



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Smiths Falls

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

## **Parish Council Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair, Thomas Brauer**

**Regrets: Paul Howard, Bob Theoret, Linda Denham**

**Scripture Reflection: Luke 4:16-20** Selected by Thomas, this scripture reflection is a proclamation of what Jesus was all about and is the core of what we are all about and why we operate in the world; healing, justice, stepping into the margins to help, restoration, service to the poor.

### ***Special Guest Presentation – “The Table” – Community Food Centre***

Christina Kerfoot introduced Ramsay Hart, Executive Direction of the **The Table** in Perth. Mr. Hart gave a history of this non-profit organization presently working out of Perth and looking to expand to Smiths Falls. His key goal at the moment is fund raising. They rely on funding from fund raising events & grants. Their vision is to provide a “welcoming space in Smiths Falls where people can get a healthy meal, socialize, learn, grow and find support to get ahead in life.” They have plans to develop programs such as food literacy skills, growing food, programs for youth, non-food related supports, community navigators. All meals are prepared from scratch with access to fresh produce from their gardens. They operate primarily on volunteers. The program is open to everybody with donations accepted. Integration with the whole community reduces stigma.

They have acquired space in Smiths Falls at the Giant Tiger Plaza, on Chambers Street and are sourcing funding to get it operational. They are hoping to be open February/March. Ramsay reported much volunteer interest in Smiths Falls, i.e. 150 on an e-mail list. Their goal in Smiths Falls is to provide multi-meals/week at that location. Presently they are providing a hot lunch at Hanley Hall on Mondays with 45-80 participants, and six people supporting the lunch.

They would be happy to collaborate with St. John’s. Thomas asked how Ramsay would imagine service offered at the new location. St. John’s, for instance, could sponsor one meal at that location, using our volunteers.

Pat Lee asked about food deliveries. They do not provide that service, as one of their goals is to create a community environment.

Karen sees opportunities for participation and collaboration. Council will touch base at the November meeting with further thoughts, along with concerns, to pass on the Outreach Committee.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of September 20, 2023; Moved by Dawn Dunlop, seconded by Tammy Mulrooney. Carried.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

**Notice of Business and Declaration of Reports:**

**Reports:**

***Incumbent***

Thomas reported he was present at Synod last week, along with Karen Bryan and Terry Dillabough. There was a guest from the Diocese of Jerusalem/West Bank. Terry reported his reflection is posted on a link on the Facebook Page.

Thomas still has two weeks holiday and will take it in 1-2 day intervals before the New Year. He will be away this Sunday, with Jim covering.

There was discussion about an incident that occurred several Sundays ago where Thomas asked an individual, who was confrontational, to leave the Church. Policies and procedures will be developed and implemented for appropriate response, incorporating suggestions from mental health professionals. The goal is to have a safe Church environment, while maintaining the dignity of everyone involved.

***Spiritual Development***

Terry reported the Diocese is offering Core Competency Programs which are mini-courses for Church leadership.

***Property***

Karen presented three estimates for snow plowing for the upcoming season. Motion by Dawn to contract Chase Hewitt at \$5,085.00 (including HST), capped at 30 visits, all insured. Additional plowing will be paid on a per visit basis. Karen will contact Mr. Hewitt on Parish Council authority. A motion by Bob to thank Stewart McLean for his service.

### ***Outreach***

Scholarship amendments will be presented at Vestry. Tammy is meeting with Carebridge as part of our ongoing support. A thank you from Lois to Tammy for this undertaking.

### ***Anglican Church Women***

Karen presented the ACW Report to Parish Council. The ACW (formerly Group "A") voted to disband in its 78<sup>th</sup> year. "Several factors contributed to this decision: lack of new leadership, ageing members, diminished enrollment, volunteer fatigue and loss of focus/uncertainty of goals. Although the group has dissolved, it must be emphasized that every lady gracing a pew at St. John's is an *Anglican Church Woman* who remains at the ready to support this beloved parish." A farewell luncheon is coming up. Funds in their account will be transferred to Pastoral Care to be used in the purchase of small gifts for St. John's shut-ins.

A thank you from Tammy for what all the members have done over the years.

A motion by Thomas to extend the thanks of Parish Council and to all members for their Ministry.

### ***Treasurer***

Bob presented the Treasurer's Report, to September 30, 2023. Of note, there are still funds at the Bank of Montreal.

### ***Business***

#### ***New Ministry Proposal***

Further to a suggestion by a parishioner, a proposal was presented to Parish Council by Karen to open the church to families with children who are waiting for the bus at the corner of George and Main Streets as shelter from the weather. People begin congregating at 8:45 – 8:50. Bus pick up time is between 9:00 and 9:10 a.m. Karen spoke with parents on two occasions to determine their feelings on this.

There was discussion about creating a new Ministry around providing shelter and hospitality to those waiting at the bus stop. Karen expressed some urgency given impending bad weather. She emphasized that should we proceed with the door opening, it would need to be done daily to avoid confusion. Garry questioned if insurance could be an issue.

Karen will meet with Thomas to discuss further.

**Announcement of Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment:**

**The Grace:** led by Thomas.