

St. John in the Wilderness

Church Council Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021

Present: Amanda Longmoore, Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Shirley MacKenzie, Janice McAlpine, Leslie Grieve, Fran Taylor, Brian Bradford, Brian Fogg, Brent Anderson, Dave Hains, Ingrid Schmid.

Regrets: Ken Walker, Tim Crossland

Scribe: Deb Walker

Amanda opened with a reflection and prayer

Minutes from the previous meeting

Leslie moved accepted and Janice seconded. All were in favour of approving the minutes.

Business Arising from the minutes

None

Interim Priest's Report (Rector Retired)

Worship and bible study and Wednesday Zoom social time are continuing and going quite well.

Amanda has been working from church giving the noise at her apartment block.

Zoom had some issues for a couple of Sundays but worked well this past Sunday...biggest part of her last 3 weeks

Synod for Diocese of Huron is this Sunday, May 16 online. Our parish will join the Diocese worship service on-line via Facebook live at 10:30 am. Meeting of Synod happens Sunday afternoon and Monday. Amanda will send out a link to people if they want to view the live stream. Janice will attend as lay delegate and Amanda as an observer (cannot vote since an interim priest).

In the Synod documentation our lay readers are not listed. Janice McAlpine is going to investigate.

Warden's Report

*Father Shaun is retiring...*we will miss him, but support his decision based on his health and needs. Amanda hosted an open Zoom session for parishioners to just join and talk together

about this. 8 people joined with wonderful remembrances. Several who did not join commented to Deb that they felt cared for just knowing they could have joined.

Father Shaun really thought of the congregation in making his decision. Shaun kept this simple and communicated well with us given constraints. Leslie shared she had a little tear or two and like everyone in the parish she had a great affinity for them both. And we all wish them the best in their futures. Leslie said we have done very well during covid and have been blessed with good wardens and now interim priest.

Council asked the Executive to send them a Visa gift card and a jar of honey. Executive to decide amount of gift card to Dog Eat Dog art shop and some funds. Open to parish for people to make donations.

- Janice McAlpine to lead and coordinate note to parish via Heather Holbrook for donations, explanation of how to get gifts to Shaun (Janice please run the wording past Deb as well before having Heather send). In that note indicate that normally we do not coordinate this, we leave it to individual parishioners to give gifts to a priest who is leaving, but given Covid and lack of contact, we will coordinate a little here. This said, if a parishioner wants to give a gift/card directly to Shaun, of course, they should. The best way to get it to him would be to drop off at the church next week during the times Amanda is there. Note several members of the Executive spoke after the council meeting to get to this approach.
- Dave Hains send an email to Janice and Deb on how to handle the money for the gift coordinated by the church.
- Amanda can coordinate the signing of the card given she will be in the church Tuesday Wednesday and Friday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm next week – card will be by the door. Janice will explain this in her note to the parish. Janice to ensure Heather has removed Shaun and Rishi from the parish list prior to sending the note (Shaun asked that they be removed from the parish list – Deb asked Heather to do so)

Peter said, “Our time with Shaun and Rishi was a blessed time, we learned much about ourselves, they are always welcome in our doors and hearts”. Council all agreed wholeheartedly.

Bishop Todd’s blessing of the Wilderness Pollinator Garden has been moved from May 30, 2021 to Saturday, September 18, 2021. Hopefully, the state of covid and vaccinations by then will allow us to share cake. A Saturday was selected to enable school children to join in the celebration.

Technology Update – Internet connection is very good but by 10:30 am Sunday the bandwidth coming into the church is consistently impacted. Gord MacKenzie ran ethernet cable from the Sacristy to the sanctuary...so no reliance on WiFi. In addition we are now only having one computer in use at 10:30 am (8:30 am is fine)...the cohosts will be at home. Thanks to Noelle Lewis for donating 150 feet of ethernet cable. Mike Moloney will monitor the 10:30 am service to understand if our WiFi signal is being used by people outside the church (bandwidth being taken) we likely need to change our WiFi password and we need to get our password off the website.

Red St. John in the Wilderness T-shirt orders have picked up with Deb issuing an email (rather than just posting in Honey & Locust) ...if council members want to purchase shirts please reply back to Deb's email.

Garden in the Front of the Church and Church Porch: No one has stepped forward to take over leadership of the front and porch garden. At this stage we will likely not maintain the garden in 2021. All were good with this.

Yard Clean Up: Peter is planning to call on volunteers for a yard clean up in May or June after the Ontario Covid stay-at-home order lifts to clean up the leaves and stick in the gardens in the back...especially the corner gardens.

Lawn Mowing/Mower: Thanks to Brian Bradford and Tim Crossland for taking up Duncan Mann's lawnmower shift. Jim Mayer donated a push mower and Brent Anderson is looking to cover it.

Watering of Pollinator Garden: Janice McAlpine noticed the Red Bud tree is withering. Peter to set up hoses and then Deb and Peter to talk with Bob and Susan Halliday on how often to water...and may ask for volunteers depending upon how often.

Treasurer's Report

We are 33% through the year and 28% of revenue. We are behind on investment income. We are good vs last year on contributions/givings. On expense side we are good as well, this includes the furnace repair. We are within \$30 of where we planned to be (lower revenue offset by lower salaries). We are on plan. We have paid all our insurance and apportionment.

We have not yet done Phase 1 of the Designated Substance Assessment and this will likely cost over \$2,000. St. Paul's is looking to work with other churches to try to get a discount through volume; they may contact us to see if we on the same timeline as them.

Our investment income: we have not received money due to us for 1Q and diocese believes we will get it and this should bring us into our budget plan.

We received our trust fund report at the beginning of May; this includes our building fund as part of it. We have not taking money out and reinvested the dividends each year. We do not see a need to use this money in 2021. ACW also has some money in trust as well and they roll over the dividends as well.

Reminder there are cheques that need to be signed in the church.

New Business

Zoom account is now in St. John in the Wilderness email.

In the June meeting we may have an update on the Church House tech company upgrade to websites.

Correspondence

Other Business

Janice McAlpine moved to close the meeting

The meeting was closed in prayer – we shared The Grace.