

St. Philip Parish Council
MINUTES
16 March 2021 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
via zoom

1. Prayer

Christopher read a passage from Exodus (33:12-16) and shared a reflection. In verse 14, God says to Moses, "My presence will go with you and I will give you rest."

This is what our job is – our call – before anything else – is to encourage people to know that there is a presence with them – with us -- through all of human history – and that everything else flows out of that. We are to call – ourselves – and others – to an awareness of this Presence – of comfort – truth - beauty – Love at the heart of all – to an awareness of God.

2. Regrets

None – all members present

3. Minutes – 16 February 2021

Minutes of the February meeting were circulated on the evening of February 16.

Two comments were made. A Second Draft of the Minutes was sent out on March 14.

MOTION: To accept Second Draft of the February Minutes 2021 as circulated
– Gillian Fosdick

Seconded: Esther Graham Carried.

4. Wardens

Larry Anthony and Karen Van Rheezen opened up a conversation about 'Christopher's future:'

Historically, we had been through two rounds – of postings of a job search for an Associate Priest to work along side Christopher in a 'step down retirement' plan. Nothing came of either of these. At their last report Larry & Karen spoke of their meeting with Diocesan Exec Barry Foster, who had suggested it was time to transition to a more traditional search -- ie – that Christophe retire and that we open a search for a new rector. Then a new option seemed to present itself: a worthy candidate was interested in the job as it was originally posted. Larry & Karen followed up on this possibility, but reported tonight that this conversation has now fallen through.

Permission would have to be established between bishops and the bishop of that 'interested party' has now quashed the idea of releasing that priest, and making another offer available to them, in the interest of remaining in their current diocese.

We have struck out for a third time.

"The ball" – as it were - is now in Christopher 's court. It is up to him to make a decision about when he wants to retire and then we will be assigned an interim priest until a new rector is hired.

However – this decision is also complicated by two other factors: First Covid restrictions create a difficult time for a transition in a parish. It would be Christopher's choice to continue until we are through this difficulty, although we cannot search for a new priest until the job is available.

5. Finances

March 2021 Finances report was circulated from Treasurer, G. McLean, who said: "Giving is down, as are expenditures - but the giving is down more than the expenditures. Given what has gone on in prior years, I don't think this is anything to worry about for a while."

2020 expenses to March 31 included payment of budgeted Missions Outreach. We expect to disburse roughly 28,000 in outreach pending final approval of Parish Council this evening.

Givings are approximately 75% of what we had received this time last year.

Christopher asked – Are you saying that IF trends continue like this, by year end we will be about \$23,000 in debt. Ged replied – "probably closer to \$60,000."

Ged will prepare a message to go out to the congregation in May.

6. Missions

Following a Motion that was passed at the AGM in January 2021, the Missions Committee, [Karen Van Rheenen, Jennifer Sharlow; Jackie Prowse; Liz Holloway; Evelyn Dowman and Kathy Chan] were directed to allocate more funds to Missions. An additional 10% of bequests – on top of the base allocation of 22,000, is to go to Missions this year. Ten percent from bequests added \$7,800, bringing the total Outreach budget to \$29,800.

Decisions were based on 2 principles – that the money be divided approximately 50 / 50 between international and local ministries – and that the organization has some specific, personal connection to St. Philip. Missions Chair, Karen, circulated a letter to Council on March 1, 2021 proposing the following disbursement of these funds:

INTERNATIONAL:

Missions	2020	2021
Precious Jewels	\$4,000.	\$6,000.
Canadian Foundation / Children of Haiti	\$4,000.	\$6,000.
Jolly Nyeko	\$1,000.	\$1,000.
Primates World Relief Development Fund		\$1,500.
TOTAL	\$9,000.	\$14,500.

LOCAL:

Contemplative Society	\$1600.	\$2,000.
Threshold Ministries (Street Hope)	\$2500.	\$4,000.
T-Birds	\$1200.	\$1,200.
Emmaus Community	\$1300.	\$1,300.
South Island Centre for Counselling	\$1900.	\$2,000.
Shelbourne Community Kitchen	\$1,000.	\$2000.
Youth Group to Allocate	\$1,000.	\$2,000.
Pilgrimage: University chaplaincy	\$1,000.	
TOTAL	\$11,500.	\$14,500.

MOTION: - To move the Adoption and acceptance of the report from the Missions Committee and follow up regarding the disbursement of funds

– Karen Van Rheenen

Seconded: Ged McLean

Carried.

7. Bishop's PC visit – 20 April

Bishop Anna and Diocesan Vision Animator, Brendan Neilson will join / host us for our next parish council zoom meeting on Tuesday evening, April 20th.

Bishop Anna and Brendan have been doing workshop meetings with church councils throughout the diocese to establish an initial conversation with parish leadership, and to have 'a bit of a check in on the ministry hopes and identity in this season.'

8. 12 April 2021 – new COVID protocols from Diocese

On March 9, 2021, Bishop Anna circulated a letter to all parish clergy. She wrote regarding the March 8 announcement from provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, that the government was working with faith leaders to develop a plan which would see an easing of restrictions around onsite public worship in time for Easter. This announcement led to questions about what a gradual easing could look like, how soon we would know and whether we would be worshipping together in our church buildings. This uncertainty unfortunately put undue pressure on parish leadership and particularly clergy, at an already busy liturgical time of year, during an unprecedentedly stressful period of our lives together.

"Bishop Anna believes that the best path forward at this time, given the uncertainty, is for parishes to continue with online Holy Week and Easter services as planned. Please expect that current diocesan restrictions around onsite worship will remain in place through April 12."

9. Holy Week

A 'Holy Week' flyer is being prepared and will be delivered – with a Palm Cross - to each home in the parish in the days before Palm Sunday. The response to the undertaking and to the request for helpers, has been tremendously positive and encouraging.

Palm Sunday 10:00 zoom worship

Maundy Thursday - Because of Covid, we will not be able to meet together for the Seder meal this year. However, we can still celebrate the Passover Seder. We will observe the traditional rituals of Seder on zoom and then you will be dismissed to have your dinner. The youth of St. Philip will ask the customary questions about the nature of the special foods that remind us of God's redemptive power. In the Passover prayers we remember Israel's exodus from slavery in Egypt. Please join us on Thursday, April 1st at 5:30 for our Zoom Seder. Zoom passcode will be sent out closer to the time as well as a link to the Seder booklet to follow along with the service.

Good Friday – 10:00 a.m. Zoom Children's Tenebrae liturgy and story right at the beginning of the service, followed by a spoken meditation and reflection on the crucifixion.

Holy Saturday – 7:00 p.m. Zoom short spoken word service on zoom, reflecting on the events between Jesus' death and resurrection, including an interview with one of the Marys at the tomb.

Easter Sunday – 10:00 a.m. Zoom service

Sunday after Easter – 11 April 10:00 a.m. at our regular zoom service we will welcome a special guest preacher as Tracey Morris joins us from Sheffield, England

10. Motion to Adjourn - Gillian

All concluded with 'The Grace'

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen**

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Next meetings: 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 21 Sept, 19 Oct,
 16 Nov, 14 Dec (nb: 2nd Tue in Dec not 3rd)