

## St George's Anglican Church, New Hamburg

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – December 13, 2016

**In Attendance:** Margaret Bennett, Margaret Cassel, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Paul Ditner, David Korell, Marion Korell, Bob Kostash, Gail Kostash Carol Massel, Kathy Richmond-Cox (chair), Rev. Margaret Walker, Calvin Williston, Lori Laurette (recording secretary)

**Regrets:** Janice Holst

1. **Evening Prayer** - read by Bob Kostash, Margaret Bennett, Gail Kostash, Calvin Williston, David Korell.
2. **Visioning** –Postponed to January
3. **Approval of Minutes – Gail Kostash moved to approve the November meeting minutes once date was amended. Seconded by Marg Cassel. Carried.**
4. **Finance Committee** –Gail Kostash

- a. **Treasurer's report** - Gail Kostash provided Council with a detailed financial report. There weren't any items for discussion as the financial position is normal except that we are out \$129.00 less compared to the bank statement balance.

**Marion Korell moved to accept the November financial report. Margaret Bennett seconded. Carried.**

- b. **Budget** – Gail reviewed the budget with Parish Council. The Church roof requires \$15,000.00 for completion of repairs. St, James Wilmot has provided the \$2,500 donation. Rental income from the apartment will be a bit higher next year. Investment income has risen from a bequest so it is \$3,000.00 higher which will give us a boost. ACW has been generous with \$3,500.00. Rev. Margaret shared a graph of our Bank Position which does show a positive trend. Gail Cuthbert Brandt thanked the Wardens and the Treasurer and mentioned that things are picking up and we have to get this positive message out to the community. We've made great progress and we are grateful for the extra money on the plate. The bulletin, newsletter and Vestry are good means of communication. Marion Korell asked about the salary for the organist. Rev Margaret indicated that we pay a flat rate per month that covers services, choir practice, planning and preparation. It was agreed that if too many choir practices are missed that we may be overpaying; we should keep an eye on this in the future. Carol Massel asked about whether Amanda would be around for funerals/weddings. She would have first right of refusal but we do have a list of musicians that can be asked to play.

**Gail Cuthbert Brandt moved to accept the November financial report. Carol Massel seconded. Carried.**

5. **Rector's Report** – Rev. Margaret
  - a. St. Paul's Cathedral – a letter was shared regarding the repairs needed for the Cathedral. Gail Cuthbert Brandt suggested that donations will be gathered and given in consolidation from St. George's. Parish Council agreed.
  - b. Welcome Refugees – a group in Wilmot called 'Wilmot Responds' have provided a couple of stickers to go in the Church window to welcome our Syrian refugees. The poster/stickers are written In Arabic, Burmese and English. Organizations in the community are being invited to put these in their windows. Parish Council agreed that we should go ahead with this. It was noted that "Wilmot Responds" also has a website with a video.
  - c. Dates- Deanery council meetings for 2017: February 21<sup>st</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic for 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary on May 25th. Judy Paulson has been rescheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at St. George's Forest Hill.
  - d. Bequests policy – We received a request from the Bishop to say that every parish must have a policy to deal with bequests. A sample policy from Trinity Cambridge was provided to the council for review and discussion

in January. We would use a policy/letter as a guideline. Homework: think about how you would want this to work and how it might be outlined in a policy.

- e. Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice issued an open letter to all Anglicans on how we can all contribute to reconciliation, copy distributed to all to read. This is an issue that we will be dealing more in future.

**6. Warden's Report – Marg Cassel**

- a. Report of teams investigating options- pause until Jan 2017.
- b. Music Director- Amanda has been hired.

**7. Congregational Development Committee – Kathy Richmond Cox**

- a. Sunday School – Christmas Pageant on Sunday

**8. Worship Committee – Rev. Margaret**

- a. Advent Evening Prayer – Thursday evenings there is Advent prayer with Trinity Lutheran.
- b. Nine Lessons and Carols – it was good but the weather deterred many. 54 people attended. Marion indicated that when there are different instruments, the keys need to be the same. Kathy Richmond Cox said she thought that the choir did a really good job and the Anthems were lovely. The brass band did first verse but next year it was suggested that we should have the piano do the first verse and then the brass band come in for the second verse. Marion Korell wondered if we would get more people if we had a 4:00 o'clock service.
- c. Pageant and Potluck – Gail has been organizing people into roles. Costumes are being set out on Thursday.
- d. Christmas Eve/Day/New Year's Day – there is a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Amanda was looking at carols that weren't in the service for the carol sing beforehand. Gail Kostash will lead the carol sing. New Year's day will be BCP morning prayer; to be determined whether it will be sung or spoken. Greeters will hand out the prayer books.

**9. Communications Committee – Margaret Cassel**

- a. Items for the Easter/Lenten newsletter to come out by mid. March

**10. Outreach – Kathy Richmond Cox**

- a. Sponsorship of refugee families -The 1<sup>st</sup> family Dad has graduated to level 4 English, the wife is level 3 English. He needs level 6 English to get into the truck driving course at Conestoga College. The expectations that they be fluent in English and have a job by the end of the first year were most likely unrealistic. Our financial support runs out in February but we will continue to support as needed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> family with 4 boys has another baby on the way, expected in June. Kathy Richmond Cox will continue to take the wife shopping and go to the ESL where (as an added bonus) they provide daycare for the 2 younger boys. The older boy has been assessed and is on the autism spectrum. He is on medication to help. The 8 year old is loving school and goes swimming and basketball at the local YMCA. Rev. Margaret indicated that during the course where the UW students were learning about refugee issues through a series of dinner gathering with our refugee families, one of the refugee men indicated that the Arabs, Syrians, Muslims are known for their hospitality but we (Anglican Church) have outdone them in that regard. The families sponsored by the government are being supported by us as well and there are some challenges but progress is being made.
- b. Monica Place – The open house was good. Margaret Bennett would like a speaker to come and speak to us at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, 10:30am. She can speak at the church service. Rev. Margaret will organize this.
- c. Pancake Supper – Gail Cuthbert Brandt said that they had a successful first meeting. Parish Council should decide where the proceeds will go. Gail Kostash suggested that it go to Council of the North. Gail Cuthbert Brandt indicated that some should go locally; parish council agreed that half would go to WFRC.

**11. St. James – Carol Massel**

- a. Cemetery by-law-no report

**12. Social/Fundraising Committee – Margaret Bennett**

- a. Bazaar- Thanks to Carol for organizing this. It was noted that we will require more people to help us to serve in future. This year the St George's Bazaar coordinated by Carol Massel was very successful. We started early with the ladies signing up for making preserves ready for the baskets. A thank you to Ann Clarke, Ruth Wakelin, Janice Holst, Sharon Jenkins, Gail Brandt for all the extras done to prepare for the 149 baskets made. With the addition of meat pies and Mint Smoothies it has made it possible for us to realize \$5769.05 as the final figure. At our ACW meeting the ladies voted to donate \$250 to both WRFC and Interfaith. \$100 will go to ACW at the Diocese level. \$3500 to St George's general fund and \$1500 to a GIC saving for a dishwasher for the kitchen. This truly is an effort that all of our church members were involved, men, women, teenagers, children and friends.
- b. The first dinner for fundraising will be on March 4th, 2017. Gail McMullen will do the food and the movie will be 'Sully'. Margaret will give the movie to Paul so he can check the format.
- c. Fundraising group meeting – Haven't decided on the date for the meeting yet.

**13. Building & Property – Paul Ditner**

- a. Steps –Carol received a quote for \$2,456.00. It is quite a bit higher than the original. Paul indicated that the replacement steps is a small job and would be done at a time convenient to the contractor.

**Gail Kostash motioned that Paul Ditner be permitted to spend up to \$2,000.00 to get the steps done in 2017. Calvin Williston seconded. Carried.**

**14. New Business**

- a. Canada 150<sup>th</sup> – Gail Cuthbert Brandt suggested that we should have a Canada 150 event; suggestions welcome.
- b. Vestry - Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. Vestry Book has to be published by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Reports need to be in by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Lori will put an announcement in the bulletin.
- c. Bob Kostash purchased 2 bulletin boards to be put up
- d. Amanda will have the hymns for choir practice going forward
- e. It is expected that the Byron street repair meeting will be held in 2017 with work to be done in 2018.
- f. Marion indicated that some people don't like doing the service in the Parish Hall. This will be discussed in the January meeting during the visioning review on worship.

**15. Christmas fellowship**

**16. Adjournment – Gail Cuthbert Brandt moved to adjourn. Carried.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec 15 – Advent Evening Prayer, Trinity Lutheran, 6:30pm

Dec 18 – Pageant, 10:30am

Dec 18 – Nithview Service, 1:30pm

Dec 21 – Longest Night, Zion United, 7:00pm

Dec 22 – Advent Evening Prayer, Trinity Lutheran, 6:30pm

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve, Carol Sing, 6:30pm

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00pm

Dec 25 – Christmas Day, 10:30am

Jan 1 – BCP Morning Prayer, 10:30am

Jan 8 – Men's Breakfast and Book Study, 8:45am

Jan 10 – Parish Council, 7:15pm

**Action Items**

#	Responsible Party	Due Date	Details
1	Wardens	Nov. 14	Look at detailing and writing up some of the job descriptions within the newsletter in an effort to have others consider their strengths and what role they may play within the church.
2	Parish Council	Postpone until Jan.	<p>Read over, and consider all of the options.</p> <p><b>Reducing clergy from 75 to 50% and look into linking with other parishes</b> – Leader Kathy Richmond Cox</p> <p><b>Selling the house</b> – Leader, Carol Massel</p> <p><b>Selling house &amp; church</b> - Leader, Gail Cuthbert Brandt</p> <p><b>Rent the entire house up &amp; down. Wholly or into 2 separate apartments</b> – Leader Bob Kostash</p> <p><b>Stewardship campaign</b> - Leader, Gail Kostash</p> <p><b>Partnering/Amalgamating with another church</b> - Leader, Marg Cassel</p>
3	Parish Council	ASAP	Post “Wilmot Responds” sticker on door
4	Parish Council	Jan	Think about what a bequest policy should say.
5	Parish Council		Read and consider response to the Primate’s Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice Open Letter to all Anglicans
6	Rev. Margaret	Jan	Organize speaker from Monica Place for Jan 15th service.
7	Parish Council	Jan	Think of Canada 150 project or recognition activity
8	Lori	Jan	Note in bulletin about vestry reporting deadlines