

St. George's Anglican Church, New Hamburg

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

In Attendance: Rev. Margaret Walker, Margaret Cassel, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Calvin Williston, Carol Massel, Margaret Bennett, Gail Kostash, Janice Holst and Bob Kostash.

Regrets: Charles Jenkins, Paul Ditner, Kathy Richmond-Cox, Erma Godber.

In the absence of Lori Laurette, Bob Kostash was prevailed upon to act as Recording Secretary.

1. **Opening Prayer** – Council members shared in the reading of Liturgy: “Justice for the World and its People.”
2. **Review of Minutes** from November 14, 2017.
 - a. Review of action items
Action items from the previous Council meeting were reviewed. Items 1 to 8 to continue on the Action Items list.
Approval of Minutes. Gail Kostash moved to have the minutes of the Nov. 14 meeting accepted. Seconded by Margaret Bennett. Carried.
3. **Rector's Report** – Rev. Margaret
 - a. The Council discussed being part of a group of five congregations in the New Hamburg area that would sponsor bringing a theatrical production called “Discovery: A Comic Lament” to New Hamburg on June 21-23, 2018. “Discovery” tells the story about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples with humour and drama. The costs associated with the production are \$6,000. We would have to make a commitment one way or the other in January 2018. To cover merely the basic costs without a cushion would require the sale of 300 tickets @ \$20 a ticket. Council is willing to join the project. Margaret Bennett volunteered to serve on the organizing committee along with Rev. Margaret.
 - b. Heritage Designation – Archdeacon Greg is happy to meet with the parish; would like to wait until there is more information about repair costs for the building. Further discussion was put off till later.
 - c. Developments arising from the submission of the Mission and Ministry Plan to the Diocese. The Bishop has agreed with the proposal by Council to prepare a separate capital budget. We can proceed as per usual with the approval of an operating budget at Vestry and then we can approve a capital budget later, after Easter when the capital expenses related to the tower and the foundations are better known.
4. **Warden's Report.** Margaret Cassel.
 - a. Grace Mennonite. One of our parishioners had noticed an item in a local newspaper that Grace Mennonite Church was looking for a new meeting place because its current worship space was too small. The congregation was facing having to make the decision to split in two or move to a larger place of worship. The parishioner mentioned the item

to the Wardens and there has been a start in discussions with officials at Grace Mennonite.

5. **Worship Committee** – Rev. Margaret.

- a. There was a quick review of the schedule of Christmas week services.
- b. It was decided that we should try to have some basic refreshments for the 4th Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service. It seems to be fitting for a liturgical season that talks so much about sharing and hospitality.

6. **Outreach.** Rev. Margaret

- a. Refugee family. The family was delayed in leaving Africa, but they are on their way now and expected to arrive on Wednesday, Dec. 13. It is expected that it will be a major challenge to make sure they are properly bundled up in winter clothing considering how temperatures are expected to be unseasonably low.

7. **Building and Property**

- a. Building inspection. We have learned that one of the engineers at WalterFedy is an expert on old church buildings and their construction and maintenance issues. We discussed whether we should try to contact him to see what he can tell us that would be useful in striking our capital budget.

8. **Finance Committee** – Gail Kostash

- a. Treasurer's report. Reviewed by Parish Council. Gail Kostash moved for acceptance and Gail Cuthbert Brandt seconded the motion. Carried.

- b. Budget for 2018.

Gail noted that the Building Fund item would eventually be removed from the Operating budget and placed in the Capital budget as called for by Bishop Linda in Agenda item 3c. The "Supply Clergy" amount meant that the parish is expected to pay lay readers when they took a service in the absence of the parish priest.

Apportionment is down. The Diocesan Pension Fund for clergy and staff is over funded so 2018 will be a pension "holiday" year.

Administrative supply needs have been skewed because Rival Office Solution failed to bill us properly for paper use in the photocopier in 2016. In 2017 we have been in catch-up mode for 2016 use and paying the regular bills for 2017.

We face the budgetary implications of the possible loss of Lori Laurette, who has requested a leave of absence for the months of February and March 2018. She is carrying a heavy family load.

The results of the Heritage discussions and our discussion with Grace Mennonite may also impact the budget but nothing can be included at this time.

Gail Kostash moved that Council accept the Draft budget. Margaret Bennett seconded. Carried.

9. **New Business.**

- a. Nominating Committee. Gail Kostash reported that Charles Jenkins has asked this name be removed from the Council for 2018. Kay Cairns has consented to join Council for 2018. Gail mentioned that Kathy Richmond-Cox's tenure as Rector's Warden must end

at Vestry 2018 since she has served in her position for 5 consecutive years, however Kathy wishes to remain on Council.

- b. The Parish now has a considerable number of surplus pews, both choir pews and nave pews. We are convinced that the quality and age of the pews would make that attractive for sale as antique items. There seemed to be strong support for selling them to someone who would be glad to show them off rather than keeping them “squirrelled away” in the basement of the church or the parish house where they will deteriorate. Gail Kostash moved that the parish put the pews up for sale. Janice Holst seconded. Carried.
 - c. There was a reminder that the costumes for the Christmas pageant had to be checked and prepared.
 - d. There was a request from the Pancake Supper committee for a confirmation from Council about the charities that the profits of the event would go to. Council decided on Monica Place as the local charity and SCAW (Sleeping Children Around the World) as the national/international charity. Gail Cuthbert Brandt moved that the proceeds from the Pancake supper would go to Monica Place and SCAW. Gail Kostash seconded. Carried.
10. Christmas Fellowship. Following adjournment, Council spent some quality time having some Christmas cheer.