



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Smiths Falls

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Parish Council Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by Chair, Paul Howard

Present: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer, Paul Howard, Dan Willis, Karen Bryan, Garry Rodford, Bob Mulrooney, Tammy Mulrooney, Terry Dillabough, Linda Coleman, Pat Lee, Lois Arkell

Regrets: Bob Theoret, Linda Denham, Dawn Dunlop

Scripture Reflection: **Luke 14:16-24** Selected by Thomas. In this parable, the banquet represents the free gift of salvation, made available to all. The invitation to the banquet is for all people on earth. But many make excuses. People don't accept God's gift, because money, responsibilities and relationships often stand in the way. Jesus brings the banquet to us. Our role is not to sit and wait for those who need. We must carry the banquet from 'inside' to 'outside.'

Adoption of Agenda: Moved by Pat Lee, seconded by Tammy Mulrooney.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2023, made by Linda Coleman, seconded Lois Arkell. Carried.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Thomas reported that early drafts of new policies and procedures including those relating to threatening or disruptive behavior in the Church have been started.

A letter of thanks was sent to Stuart McLean for his service. Bruce Smith will be cutting the grass at St. John's Cemetery. It was noted, however, that he would be unlikely to do lawn maintenance at the Port Elmsley cemetery.

An event to thank Karen Bryan for her years as President of ACW and to celebrate the years of ACW ministries at St. John's was held at Rob Roy's pub in November. A pastoral letter was sent to all departing members of ACW thanking them for their service.

The opening of the Church doors for bus kids in the morning has been well-received by parents and children. The children are well-behaved and are at home now in the Church. There is a good roster of volunteers.

Notice of Business and Declaration of Reports:

Reports:

Incumbent

Thomas reported that last season was busy with Advent and Christmas arrangements. Some planned meetings were missed due to his ill health, including the proposed congregational meeting which was tentatively scheduled for November. In preparation for that meeting, a community survey was to have been posted on municipality websites, etc. (The hope was to gather input about community wishes/expectations regarding our church.) Thomas, however, had no uptake from those responsible for the webpages. Corporation will have to re-assess their approach to gaining community input.

Thomas suggested conducting a town hall meeting immediately following the Vestry Meeting on February 25th. It was decided to hold separate events. It was recommended to hold the town hall meeting soon (perhaps March) with advance notice and information provided to the congregation. A possible Vestry meeting may ensue.

Thomas reported the Christmas Eve service attendance was above the norm for the 11:00 p.m. service, as well as for the Christmas Day service.

The Annual Vestry meeting is being held on February 25, 2024. The cut off date for reports is February 4, 2024.

The Altar Guild president has resigned. Thomas met with Altar Guild today.

Sunday School

Paul reported the possibility of a new family with four young children joining us at St. John's.

Spiritual Development

Confirmation 2024

Thomas is looking to set a program for confirmation this year for ages 11+. He mentioned the possibility of a pilgrimage to New York City with stops along the way, visiting various religious leaders.

Lenten Study

Thomas reported that we will be working through the book, *The Unfolding Gospel*, by Prof. John Bowen, who will come to preach and lead a session.

Pastoral Care

Thomas reported that this team is amazing. During Advent, they prepared and delivered gifts to Shardon Manor and Victoria House and members of the congregation made cookies. The ACW has done this in the past.

Thomas has identified “fringe members” of the parish, as a result of funerals at which he has presided. Some of these people have a former or loose association with us and include persons with mental health issues. Pastoral needs were too big to meet at that time. How do we reach out to these Anglicans?

Property

Karen reported snow removal and sanding are underway.

Lighting

Karen received a quote from Energized Electric for lighting in the Chancel. They brought in an expert team and presented a quote exceeding \$21,000.00. The second potential contractor was too busy and opted out. This will be re-visited.

Sound System

Ken Fraser installed our current system. We are fixing/changing microphones. Three of the four speakers are not working. The cost for one speaker, refurbished would be \$1,500.00 and new \$3,500.00 (unconfirmed estimates given to Karen). Scaffolding would have to be brought

in for a proper assessment. The multi-directional microphone was moved from the altar to the Lectern. Sound clarity is an issue.

Outreach

Paul received feedback from Julianna Bennett. She is continuing with her education. Matthew Dillabough graduated and is now working, and Grayden Watkins is currently in school and sees himself as a member of this Church.

Cheques were sent to schools for their Breakfast Program or to use at their discretion. A thank you card from North Elmsley Public School was just received.

Reconciliation

No report at this time.

Other

Music Director

The job description for a new Music Director has been posted on “Bamboo”, a website accessed by the Diocese. Interviews will take place in the last week of January. Karen has had conversations with three potential candidates. It will cost more than previously for our Music Director. In the meantime, Garry Hoekstra will be with us.

Treasurer

Bob presented the Treasurer’s Report to December 31, 2023. The dividend cheques were not received from the Diocese until this month. There is a \$140,000 deficit which we will rely on the CTF dividends to cover. The value of the CTF is increasing and plans can be made for the interest on the CTF. Memorial amounts are down. Corporation will be having a budget meeting on January 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Pat thinks we should look at how we can cut down on our operating expenses. Lois feels this is a good time for a Town Hall meeting to look at the Church family and make decisions about where we want to go. Karen feels that we should review accessibility plans. There is a big price tag for every change proposed, i.e. bathroom, rear entrance.

Compliments on behalf of Council from Paul to Bob for his work on the financial statements.

Business

Linda Denham sent Parish Council a note about rumors around the potential sale of land at the Gallipeau Centre. If that becomes a reality, would the Parish be interested in purchasing land with a view to building a new church in the future? Paul felt they would not sell small parcels.

Paul suggested we think about doing another dinner/auction to involve the community and merchants again. Karen wondered if it would be an inappropriate time for this event given the economic climate. Debbie Lewis and Sterling Bennett were co-chairs for the last one. Paul will contact Debbie. Karen pointed out that this is St. John's 175th year and may be a good time for a parish event, perhaps a scaled-down version of the dinner/auction.

Announcement of Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Moved by Terry Dillabough, seconded by Garry Rodford.

The Grace: led by Thomas.