

St. Philip Parish Council
Monday 22 September, 2025
St Philip's Church
Meeting 7:00 PM

Present: Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee (by invitation), Allen Doerksen, Larry Anthony, Judith Armstrong, Marcus Schlag, Dave Conway, Gerianne Knowles-Robson, Evelyn Savage, Judith Slimmon, Jackie Prowse, Mark Laidlaw (minutes)

Observer: Mike Pipes

Meeting came to order at 7:05.

AD opened with prayer.

Bishop's Visit:

1. Bishop discussed the letter from Diocese to Oak Bay about the potential rezoning of St Mary's and St Philip's property to allow for some residential uses. As Oak Bay is under provincial pressure to create more housing units, the Diocese is one of the largest landholders in the area, and rezoning generally is a lengthy and expensive process, it was proposed to inquire about rezoning now to provide flexibility for longer-term. Discussion ensued on the context and background of the letter.
2. Bishop discussed the possibility of St Philip's using St Matthias building.
 - a. Background: St Philip's has been considering accessibility improvements to the building; significant renovations likely to cost several hundreds of thousands. Need to ask questions around whether this is a prudent use of Parish resources.
 - b. St Matthias has a large property and a small and aging congregation that finds it increasingly difficult to maintain Church and Hall. Potential benefit to St Philips of working together is that the property is at a higher accessibility standard, to St Matthias that there are more people available to do ongoing work of running parish.
 - c. A suggested model would be that the two congregations share use of space but maintain separate identity, services, finances initially.
 - d. If parish took responsibility for the parish, we'd take responsibility for only church and hall, not associated housing.
 - e. Action item for Wardens: get depreciation reports on both properties.
 - f. Key takeaway: up to St.Philip's if we wish to pursue this.

July Minutes Review

- Approved as circulated

Treasurer's report

- Wardens to organize cong. Budget meeting for late October
- Provided report on finances Jan-Aug 2025; offerings down about 3% compared with 2024, outgoings about \$10,000 more than incomings, flattered by one-time factors.

Communications update

- Discussion around metrics for our engagement efforts, including tracking followers, views, in-congregation views.
- AD and wardens to discuss newcomer's book to help identify and connect with new attendees.

Building rental (nave/sanctuary):

- LA reports that a choir rents nave for Wednesday evenings for upcoming fall, but a speech arts and guitar group declined

Children

- Melinda has started first months as Children's Ministry coordinator

Youth

- LA reports that after consulting with parents it seems that most youth at right age for a Youth Group have outside plans, and are not interested in parish organizing. Discussion that this allows parish to focus on developing our children's ministry.

Missions update

- JP reports 75 people signed up for Syria fundraiser
- Plans for 100 stuffed socks for Street Hope.

Next meeting date: Monday Oct 27 (JP regrets for October)

Meeting closes with Grace at 9:25