baroque concerts were cancelled, including one for March 21 with the St John's choir, already in rehearsal. No concerts are scheduled at moment; experiments with live-streaming such as CCC is doing may be possible if we can secure the permissions and technological support.

SPECIFIC COVID RESPONSES:

- There is a Covid-specific page on website, now being updated through the blog, with weekly additions of commentary and higher-quality recordings of some of the music provided to the Zoom service, along with increased provision to the Music FB page.
- As with all staff, I am working from home for all matters administrative (though practising and recording, as noted above, in the church itself).

FINANCES

- With the cancellation of Holy Week and Easter, and the cessation of activities such as music purchase, some money has been saved (the Easter budget was more than \$800). However, there will be a few added expenses (e.g. Vimeo account, podcasting/livestreaming licences, as well as potential expenses around musicians depending on how services are provided, and what if any music is included, through the summer and into the Autumn).

FUTURE

- At this point, very little can be said with certainty about what the future looks like. The province has stated that up to 50 persons are currently permitted in church services, provided safety guidelines are followed, but the Diocese has indicated that Anglican churches will not reopen until there is careful consideration and a plan around how to do that. When and if either some or all services return to the church building, the questions around the safety of singing mean that it could be severely restricted - for instance to a soloist, a few singers, or even to no singing at all. Arts organisations generally are trying to formulate contingency plans, and to do what they can with online and with live-streamed offerings. Most are contemplating suspension of live, large-scale public concerts for a year or even two. All is speculation at the moment however; the situation remains very new and very fluid.

ORGAN PROJECT

- The organ project has been continuing, despite the pandemic, as much of the work needing to be done in the first stages of the project was off-site.
- Work was to have moved on-site in late July and August; however, the Illinois-based supplier of some essential components is closed due to COVID; that stage can't begin until this supplier is up and running again.
- Currently work continues, albeit slowed down from the original plans. Around 70% of the wiring has been completed and work on the bench and pedals will be done mid-summer. We should probably expect at least a two-month delay on the completion date, though it is hard to say with certainty what the revised schedule will look like, as it depends on the State of Illinois's response to the Pandemic. The Smalleys have suggested a reduction in the current monthly installments being paid, to reflect this reality.

St John the Divine Anglican Church
Monthly Written Update for Parish Council (May 2020)

This Summary Operating Statement through end-April shows that both Revenue and Expense are lower than the 2020 Budget, thanks to Covid-19, with expenses down somewhat more, which leaves a net positive impact of \$5,365. Donations are down largely due to no donated shares. Rentals are well above budget, since POV (\$7,333 per month) continue to pay regularly. Costs are down significantly, partly due to cost recovery, including MSP overpayments in 2018-9. Net Cash Flow to end-April reflects this, with no minor capital work, and the Organ Project on track.

Summary Operating Statement: Four months ending 30 April 2020

(amounts in dollars)

CORE REVENUE & EXPENSES	Year to Date		Difference from Budget	
	Actual	Budget	As a %	in \$'s
Donations	113,201	121,500	93%	(8,299)
Rental Income	39,383	34,515	114%	4,867
Other Fundraising	1,196	3,717	32%	(2,521)
Memorials and Bequests	-	-	0%	-
Other Operating Income	-	-	0%	-
Revenues	153,780	159,732	96%	(5,952)
Clergy	46,829	49,074	95%	(2,245)
Worship and Music	24,425	27,563	89%	(3,138)
Diocesan Assessment	29,519	29,519	100%	-
Family Ministry	15,192	13,885	109%	1,307
Building, (excluding Capital Projects - below)	36,353	37,071	98%	(718)
Administration	26,797	33,153	81%	(6,355)
Other Operating Expense	(169)	-		(169)
Expenses	178,948	190,265	94%	(11,317)
Net Core Revenue	(25,168)	(30,533)	82%	5,365

OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES

Investment Income	11,017	11,500	96%	(483)
Capital Expenditures (see below)	14,054	20,650	68%	(6,596)
YTD Net Cash Flow	(28,204)	(39,683)		11,479

Capital Projects	Net 2020 to date	Budget
Chapel Refurbishment	216	150
Organ Console Project	13,838	13,500
Smaller Capital Projects	0	7,000
Total 2020 Capital Projects to date	14,054	20,650

Ministry Report May 2020

It seems that things move in a kind of Foxtrot manner at the moment – slow, slow, quick quick, slow – we hear various reports from the news and from the Synod office, and from other churches, and if we're not careful it all becomes a muddy morass of both useful and less-than-useful information. So here's an attempt at letting you know where we have been over the past month and where we are.

Online Worship and Ministry

The most obvious sign that we are still here and still engaged as community is that our online offerings of worship and ministry still continue. Our Sunday Worship is 'virtually' well attended and many express their appreciation of the work that has gone on, and continues to be put into, our weekly gathering. We continue to review, and sometimes tweak, the format and are seeking to have as many people take an active part in the service as possible. The zoom coffee hour to follow is also proving to be a valuable, and enjoyable, part of our time together on a Sunday Morning, with (in my experience) the best takeout recommendations, and most useful baking and gardening tips, available in the CRD!

We also have daily prayers Monday-Friday at noon, following a variety of formats, and with a growing group of ministers offering opportunity for devotion, intercession, and variations on the daily office from sources all over the world – including the Church of England, Society of St Francis, Iona Community, Anglican Council of Indigenous People, and our local Order of St Francis Brother (Bill Tarter), and the creativity of Ruth, Patrick, Grant and others.

Other meetings such as the Monday Book Group and Sermon Circle, as well as our own PC meetings, Wardens and Incumbent, Finance, Leadership Team etc have continued and we are all getting used to the online format in a way we couldn't have imagined a few months back. Some 'physically distanced' meetings have taken place when necessary, such as the Security Review Group doing a walk around the garden.

Matters of Concern

Most of our concerns recently have been around keeping ourselves safe at home, and doing the tasks we need to do whilst maintaining physical distancing measures. But there have been other issues, as raised at our last PC meeting, around security and the safety of residents in the court at St John's. I am grateful for the work

that Andrew, Graeme, and Pat have done in reviewing the options, and a report will be sent to all of us to consider at our next meeting. It raises important questions about how we can move forward together and how we best live out our principles of both openness and welcome, and our duty of care for one another and our physical space.

Along with the concerns for keeping ourselves physically distanced are concerns for our mental and physical health – I am grateful for those who continue to ‘check in’ with members of our community – both those doing so more ‘formally’ as part of the pastoral care of St John’s and those who call around friends and ‘those who sit nearby at church’. St John’s has shown it’s genuine love and compassion as we have responded to this pandemic. Thank you.

Where are we at?

Though various reports and recommendations have come from our exceptional Provincial Health Officer, Dr Bonnie Henry, and the BC Government, we have not yet decided when we will again be seeking to gather physically in the Anglican Churches of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets. We are, under the guidance of the Primate and others, taking a very cautious approach – recognising that many of our community members are vulnerable should an outbreak of COVID-19 occur. Yes, Dr Henry has said that gatherings of up to 50 are allowable, but we also have to take account of the need to abide by physical distancing, the lack of sharing of the Eucharist, the possible dangers of public singing, safe entry and exit of our buildings, adequate facilities for hand sanitation, and careful observance of best health practice. Our property group will be considering what adaptations might be needed to our facilities, and the Leadership Team will continue to listen to the advice of Government, our Church Authorities, and the best science in our decision making processes. The current situation remains for the foreseeable future – we will not be meeting in our Church buildings, quite possibly until Fall. Though the situation changes week by week.

Our Team

I am grateful for the work being put in by staff members – all of whom deserve a huge thank you for the heroic efforts they are making to keep connected and create community in these times. I think you will agree that the work done by David and members of the choir in continuing to offer music for our Sundays is exceptional, what you perhaps don’t know is just how much Carol-Ann, Ruth, the Clergy, and Custodial team are putting in also. Those who offer their time and expertise voluntarily to the community have also given a huge amount to the work that continues for our church, thank you all.

I am hoping to talk to Stephanie Wood on Tuesday 19th about where she is with regards to her current work situation, and am being asked by the Diocesan Administration team to consider whether having her join our

Team as a lay pastoral assistant in this last phase before her ordination would be a good idea. Wardens, Finance, and I will need to have further conversations on this and it's feasibility at this time.

A final note

Thank you all, for continuing to be a part of the leadership of this parish, for your dedication, your support, your wisdom and your care. Without you our community would not be the strong, vibrant, compassionate community that characterises the church of St John the Divine.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

Alastair

DRAFT