

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, April 21, 2009

Present: Sally Andrews, Ann Chaplin, Ian Culbert, Joan Dolphin, Sue Evans, Dana Fisher, Gloria Gifford, Bob Green, Lynn Green, Naomi Kabugi, Randy Lalonde, Linda Lord, Bruce Marshall, Vicki Milnes, Carl Schriver, Emmy Verdun, David Whitbread.

Absent: Ron Chaplin, Albert Klein

Guests: Pat Bowen, Catherine Malone (ARC)

1. Opening prayer – Dana Fisher

2. Reflection – Dana Fisher read us a short meditation which reflects the Easter season. We agreed to choose the leader of the reflection at future meetings on the basis of first names, in alphabetical order – thus Albert Klein will be asked to lead the reflection at the next meeting.

3. Rector's report – Ron Chaplin's condition is improving and he may be moved to an Ottawa hospital this weekend. Bruce Marshall has agreed to be the interim Rector's Warden until Ron has recovered. Parish Council members expressed their appreciation to Bruce for taking on this role.

4. Approval and Discussion of Report on the Parish Council Retreat – Two corrections were requested (to the spelling of Ian's name and to note that photos of parish council members taken by Carl will be posted in the hallway). Once these corrections have been made, the report will be posted on the web-site. This led to a discussion on how best to handle follow-up questions that may come from parishioners or even the public. Ian Culbert agreed to be the contact point for questions/follow-up and a new St John's email address will be set up for him to do so.

There was a lively discussion about the one thing that we should do in follow-up to the suggestions made during Vestry and at the Parish Council retreat. There was interest in the theme of welcoming young adults, including in new ways i.e., not necessarily a Sunday service. Other suggestions focused on the needs of the neighbourhood (which is largely, but not only, young people) and taking a multi-faith approach. Another suggestion was that we need not have events at St. John's but also think about other venues such as Ottawa U. There was a suggestion to think about "free joy" such as the kid's day we used to have. At the end of the discussion, there was a consensus on outreach into the community as our priority theme.

5. ARC Presentation and Question – Pat Bowen, Catherine Malone and Sue Evans made a presentation on behalf of ARC and put some questions to Parish Council. The first question concerned the carpet in the nave and chancel. The proposal for approval was to replace the carpet on the chancel steps and to remove the carpet in the main and side aisles and to refinish the floor underneath. The carpet is old and is becoming a safety hazard. The estimated cost of this project (including the cost of dealing with the

lead paint under the carpet in the aisles) is \$16,000. The proposed source of funds is the Doreen Gurney estate. There was a lively discussion of this proposal, including whether sanding was the best way to deal with the lead paint, and whether the carpet on the steps could be salvaged. The cost was an issue as well, as the estimated cost of \$16,000 exceeds the \$8,000 left of the money received to date from the Gurney estate. The group was asked to consult the Finance committee, to review the safety concerns and to look at all options (especially for dealing with the lead paint), and return to Parish Council in a month.

The next part of the presentation focused on the question to put to the congregation for the future work of ARC. ARC wants to develop a longer-term view for the nave, recognizing that nothing can be done until the financing has been secured. After another lively debate, there was a consensus for the general concept as a starting point for developing the longer-term view for the nave i.e., central communion table with all worshipping in the same space. It was also agreed that the process ARC uses is just as important as the results i.e., people with differing views need to be heard and their concerns addressed. ARC also accepted the suggestion that it sketch out the process it will use in its work (e.g., timing, specific steps, etc.). It was agreed that ARC would consult the congregation after the 10:15 am services on May 3 and June 7. Dana indicated that Corporation wants to consult the congregation on May 24 as part of the next step in “visioning/discernment”.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Emmy Verdun gave an update on the progress in setting up the new software to handle the financial statements and donations, noting that good progress has been made but the two new systems are not yet operational. She also indicated that the Finance Committee would be meeting on April 22, noting that it would need to forge links with the Building and Stewardship Committees.

6. Other Business -- Dana Fisher asked that we begin our meetings at 7:00 pm. Sharon Whiting noted a conflict which has since been resolved. Future meetings of Parish Council will now begin at 7:00 pm. David Whitbread noted that Synod is scheduled to meet October 22-24 and will focus on governance. Emmy noted that we had agreed to request committees to report to Parish Council on a regular basis. She will canvas committee leads for reports for the next meeting.

For questions or comments on this report, please contact Ian Culbert at ian@stjohnsottawa.ca.