



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Smiths Falls

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

## **Parish Council Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair, Karen Bryan**

**Regrets: Paul Howard, Bob Theoret**

**Scripture Reflection: 1 Peter 2:4-6; 9-10** Selected by Thomas, "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight ... " We are living stones from which God uses as a foundation to build the Church.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Bob Mulrooney would like to add "Scholarship" to the agenda. Motion to adopt the agenda. Moved Tammy Mulrooney, seconded by Linda Coleman. Carried.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2023; Moved by Dawn Dunlop, seconded by Pat Lee. Carried.

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Thomas reported he met with Grayden Watkins and presented him with the \$500.00 honorarium from St. John's. Grayden feels part of a worshipping community because of the love and affection that has been given to him.

**Notice of Business and Declaration of Reports:** Community Dinners; Parish Evolution vs. Revolution; Media Guild.

### **Reports:**

#### ***Incumbent***

Thomas reported he still has two weeks leave to be taken between now and Advent.

There were 4 funerals and a wedding in the church this summer.

As discussed with Corporation, Thomas plans to devise an on-line questionnaire to be posted on local websites to determine: recipients' expectations of local churches; perceived needs of

the community; recommendations for action or direction which would draw people to the church. With this information we will have greater tools going forward.

Thomas just attended his first Clergy Conference, which he feels had value. There was digital and live involvement. He reported a new supplement to the Anglican Hymn Book, "Sing a New Creation." A sociological survey is suggested for people who are not regular attendees. Karen Bryan felt this fits in with the current review of the parish list.

### ***Sunday School***

Emily has set up a Sunday School space in the hall in front of the piano. She has a solid plan for the term. She is looking for a backup leader so she doesn't have to be available every Sunday.

### ***Spiritual Development***

The book study is back this past Monday. Pint and a Passage is resuming. This Sunday, **Pray K7A**, an ecumenical prayer event for all churches to come together, is taking place here at St. John's. Each month will be at a different Church. It will be at Bethel Pentecostal in November.

### ***Pastoral Care***

Lois Arkell reported 30 attendees at the Alzheimers Meeting. Thomas asked the presenter how we could improve signage in the Church.

### ***Property***

Karen reported the stained glass windows are now complete.

### ***Outreach/Scholarship***

Matthew Dillabough has completed his course but has only used three of the four instalments of his scholarship. This gave rise to an hypothetical discussion about our obligation (or not) to apply the unused portion of the scholarship to another educational program. The original motion at Vestry was a scholarship of \$20,000.00 over four years at \$5,000.00/yr. for full-time studies, maintaining a "C" average. Karen Bryan felt the original intent was funding for up to four years of continuous education. Perhaps an amendment to the motion at Vestry is required, changing the language. Tammy suggests that the scholarship should not be limited to students from SFDCI only, i.e. TR Leger. This, too, should be discussed.

### ***Reconciliation Working Group***

September 30, 2023 is National Truth & Reconciliation Day. There are plans for special prayers during the October 1<sup>st</sup> church services. The wearing of orange shirts is encouraged.

### ***Accessibility Committee***

The Accessibility Committee met over the summer. Karen Bryan presented its report to Council, attached. The group identified small, easily accomplished improvements at low cost. One of them, line painting on the stairs, has been completed.

Tammy requests Council to approve all of the smaller items that can be done right now.

Two large projects were pinpointed and fully endorsed by the Committee at substantial cost:

**An accessible washroom:** Two contractors have assessed sites and the best location would be the existing choir cloak room. They further recommended converting the current washroom into a storage area or robing room for the choir. Actual cost to be determined.

#### **A new rear door which is accessible and mechanized:**

Several options for the rear Church door, which doesn't meet code, were discussed, i.e. in addition to replacing the door, install an external lift, which would eliminate the need for a ramp and would be comparable to or cheaper than installing a new ramp. Thomas wondered if there would be value in replacing the door and installing a lift at the same time. Would there be grants available? Actual costs for the door and the lift to be determined.

Pat Lee feels we need all the information about the door, including the lift before proceeding.

Thomas suggested that the Accessibility Committee continue to meet and further recommended drafting a report for the Diocesan committee which oversees such projects.

A motion of thanks from Thomas on behalf of Parish Council to the Accessibility Committee for their swift and excellent work. Seconded by Dan Willis.

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

Bob Mulrooney reported all accounts have been received and reconciled and gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2023. Of note, the monthly deficit has decreased.

The Music Ministry budget remains at \$400.00. Bob also reported receipt of \$8,000.00 in refunds from CRA received since last June.

Motion by Garry Rodford, seconded by Linda Denham to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.

### ***Business***

#### **Community Dinners**

Options for alternatives were discussed. Dan Willis is to arrange for "The Table" to come and make a presentation to Council next month, perhaps to do something jointly. Offering a Thanksgiving meal also was discussed.

Karen Bryan wanted to express gratitude to Dan and Virginia for all of their hard work.

#### **Parish Evolution vs. Resolution**

A congregational meeting in November will provide a forum to express small and big ideas with respect to parish sustainability, direction and growth. Ideas gathered at an earlier, similar event (and captured by Tammy and Bob Mulrooney) will be made available to Parish Council members for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **Media Guild**

Dan Willis would like to get the Media Ministry off the ground. Presently there is a \$400.00 budget for media.

**Announcement of Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment: Moved by Karen Bryan**

**The Grace:** led by Thomas.