



## Parish Council Minutes

March 15, 2023

7 p.m., in-person

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Smiths Falls

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:03 p.m. by Chair, Paul Howard

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Bryan

**Regrets:** Lois Arkell, Pat Lee, Garry Rodford, Bob Theoret

**Welcome to New Council:** Paul Howard welcomed returning members and newest participant, Linda Denham. He noted the service of Judy Duncalfe, Chris Silvermoon-Cutler, and Brenda Ferguson (departing members of Council).

**Scripture Reflection (Luke 5:33-39):** Chosen by Thomas because it encompasses the themes of “new” and “old”. Good discussion ensued.

**Notice of Business and Declaration of Reports:** no additions

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to adopt the agenda as presented: moved by Linda Coleman and seconded by Terry Dillabough. Carried.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of February 01, 2023: moved by Tammy Mulrooney and seconded by Dawn Dunlop. Carried.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (not included below):** none

### Reports:

- *Incumbent*
  - Thomas has engaged The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff (Dean of the Cathedral) to speak at his induction (April 02, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.). Guests from the broader community have been invited to attend the service and reception.
  - Thomas referenced his document, “Walking together into the Newness of Christ” which was distributed at the previous meeting. Members were reminded to bring this to subsequent meetings for discussion. He noted, with thanks, that office furnishing needs have been met (largely) and that a new laptop is in use. Thomas reviewed the four dimensions of church growth also cited in his document. Considering declining enrollment across mainline as well as Evangelical and Pentecostal traditions, we should not maintain the status quo at this time of clerical transition. Despite overall dwindling numbers, growth of individual congregations is possible. As a worship community, we need to determine which practices to preserve and which to change or eliminate to best serve the needs of Smiths Falls.
  - Thomas noted that falls (in addition to that of Kathy Rycroft) have occurred in the sanctuary. He suggested that lowering the altar by removing the altar platform and steps would reduce the possibility of injury.
  - The possible resumption of Communion at the altar rail as well as offering collection practices will be discussed at a meeting of the Pandemic Task Force. Thomas also

expressed a desire to meet with both the Outreach Committee and Reconciliation Working Group.

- *Property*
  - Karen Bryan reported that Alexey Ivanchenko (Heritage Glass) will commence work on the window repair by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Scaffolding will be set up during the previous week.
  - Shortly, Chris Halladay (electrician) will be installing a motion-sensor light above the stairs to the sacristy.
  - The parking lot has ongoing drainage problems resulting in excessive mud and holes. Previous attempts to rectify this have failed. Paul Howard will contact Rideau Lakes and Montague Township offices for information/suggestions.
- *Outreach Committee*
  - With respect to affordable housing, Tammy Mulrooney reported that the Chambers Street build remains on schedule for fall completion. Bob Mulrooney indicated that St. John's has not yet issued a cheque representing our \$500,000 project commitment. The donation is pending confirmation of a few details but is soon to happen.
  - Paul Howard shared children's drawings sent in appreciation from Montague Public School for our financial support of their breakfast program.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Bob Mulrooney circulated the financial statements at the meeting. The Income and Expense Summary was discussed. He noted that our unrestricted offerings are \$5,000 better than our budget projection and are also up from last year at this time. Overall, expenses are slightly below the budgeted figures. On a short-term basis, we are in good shape. Bob will be looking more critically at long-term planning. Motion to accept the financial statement as presented: moved by Dawn Dunlop, seconded by Dan Willis. Carried.

#### **Business:**

- Accessibility Report (distributed by email in advance of the meeting)
  - Paul Howard indicated that while the report by Eastern Engineering listed many areas of deficiency and significant costs to rectify them, we are not obliged to make changes. As a church, we have not been mandated to meet the accessibility standards. Corporation feels, however, that an effort should be made to improve accessibility. Proposed areas for review include the rear and north entrances as well as the main floor washroom. Corporation further recommended a congregational meeting.
- Congregational Meeting on Accessibility, April 23, 2023 (recommended by Corporation)
  - This will take place following the 10 a.m. service. The event will be advertised in bulletins (commencing March 19<sup>th</sup>) and on our website and Facebook page.

#### **Announcement of Next Meeting: April 26, 2023**

#### **Adjournment:**

**The Grace:** led by Thomas