

St. John-in-the-Wilderness Anglican Church

VESTRY MEETING

January 17, 2021

The Venerable Kristen Aikman, Archdeacon of Lambton-Kent welcomed everyone and began the zoom vestry meeting with a prayer. She followed this by requesting a moment of silence to remember those who were at the previous vestry but not with us today.

Election of Vestry Clerk

Dave Hains moved that Sandra Lamoureux be approved as Vestry Clerk for our January 2021 Vestry Meeting. Seconded by Ingrid Schmid. Carried.

Election of Scrutineers if Needed

Not needed

Acceptance of Agenda

Sandra Fraser moved that the agenda be accepted. Seconded by Brenden Fraser. Carried.

Minutes of 2020 Annual Vestry Meeting

The Chair asked if there were any questions regarding the 2020 Minutes. There being none, Dave Hains moved that the minutes of the January 2020 Vestry be approved with the amendment that the slate of officers include Janice McAlpine as the PWRDF representative. Seconded by Brenden Fraser. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Acceptance of Reports

Warden Deb Walker complimented those who submitted reports on finding positives to include despite the pandemic.

Mavis Schmid moved that the reports be accepted. Seconded by Doug Winch. Carried.

Rector's Report

As Rector Shaun Eaton is currently on medical leave and there was no report from him Warden Deb Walker spoke. After re-reading the passage Father Shaun chose for last year's vestry meeting she requested everyone pray for Shaun and Rishi, as we all hope for his return. Received.

Wardens' Report

Warden Peter Langille spoke to this first, thanking everyone who contributed during this unusual pandemic year – we had unusual challenges and the parish met them well. Warden Deb Walker made particular mention of the following: the music which continued during the pandemic, Leslie Grieve's creativity with the Sunday school materials which were delivered to the families with children, The Venerable Kristen Aikman's help obtaining clergy for the services as well as her creativity in designing

Advent Calendars which Shirley MacKenzie and Nicole Grieve then brought to fruition with us, Duncan & Nancy Mann for taking over the sign and Nicole Grieve for agreeing to be coffee coordinator post-covid. In addition, from an operations perspective volunteers continued to maintain the church, do yard work, clean, set up for each Sunday (Altar Guild et cetera) – seamlessly. Both agreed this is a great parish to be a part of. Ingrid Schmid commended the wardens for being the glue that is holding the parish together during the pandemic. Both wardens said thank you, but that it was a team effort. Peter Langille moved that the Wardens' Report be accepted. Seconded by Brenda Clingersmith. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Treasurer Brian Fogg spoke on the report. Revenues exceeded what had been budgeted despite the pandemic. The shortfall in fundraising because the triathlon had to be cancelled was replaced by funds from the Canadian Wage Subsidy Program. The parish was below budget with regard to operating expenses, resulting in an operating surplus. He was pleased to report that all of the outreach budgeted for was accomplished. At the time of writing there was \$47,000 in the bank account. Basically, there was a balanced budget in 2020.

Peter Langille commended Dave Hains and Brian Fogg for their amazing work in getting the interact system in place and keeping the church financially sound. Dave Hains moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Aruna Anderson. Carried.

2021 Budget Report

Deputy Treasurer Brian Fogg spoke on the budget. He said the budget does not project increased revenue but instead is conservative with regard to expected e-transfers and Pre-Authorized givings. It was also assumed the triathlon would be cancelled again resulting in a reduction in operating revenue. On the expense side, there were reductions due to Father Shaun being on medical leave; however, the apportionment went up \$10,000 and insurance increased 100%. The goal is to control the operational costs but hold Outreach at the same amount as last year. A small deficit is expected but that can be covered by the year end bank balance from 2020.

Treasurer Dave Hains mentioned that the Diocese requested all parishes projecting a budget deficit to explain why. This was done and the reason accepted. Currently the bank balance is lower than when the report was written as the full apportionment has already been paid.

Dave Hains moved that the 2021 draft Budget be adopted as presented. Seconded by Brian Fogg. Carried.

The Chair called for questions. Aruna Anderson asked about the amount of Outreach. \$10,500 is budgeted.

Peter Langille remarked that the budget is a "best guess" and adjustments may have to be made as the year progresses.

Nominating Committee Report/ Slate of Officers

Chair Kristen Aikman explained that the Bishop had requested all appointees to be re-appointed and each parish to present the same slate of officers due to the pandemic. Deb Walker and Peter Langille

comprised the Nominating Committee. Deb Walker showed the slate of officers remaining in place. She thanked everyone for staying in their post, again saying “This is a great parish!”.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Vestry Clerk	SANDRA LAMOUREUX
Warden Emeritus	SHIRLEY MacKENZIE (Appointed by Rector, Not on Council)
Warden	DEB WALKER (Appointed by Rector)
Warden	PETER LANGILLE
Deputy Warden	INGRID SCHMID (Appointed by Rector)
Deputy Warden	BRENT ANDERSON
Treasurer	DAVE HAINS (Appointed by Wardens and on council)
Deputy Treasurer	BRIAN FOGG (Appointed by Wardens)
Envelope Secretary	SANDRA LAMOUREUX (Not on Council)
Lay Delegate to Synod	JANICE MCALPINE
Alternate Delegate to Synod	SANDRA FRASER (not on council)
Youth Member	DURHAM LANGILLE (not on council)
Regular Council Members	KEN WALKER BRIAN FOGG FRAN TAYLOR LESLIE GRIEVE TIM CROSSLAND BRIAN BRADFORD (Appointed) (Appointed) (Appointed)
AFP Representative	BRENDA CLINGERSMITH
PWRDF Representative	JANICE MCALPINE

Deb Walker moved that the term of the current (2020) slate of Officers of Congregational Council of St. John in the Wilderness church, Bright’s Grove (Vestry Clerk through AFP Rep as listed in the January 17, 2020 Vestry minutes and including PWRFD representative Janice McAlpine) be extended for one year in light of the impact of the pandemic as well as the medical leave of our priest. Seconded by Tim Crossland. There were no comments or questions. Carried.

Participation

Despite Zoom being a new technology for most parishioners 36 individuals (from 27 families) participated in the meeting demonstrating both Zoom literacy and meeting etiquette. Very impressive!

Adjournment

Chairman Kristen Aikman closed the meeting with a prayer. There were lighthearted comments from those in attendance about missing the usual potluck lunch that usually precedes a vestry meeting. Janice McAlpine moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Brenden Fraser. Carried.

Addendum: (Received January 19, 2021) Bishop's Letter to 2021 Vestry Meetings from The Right Reverend Todd Townshend Bishop of Huron along with a request that it be included with the Vestry Report and shared with all members of vestry ([click here to see the letter](#), also attached as page 5)



The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron

Bishop's Letter to 2021 Vestry Meetings

January 2021

Dear friends, my siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you.

As you gather for your annual meeting of Vestry, I simply want to let you know that I am praying for you and I am grateful for your faithful discipleship over the past year.

What a year it was. In the midst of so much disease and division, in a time when everything was constantly shifting under our feet, the Anglican churches in Huron found ways to survive and thrive through it all. That took good leadership, wisdom, generosity, and prayer!

2020 has left some damage in its wake and we continue to wonder how we will fare in 2021. My commitment to you is that we will find ways to support one another, financially and spiritually, so that we can all begin 2022 in healthy condition.

The annual meeting is a time to gather up all that has happened, good and bad, and offer it to God in thanksgiving. It is a time to look forward with hope, in order to wisely steward all that God will bring to us in the future. I have encouraged every church and person in the Diocese of Huron to seek ways to shift the centre of gravity in our life together from "operations" and mere survival to renewal and new creation, better revealing the marks of mission by becoming: a learning church, a just church, a diverse church, a new church. Perhaps you will make progress in these areas as an extension of your current mission and ministry plans.

The key focus in Christian life is to follow in the way of Jesus, and to be open to God's desire for us and for the world. I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you further in this direction through your life together in Christ.

Blessings to you, all.

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron

The Bishop's note came after our vestry meeting; we enclose it here for further contemplation and at the request of our Diocese of Huron Archdeacon Phibbsto to all churches in the Diocese. Wardens Deb and Peter