

ALL SAINTS' PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WILSON LOUNGE

January 25th, 2016

Present: The Rev Geoff Howson, Russell Cook, Carol Druce, Barry Greensides, Lois MacVichie, Lynda Mercer, Joanna Park, Christine Slevan, Marilyn Sutherst (council secretary), Dave Watton and Barb Wraight

Regrets: The Rev. Suzanne McMillan, Sarah Cook, Tracy Gemmiti, Jamie MacVichie, Renée Paul, Sylvia Sutherland and Peggy Watton

Fr. Geoff opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Bran Jeffries has resigned as Rector's Warden and Sarah Cook has agreed to fill the position until the Annual Vestry Meeting.

Fr. Geoff explained that, when he came to the parish 3½ years ago, he gave the Parish Council several documents regarding his desires for All Saints' Church. (He sent these documents to the Parish Council members again, by email, last night.)

This isn't a matter of Fr. Geoff and the wardens reporting their decisions to Council. The Council is very important in all decisions.

If there is an intractable issue that the Wardens were divided on and could not reach agreement, (extremely rare) then the regional dean would convene a meeting to attempt to solve the issue

This parish is a more consultative parish than most. Many decisions are made by the council as well as the Corporation (Parish Priest and Wardens).

The A.C.W. is incredibly valuable to our congregation. Fr. Geoff may have misread the recent situation. The Council is the place where matters should be worked out and matters solved.

How can we find a way to honestly disagree and find confidence to air our opinions openly?

Fr. Geoff then began a meditation time with prayer. The topic was the wise men and their returning home by another way. We, as well as they, cannot leave without being changed somehow.

- 1) where do we seek transformation? – look for our own good and also the greater good of the church and the community
- 2) where do we need to offer another way to someone else? – there has to be an openness and willingness to try other things and be creative always respecting the dignity of their ideas and thoughts – reflective listening
- 3) can we slow down and take time to think about and discuss decisions that will affect others.

In October, some stated that matters were moving too quickly for them. Major decisions need to be made more slowly with a lot of thought and discussion. Transformation is hard
Fr. Geoff then led in intercessions and The Lord's Prayer.

We then looked over the documents that we had received.

- Conflict intensity chart – problem solving – then disagreement – now contesting – could soon be fighting
- Win-Lose Struggles
- Group decision-making in a Faith Mode – absolutely crucial – has always been Fr. Geoff's model to follow

Difficult decisions need to be made – there is fear here about the future

There will be no Stage 2 or 3 in future plans for use of the Parish Hall – this parish cannot handle it. Fr. Geoff has already spoken to The Rev. Christian Harvey stating that we cannot progress to Stage 2. The Open Table will be for a trial period of 6 months. If we had progressed to Stage 2 and 3 the results would have put the parish on a very secure footing, and quite likely, removed much of the fear that is present now.

If the A.C.W. wished to continue with the Easter Egg making, Barry stated that he and his wife, Marg, would be willing to be present during the crossover days with the egg making and Open Table making sure that there were no complications. There would be 9 days that both were in the Parish Hall at the same time. Present workers could possibly train others to help out or take over when they retire. The ladies have been making the eggs for 47 years and some of them can no longer help because of age or infirmity. There are 30 people needed daily to make the operation run smoothly. That is the major reason why they have decided not to continue this year. The Open Table's arrival was a minor concern.

The Open Table concept has been almost too much of a shock to the system.

The A.C.W voted unanimously not to make eggs this year.

The A. C. W. will get back to Barry very shortly with an answer to his suggestion.

Could some men help?

Joanne cannot attend very many Monday meetings so there was discussion about changing to Wednesdays but the Lay Commission meets every Wednesday in the Wilson Lounge so that is not possible.

If anyone in the parish would like a pastoral visit, please notify Fr. Geoff.

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on February 28th after the 10:30 service.

Fr. Geoff thanked the members of the congregation for their provision of meals for Jan and himself.

You will find a copy of the Lay Commission's work plan included with these minutes.

There will be a special Parish Council meeting on **Sunday, February 7th, at 9:20 a.m.**, in the Wilson Lounge to go over the proposed budget for the Vestry Meeting.