

# ALL SAINTS' PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## WILSON LOUNGE

April 18, 2016

Present: 14 members of the Council were present

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2016 be approved as printed. All were in favour.

One of the co-ordinators presented his reports on the **One Roof Community Diner**.

- He has spoken with the Wardens to keep them up-to-date and the Wardens will be meeting with the paid leadership so that both groups are knowledgeable about any triumphs or concerns on their sides.
- The average cost of a meal is 0.85 per guest.
- Tonight there were 140 guests for supper – St Andrew's and Trinity provided the full meal and also the staff to prepare and serve chili, coleslaw and trifle.
- They have between 1,000 and 1,250 lbs of ground beef on hand thanks to many donations
- Their volunteers range in age from high school students to people in their 90s.
- The atmosphere is on a noisy dinner party – very happy to be there
- Casey and his wife do the publicity both on social media and through the newspapers and TV.
- People with lots to give are happy to give to people with less
- More men than women – 55/45
- Older crowd – ¼ are seniors or older
- Tonight there were 12 children under 12 years of age
- Men are older than the women
- Guests wish to help as well as eat – serving, cleaning up, putting tables and chairs away, etc.
- Some of the seniors at the Seniors' luncheon on April 6<sup>th</sup>, were upset because their time cleaning up was interrupted by the Diner workers. Casey wished that he had known before last night because he would have 'calmed the waters' immediately. We will speak to Peter Savage about having the Seniors' lunches start at 11:30 a.m. instead of noon so that this overlap will not occur again.

### Finances

- Both envelope givings and PAG have decreased
- The first quarter report shows that we are under stress

- It was mentioned that the PAG group often forget to put the special envelopes in the offering because their givings have already been settled as far as they are concerned and these special envelopes get ignored.
- Could there be a letter sent to the PAG group asking if they are able to increase their givings?
- If our FaithWorks donations are sent directly to the Diocese, they do not count in our parish givings and we lose the advantages given for parish donations.
- There is the same decline in givings in all 4 Peterborough Anglican churches
- Some people become upset with parish 'doings' and take their frustrations out on the church by withholding givings
- Some wonder why we need to give if there might not be any future for All Saints' Church.
- At the 5-church meeting in November it was stated that 2 of the city churches can not remain sustainable in the present way of doing church - they have to find new ways of worshipping – become a missional church and reach out to our neighbours
  - Some people may not be comfortable with these changes
  - You have to have a live quality
  - vibrant outreach programme
  - ability to speak to people where they are

### **Commission**

- Our 3 members will make sure that they give us all the information they have available to them
- We cannot do business as it has been done up until now
- They will make recommendations only – the congregations make the final decisions at special Vestry Meetings
- Some people won't like their recommendations
- Parishes have to decide what is best for Anglicans in Peterborough
- A draft will be distributed before the Summer so that we can mull it over before another meeting in September
- Final recommendations will be presented in September
- Each church will be bringing their financial situation to the Commission's meeting on Wednesday
- Helpfulness and togetherness are necessary qualities
- There is an invitation for the Covenant Council to join with the Commission at the end of the month
- Clergy are invited to all meetings but they prefer to stay in the background as their presence could be intimidating in frank discussions between Commission members
- Bishop Colin Johnson will be meeting with the clergy in the morning of May 9<sup>th</sup> and listening to the Commission's discussions in the evening

- Deferred maintenance on our church buildings can be huge and a hold on any extensive work has been put on hold until the Commission's process is finished – one of the 5 churches needs at least \$1,000,000.00 work done to bring it up to present standards
- Clergy are asking that there be some support for them after this process is completed - it is always possible that at least some of the present clergy will not remain
- Professional grief counselors will be brought in for the congregations that have to make the move to other facilities
- There has to be a grieving process and then there has to be fun
- We could not have had this conversation three years ago
- Mixed economy church – combine our best points with new ideas
- Buildings are the problem – hardware
- Congregations are becoming willing to make changes – software
- One of our group would like to take back to the Covenant Communications group that we do not know what is going on in the other churches – possibly a Covenant Bulletin or insert in parish bulletins or more emphasis on the bulletin board inside the church doors
- What is the best way to communicate with the other 4 churches?

### Closing Comments

- We are living out changing circumstances
- The Corporations of both All Saints' and St. Luke's met together today – 230 combined attendance at both churches
- We are sharing a Parish Administrator with St. Barnabas
- The Bishop warned Fr. Geoff that he must not overdo it by looking after both congregations
- The Parish Council is absolutely crucial in helping the congregations move forward - it is our responsibility to see that all parishioners are kept up-to-date with any information gleaned by the Council.
- There will be a Special Synod on September 17<sup>th</sup> to elect at least 2 new Area Bishops for the Diocese of Toronto. There is a possibility that the Diocese will now have only 4 bishops instead of 5.
- There is also a possibility that Archbishop Colin Johnson will wish to oversee the transition in Peterborough and will for the foreseeable future work in our area
- Fr. Geoff will be on holidays from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup> – no e-mails please!!

We closed with The Grace, led by one of our deacons.

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Please mark on your calendars.