

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

## Special Vestry Meetings

November 17, 4PM on Zoom and November 20, 9:30AM in person, 2021

### MINUTES

#### 1. Opening Procedures

The first Special Vestry meeting was held via Zoom videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic for those who still feel unsafe to meet in person. A second Special Vestry meeting was held in person at All Saints. Parishioners were asked to attend at least one of the meetings but were welcome to attend both (with voting privileges at only the first one attended).

The Rev'd. Gyllian Davies, Incumbent and Chair, opened the meetings with prayer, notice having been duly given. Attendance was recorded by Dale Storm as people joined the meetings; 18 people were recorded as present for the Zoom meeting, and 13 different people were recorded as present for the in-person meeting, totalling 31 attendees (9 task force members & 22 others).

#### 2. Purposes of both meetings

(a) In 2018, we, the parish, met with Bishop Logan and created eight goals for where we, as a parish wanted to go. This year, our Parish Renewal Task Force has amended these goals. Parish approval is required. *See attached document comparing our 2018 goals and the 2021 proposed amendments: also on page 10 of the full report.*

(b) To introduce everyone to the report from the Parish Renewal Task Force and to invite discussion leading to agreement on the way forward for our church. *See attached full report.*

#### 3. Presentation of the Parish Renewal Task Force

The Task Force was discussed and agreed to by Parish Council members in February 2021 and includes people who are:

- (i) new to the church but long-time Islander; and,
- (ii) new to the Island but long-time in the Anglican Church.

The nine Task Force Members are: Gyllian Davies, Lolla Devindisch, John Metzger, Ruth Seltner, Dovenne Steele, Walter Stewart, Debbi Toole, Judy Tyson, and Elizabeth van Akker.

#### 4. Presentation Slideshow of the Report

##### (a) Overview of Why and How

- As a result of the pandemic, we have changed, and we cannot go back to who we were pre-pandemic. We now have fewer people and less income; how do we be proactive to build our parish in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
- A healthy practice includes discussing where we're going every five years, regardless of whether there is a pandemic.

### **(b) Mission, Vision and Goals**

- Mission: To share the good news of a loving, creative, and peaceful way of life as shown to us in Jesus.
- Vision: To be a spiritual home for all who seek peace, justice, and community;
  - To be a place of healing for those hurt by the Church;
  - To be an asset of great value to our island home;
  - To be a living testimony to the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ; and,
  - To be a place to discover and become who God calls us to be.
- Goals: Where do we want to go?
  - To become more inclusive, more visible in the community through actions and words;
  - To expand our demographic age range;
  - To partnering with others to address island issues;
  - To be an agent for strengthening our community;
  - To provide effective pastoral care;
  - To explore new liturgies and modes of worship;
  - To be a place of reconciliation for those who have been hurt by the church; and,
  - To increase our skills in stewardship of money and talent.

### **(c) Transforming Futures**

- Diocesan Vision (Faith in Action, Faith in Formation, Faith in Foundation): How can we transform the future of who the church would be, and how would we respond to the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
- How: The Task Force created a table of Parish Heart, Parish Assets, and Community Needs based on the guidelines of the Diocesan Vision. *See page 8 of the full report.*

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In re-evaluating the goals, the Task Force proposes:

- (a) To divide goal #7 from 2018 into two parts:
  - To address Reconciliation and the Calls to Action for the Churches of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (new goal #2); and,
  - To address the many other ways in which the church has hurt people (new goal #7).
- (b) To create a new goal #4 to address the climate crisis, absent from the 2018 goals.  
*See amended 2021 goals on page 15 of the full report.*

**MOTION of ZOOM VIDEO-CONFERENCE: M/S Claire Pickering/Doreen Davidson THAT the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island adopt the 10 revised parish goals as presented to Vestry on 17 November 2021. CARRIED.**

**MOTION of IN-PERSON MEETING: M/S Lolla Devindisch/Ruth Seltner THAT the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island adopt the 10 revised parish goals as presented to Vestry on 20 November 2021. CARRIED.**

Discussion indicated a need to build us first before having resources to reach out.

## **5. Recommended Actions** *See pages 17-26 of the full report.*

### **5.1 Effective Welcome – Debbi Toole/Walter Stewart**

Description: To reach out to our community to encourage participation in worship and community service.

- We need to know 'who we are' as a church, to be known in the community by our works.
- Opportunities available to all, welcoming everyone, easily accessible information throughout the building for community members to learn more about us.

### **5.2 Reconciliation with First Nations – Ruth Seltner/John Metzger**

Description: To educate ourselves around issues faced by First Nations; to provide resources; to intentionally work towards better understanding so that we may be a source of support within the church and the greater community.

- To provide opportunities for discussion, to educate ourselves.
- To get to know First Nations people in the Saanich Peninsula and the Cowichan Valley (as well as those on SSI).
- There is huge hurt in First Nations' communities.

### **5.3 Worship and Liturgy – Gyllian Davies/Lolla Devindisch**

Description: To build on elements that deepen our faith and enrich our spiritual lives, especially through music and liturgy, while being sensitive to the needs of long-standing members while inviting newcomers.

- We are already a church that values music and innovative worship (eg. Hawaiian Heritage Sundays, liturgical dance, etc.) and therefore have so many ways to open our doors to the community; we need to build on that to provide support to our own vulnerabilities as well as the communities'.
- The Worship Committee continues to work on this ongoing ministry.

### **5.4 Spiritual Formation Groups – Gyllian Davies/John Metzger**

Description: To build on Zoom and in-person small groups to create a rich diversity of offerings within the parish.

- A very important ministry in getting to know one another and to enhance our own spirituality.
- To provide a history of Christianity, the church year, and/or Anglicanism.
- Spiritual Formation Groups can address any common, relevant interests within the parish and may attract interest from the community.

### **5.5 Response to the Climate Crisis – Gyllian Davies/John Metzger**

Description: To respond to the climate crisis with actions relevant to Salt Spring Island through education, mitigation and adaptation actions, and collaboration with other groups in the community.

- How can we, as individuals and seniors, respond to the global crisis?
- How can we adapt to drought, water conservation, flooding, etc. here on SSI (eg. Transition Salt Spring, Extinction Rebellion)?

- Rev. Harold Munn to host a four-week discussion on Zoom to explore how our Christian faith is relevant to these issues. Harold is an activist and member of Extinction Rebellion.

### **5.6 Mission and Outreach – Gyllian Davies**

Description: All the ways in which we are impelled by our love of Jesus to reach out from our hearts to make a better world.

- Locally, a blanket-and-sock drive, grocery cards to schools for families in need, in collaboration with the ministerial on SSI; how can we support mental health on SSI.
- Nationally, supported Archbishop Mark MacDonald's water project to bring potable water to reservations and training support for these systems.
- Internationally, projects through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.
- Donations received marked 'M&O' add to our budgeted amount; the M&O Committee determines where the money should go.
- How to collaborate with other groups?

### **5.7 Star of the Sea – Walter Stewart**

Description: To build on the successful outreach associated with the Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice at St. Mary's.

- Launched in 2016 and opened in the fall of 2017, the Star of the Sea is an initiative of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island as an offering to all people through a set of programs focused on cultivating spiritual living and practice from many different traditions.
- The Program Development Team determines the program. Members of the Team come from differing traditions.
- The Anglican Parish supports the Star of the Sea with back-office function which saves a huge expense which we would incur were we to become an independent organization. The Parish supports but does not control.
- There has been very little engagement by the Island's Anglicans in attending these programs despite the enrichment of one's own Christian faith by learning about other faith traditions.

### **5.8 Building Renewal – Walter Stewart/John Metzger**

Description: Renewal of the All Saints' building to become more environmentally friendly, more useful to our community, and more adaptable to the parish.

- All Saints has remained a valued resource in the community throughout its 27-year history. An upgrade to the building will result in its continuing usefulness to the community as it was intended to be.
- Many repairs are needed: Window replacements (seals are gone), major kitchen renovation, washrooms, lighting, painting, etc. Heat pumps were installed in 2020 and has reduced our consumption of electricity and also our electricity bill.
- How could the building become more useful in the community? We have entered into an agreement with SS Emergency Services to be an emergency reception centre on the island as a shelter in the event of an earthquake or fire, etc. Because we are on the hospital grid, we will have electricity back faster than other areas of the island.

## **5.9 Pastoral Care – Gyllian Davies**

Description: The ways in which we reach out and care for each other.

- To include Home Communion teams, a Phone Tree, etc.
- Individuals continue to care for others behind the scenes.
- How do we reach out even more to each other? Are there people falling through the cracks?

## **6. Small Group Discussions (summaries)**

Groups were asked to discuss these questions for 20-30 minutes:

The results below are inconclusive and will be reviewed by the Task Force.

**\*6.1 Which recommendations of the report made you feel hopeful and excited?**

**\*6.2 Which ones do you consider most important for our future as a thriving church?**

**\*6.3 Which ones do you think we need to move on right now?**

\*Responses to the above three questions:

Spiritual Formation, Effective Welcome, Pastoral Care, Building Renewal, Star of the Sea

**6.4 Which ones are you personally ready to be involved with?**

Individuals to email Gyllian.

## **7. What now?**

7.1 Responses and feedback will be collated by the task force.

7.2 The parish will begin to act immediately in areas where greatest interest is focused.

7.3 We will build on what we are already doing.

7.4 Contact Gyllian and/or a member of the task force with any further ideas and afterthoughts.

## **8. Closing comments**

Noted that all the nine Recommended Actions are all very closely related.

Q: What would you most like to be involved with?

Everyone is invited to email Gyllian with their responses.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27PM

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These minutes were approved by Parish Council at a subsequent meeting and will be presented for acceptance at the next Annual Vestry Meeting:

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Rev. Gyllian Davies, Incumbent & Chair