

St. John in the Wilderness
Church Council Meeting Thursday March 11, 2021

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

Regrets: Tim Crossland

The meeting was opened with a reflection led by Rev. Amanda Longmoore. She talked about today being the anniversary of the start of the pandemic and how the year has gone for people. She's hoped that we have learned new skills over the past year and have grown in our kindness.

Minutes from the previous meeting.

These were accepted as presented. Janice McAlpine/Leslie

Business arising from the minutes

We did send a valentines gift to Shaun and Rishi. We hope they are doing well.

Minister's Report

Amanda is enjoying her time with us. She has finished off her first month. She's pleased with how worship is going despite the pandemic. She continues Zoom and Facebook live services with highlights of the services available over the phone as well. She has restarted a Wednesday evening bible study as well.

She is planning a Zoom Easter.

Ken suggested we need to continue to be vigilant with respect to Covid 19. Vaccination is just around the corner or currently happening for many of our parishioners. Lets be patient.

Amanda has enjoyed Nancy Mann's women's group meeting Wednesdays. We debated opening the meeting to men as well.

Warden's Report

Deb reports that she sends out an email prior to each service detailing what

type of service there will be each Sunday, its also on the web and on the facebook page. Deb held a big spreadsheet up to to camera that was hard to see. She reported the spreadsheet was available in dropbox.

We continue to allow only three people in church at a time.

We have a tentative date for Bishop Todd Townsend to come to St Johns to dedicate the Pollinator garden May 29 2021 at 2 pm.

We wondered if there was interest in another round of St John in the Wilderness T shirts. There seems to be, Deb will put out something in the next Honey and Locust to get a sense of numbers. Ken can have them made up.

We are cautiously optimistic the Triathlon will proceed in July. It depends very much on the state of the pandemic and vaccine distribution.

Treasurer's Report

Brian reported that revenues are slightly below planned year to date. We had an excellent February with respect to contributions. Our expenses are above planned due to full year apportionment paid. Outreach for the first quarter has been paid as planned.

Dave reported that 2020 our insurance from the diocese was \$1836. Our insurance has increased unexpectedly to \$4754 in 2021. Dave approached Paul Rathbone at the diocese about this large increase, he reports that “our hands are tied” because of insurance underwriting. Janice says that we are allowed to dispute this and has the contact information on how to do this.

Janice further reported:

“Our insurance through the Diocese is provided by the carrier Eccliastical, <https://ecclesiastical.ca/> in London , England. . Insurance companies are backing away from insuring churches I was told at Diocesan Council on February 20th. Our broker is <https://www.aon.com/canada/default.jsp> . The contact for our Diocese is Mike Orsini, michael.orsini@aon.ca should we wish to dispute.

As I mentioned at our council meeting there are contributing factors such as proximity to a fire hall and also to a body of water for fear of wind damage. I slunk in my chair when I heard the later which we can't deny. I won't receive the minutes of that Diocesan meeting to share with you until approximately one week prior to June 18, our next meeting. It cringes my heart that all funds raised by one parish in our Deanery are directed to payment of insurance and not Outreach.

I spoke with Father Matt (Matthew) Martin, the rector of Holy Trinity, Lucan this morning to verify comments that he made at Diocesan Council. Insurance at his parish has increased by 215% and it is located across the street from the fire hall. There is another parish in his Deanery of Huron/Perth of which he is Archdeacon which is also disputing their insurance. Fr. Matt+ will also sit on the same committee to which Brian Fogg has been appointed. Fr. Matt+ feels that it's a bonus that I'm promoting discussion of insurance as the more parishes involved, the better. Father Matt may be reached via email mattmartin@diohuron.org or his phone which is 519 694 6564."

Deputy Treasurer Brian Fogg has offered to serve on a Diocesan committee to look at insurance options.

New Business

We talked about ways to reach parishioners who are still marginalized due to the pandemic.

Correspondence

Inn of the Good Shepherd thanked us for our support over this past year. The blaugh packages were sent out and were very well received.

The meeting was closed in prayer.
Shirley MacKenzie/Ingrid Schmid