

Parish Council St John the Evangelist  
Minutes 15 November 2011

Present: Alex Bissett, Barbara Dransch, Bill Broughton (chair), Caitlin Beck, Catherine Malone, Emmy Verdun, Gloria Fox, Jo Cassie, Joseph Jacques, Margaret Capalezo, Mary Ellen Herbert, Mary Frances Marshall, Monica Patten, Peter Oliver, Rob Heard, Tony Lovink  
Regrets: Bea Robertson, Peter Johnston, Shannon Bagg

- 1 The meeting began with opening worship.
- 2 The minutes of October 18 were adopted as distributed. It was agreed to send a copy to Peter Anderson, who had reported on the Refugee Action Group activities.
- 3 Parish Administrator: Barbara stated that Ani Arnott, the current administrator, has taken a new position. The existing job description will go out via Charity Village and it will be distributed to Parish Council (PC) members with Ani's suggestions for qualities to be considered. Rob with a warden will do the hiring. A list of contact people to answer administration queries on various church matters was distributed, to be used until a new administrator is in place.
- 4 Nominating Committee: It consists of a warden (Bill), a PC member, and a member of the congregation. Jo Cassie offered to serve as the PC member.
- 5 Report of the Moving Forward Steering Committee:
  - a. Symposium: Monica reported that there will be 68 people and 10 children Friday evening with 62 + 10 for lunch Saturday. Vicki Robinson had organized volunteers very well. Peter Oliver said that the Tom Ehrich presentation will focus on urban churches. After a time for responses, wine and cheese will be served. 8:30 Saturday there will be muffins and coffee followed by discussion of Tom Ehrich's presentation. After a break, deliberations will feature our strengths as a parish and in the afternoon, where do we go from here. The children's report will focus on the program for youth. Tom Ehrich will then speak in summation. Barbara wondered how the outcomes of the symposium could best be used.
  - b. Survey: Tony spoke concerning the responses to the survey. They exhibit areas both of convergence and divergence. The list of desirable priestly qualities is formidable, which Rob said is as it always was. Deepening the spiritual basis for our communal life which is the foundation for our listed mission activities was discussed briefly, to be continued at the symposium.
- 6 PC Corner
  - a. Rules of Engagement: Barbara will forward these to the PC. A change of title was suggested. Joe would like notice from those available for the roster so that it could be put in the pew bulletin.
  - b. Conversation Feedback: The need for parking for people attending meetings during the week has been declared and during the week will be considered by the wardens.
- 7 Financial Report  
Emmy stated that the annual deficit will probably be close to \$55,000. The St John's Fund is about \$6,000. Cheques are now being held until there is sufficient revenue to cover them. There are fixed expenses such as salaries, building costs that must be paid. Emmy stressed that

we need to alter the current financial path; it is not viable.

2012 Budget: Barbara said this is being drafted by the finance committee.

8 Rutledge's Program Church: Rob said we are this type of parish. We have many and varied ministries led by the laity. A Pastoral church is a smaller, less diverse community led by its pastor. At St John's we need a larger base. Rob suggested we invite in community agencies and ask them what the needs are; do we have the resources to meet these needs? We need to make newcomers feel welcome and welcomed to join ministries. Discussion followed on greeters, coffee, forms to enable follow-up, etc.

Governance and Communications: Peter Oliver read a motion on communications as an initial report back to the congregation of a motion at last February's Vestry meeting. After some discussion Bill deferred this to the next meeting.

9 Inclusion Statement: Bill deferred this also to the next meeting.

10 Next meeting 20 December: This will be at the Marshall's as kindly invited by Mary Frances.

11 The meeting closed with The Grace.

#### Addendum:

After the meeting Bill prepared a modified motion on communications and secured the agreement of Peter Oliver as mover and Monica as seconder for an e-mail vote by PC members. With some suggested amendments the following motion was unanimously approved and was subsequently communicated to the parish in This Week at St John's and in the Sunday bulletin.

Moved by Peter Oliver and seconded by Monica Patten that the following be communicated to the parish:

At an Annual vestry meeting in February 2011 a motion was passed requesting that Parish Council back to the congregation regarding communication and governance issues which states: That Corporation strike a small task force to discuss communications and governance structures and report to the congregation within 3 months. Rather than striking a task force, the Wardens and Parish Council have been working on these concerns together. Due to the exceptionally onerous duties that the Wardens and Parish Council have had to undertake in the wake of the resignation of our incumbent, a single, integral response is not yet available. In particular, Parish Council has had only initial discussions in respect of governance. On the other hand, a response can be given now to address communications in the spirit of that motion with a commitment to reply on the subject of governance next month. So, by way of initial response, Parish Council wishes to convey to the congregation in respect of communications:

1. that the St John's website had been redesigned;
2. that a Parish Council discussion table (after the 10:15 service) has been implemented;
3. that This Week at St John's and the Sunday bulletin are being used more extensively to communicate actions and decisions;
4. that a survey of all parishioners has been undertaken and a report prepared and distributed; and,
5. that all members of the congregation were invited to a Symposium at which the past, present, and especially the future of St John's was discussed, including issues regarding communication and governance; and,
6. that minutes of Parish Council meetings and monthly financial statements are posted on the bulletin board.