

St Andrew's Anglican Church Vestry Meeting
Tuesday October 21, 2025
Pam in the Chair

The Purpose of the church is to learn and teach about God in Christ, through Scripture, loving God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

St Andrew's Vision is to be a welcoming and nurturing community, using our God-given gifts in service to parish, neighbourhood and the world.

Land Acknowledgement: In this time and place, we gather on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota people and the homeland of the Metis nation. As we come from many different places and peoples, we are grateful for their stewardship of the land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God, the Creator, here.

Present: Pam, Norma, Anita, Ken, Lynne, Laura, Laura, Eric, Audrey, David, Tim, Sue, Susan, Doreen. Online: The Reverend Liz, Shelley, Isla
Regrets: Pat
Absent: Mervin

Laura read the Scripture reading: John 2: 19-2

Pam opened the meeting with prayer

Approval of the Agenda: 5d: Souper Sunday December 8, was added

Motion # 1: That the Agenda be accepted as adapted. Laura/Susan C. Carried

Motion # 2: That the Minutes of the September 16, 2025 Vestry Meeting be accepted as distributed. Audrey/Susan C. Carried

Reports:

Clergy: no report

Corporation: no report

Finance: as previously distributed. Laura R commented that last year, income was \$104,000 and year to date for this year is \$97,000. What made the difference for St Andrew's was the 7% interest received from the Endowment Fund (an extra \$20,000 over what we can expect going forward) and the amount of interest added to operations was double that of the previous year. If these events had not occurred, our deficit would have been \$33,000.

Altar Guild: Isla reported that there were three Sundays with flowers on the altar last month. The decorations for Thanksgiving are being left for an extra week. Members attended the co-training for Lay Readers and Altar Guild.

Timeline: It was asked that the regular renters, Rummage Days, Rummage sorting days, etc be included on the timeline to prevent double bookings. The Men's Club, who set up for events, would like a Timeline in the kitchen to let them know if there is a renter between events. This would clarify as to when they can setup.

Mission and Ministry: as circulated. This Sunday is the last day for sock collection

Pastoral Care: as previously circulated

Maintenance: as previously circulated. The broken window in the hall was replaced today. The Food Bank freezer has been leaking water on the floor. A pan was found and put under the freezer as there was no drip tray. The freezer will be defrosted more frequently.

Food Bank: The last Food Bank for December has been changed to Saturday, December 27th

Business arising from the Minutes:

Anita requested reopening of issue of rental of parking space in the parking lot, as discussed at September's meeting. Ken has checked with the person who originally asked and the matter has been taken care of.

New Business:

a) Christmas Hampers: This year's hampers will be for six families, two of which will be from the Food Bank clients. Vestry has historically allocated \$1000 for the hampers, which is used for those foodstuffs that are not donated by parishioners.

Motion #3: That \$1000 be allocated for the augmentation of the Cheer Board's Hampers provided by St Andrew's.

Sue/Anita Carried

b) Fundraiser for Christmas Lights: Last year fundraising was at the Pot Luck, but it was a late start. Approaching sponsors was suggested. A letter requesting support will be sent to: Neil Bardal, APCO, Shelmerdine, Voyage Funeral Home. Those supporting the request will have advertising on the outside sign.

d) Souper Sunday: Pam is looking for someone to organize the day should Pam be unable to do this. Laura R volunteered. Eric and Shelley also offered their assistance. Pam will pre-organize. This is a Vestry project and all members should be involved, making soup and/or serving.

c) St Andrew's Vision: As previously discussed at the joint Vestry and Finance meeting October 6th, the Reverend Liz has an appointment to meet with the Bishop, October 28, to discuss the proposed Parish Hall reconstruction in terms of the Diocese having an interest in being a tenant.

Laura R presented and shared her knowledge and findings of considerations, costs and feasibility, a copy of which is attached. Laura met with a banking commercial lender who advised that St Andrew's would not qualify for financing of the project should it go forward as we have a negative cash flow and our five year projection required for debt consideration is that we will continue to have negative cash flow, therefore not being in a position to service debt during construction as well as post construction. This means the total cost of the project would have to be fundraised. This is unlikely

to change as parishioners lost through death or leaving, are not replaced and we are not growing. This means the total cost of the project would have to be fundraised. Calculations related to the project cost, potential lost revenue during construction and post construction costs, as attached, were reviewed. Safety has to be considered – of the Prayer Garden, condo, church and parking lot. In particular, the parking lot would have to be fixed before the project could start, in order to handle the heavy equipment required for demolition and reconstruction. Asbestos remediation would be necessary (Given when the hall was built, asbestos in the floors, ceiling and drywall is anticipated to be an issue). Environmental considerations would have to be met. Hall reconstruction, cost over runs, inflation and the effects of tariffs on domestic pricing are also considerations. Time frame would likely be a couple of years once started. An example of debt servicing costs was provided should financing of \$4Million be secured to provide an idea of potential monthly costs. Bottom line is the entire cost of the project would have to be funded with no financing involved.

The Reverend Liz reminded the meeting that the point of the discussion today was to decide if a feasibility study should be done. Laura commented that there is no point in conducting a feasibility study if the project is not viable.

What can we do instead if there is reluctance to present the forecast to the parish without some kind of a solution?

Spend \$10-20K sprucing up what we have and continue to market the hall as we have

Talk to the families of the donors of the restricted funds, with a view to getting their permission to remove the restrictions, making the funds available for operating the church, should that be necessary. These funds would be the last utilized, after all other investments have been exhausted, ONLY to keep the doors open – ie no capital investment.

Lobby the diocese to consider changing their policy regarding the endowment funds with a view to removing the restrictions, allowing the funds to be freed up and available to operate the church, if required. This would mean that the funds could be used for capital purposes **and** operations.

Laura further advised that she attended a breakout session at Faith Horizons that talked about Growing the Church. The Reverend Lee of St Alban's in Kenora, was the session speaker. He advised that he does not 'do' dying church and he offered practical examples of things congregations can do. For example, he spends twenty minutes prior to the service, interacting with parishioners and especially any newcomers to the church and then follows up with the newcomers who provide their contact information in the guest book, the Monday immediately following the Sunday they attended. He believes in expanding the church width ways (age wise). He indicated that he is prepared to come to any parish who wants him to present this session, and Laura suggested that we should arrange such a presentation to vestry and see if we can involve a few other parishes as well to share the travel costs of his coming from Kenora. In addition, Laura advised that the Bishop attended the afternoon session of this particular breakout,

which speaks to the importance of the message presented. The Reverend Liz asked for Laura's notes on the presentation, as well as the presentation package distributed.

The Reverend Liz expressed her appreciation for Laura's work and asked for others' thoughts. Discussion took place with the following thoughts and comments:.

One had been in favour of the feasibility study for what options regarding our responsibility to the community. She understands that part of the problem is that St Andrew's does not have the people with the time and energy to manage a project such as this. Concerned with St Andrew's five-year viability forecast. 'Where are we going and what are we doing?' Has come to the idea of churches opening their places to the community. We don't have the age or the commitment in the parishioners to go forward.

Another stated she had been in favour of the feasibility study, but Laura has addressed all her concerns and can not now be in favour of going ahead with a feasibility study.

Another stated 'we can't afford it, period.' St Andrew's does not have the commitment. 'We don't need to spend someone else's money to hear what Laura has stated.' We are not capable of managing the process or paying someone to do that.

Another stated that it would be a huge undertaking for a parish that doesn't have 100 families. Someone has to sign for the mortgages.

Another agreed with not proceeding with the feasibility study. It was a great vision of the Reverend Liz's, but sometimes it comes down to money and resources.

Another agreed that there should be no feasibility study on this project

Another thanked Laura for her work and her contacts' knowledge. We should not go forward.

Another suggested that regarding enhancing hall, inquire of the Bishop, re the use of some of the endowment funds for this purpose, as it would be capital in nature.

The Reverend Liz stated that the hope for this discussion was to get creative juices flowing, such as growing church as the speaker described. We now need to put our minds and prayers to what we can do.

Consensus reached is that St Andrew's is not going forward with this project.

The meeting was closed with the Grace

Next Corporation meeting: November 4, 2025

Next Vestry meeting: November 18, 2025