

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Milford ON
Minutes of the Congregation Advisory Meeting September 26, 2021

Opening Prayer – Fr Don

1) COVID-19 update (Sally)

The Diocesan policy has recently been revised: highlights are:

- Continue with mask wearing , hand sanitizing, contact info, self assessment on entering, ceiling fans on low with windows open, following the traffic flow arrows.
- Emphasize importance of staying home if feel unwell
- Singing: maximum of 6 singers wearing masks with 2 metres distance between each.
- Indoor meetings/gatherings: maximum of 25, distanced by 2 metres; food/beverage must be served.

Vaccination Policy:

Clergy, Lay workers, musicians, vocalists, Readers, greeters and wardens are required to be fully vaccinated and need to show confirmation and date of second dose. The deadline for this is October 31st. The wardens will coordinate collection of this information for the Diocese.

2) Financial Update

a. St Philip's Church (Glendon)

- At this point, both income and expenses are about 2/3 of the annual budget, so we are OK.
- The interest for McCaw investment has been transferred from Memorial to Operating account, consistent with Vestry decision.

b. Central Treasurer (Bill)

- StP paid its share to the Central Treasurer, the payments are up to date.
- St John's delivered a cheque recently for its share.
- The financing for the Parish is in good shape at this point.
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c. Priestly Costs (Sally and Josef)

"As we announced two weeks ago, Canon Nancy Beale will be our new Incumbent as of Monday, October 25th. We feel very optimistic that Nancy is a good fit with the two parishes, based primarily on her experience in multi parish settings and her keen interest in pastoral care. In our discussions with St Andrews, their Wardens and their Selection Committee very willingly agreed that they should assume responsibility for 60% of the priestly costs – these costs include stipend, housing, benefits, travel and continuing education.

As I said before, here's the challenge: Nancy's years of experience puts her at a high level on the salary grid so we will be paying an increased amount in order to have her as our Incumbent. As your wardens, Josef and I feel that an Incumbent with Nancy's interests, skill and experience is required at St Philip's to do what is necessary to improve our position and our hopes for the future. St Andrews feels the same.

We ask that you please prayerfully consider how we can increase our income through increased plate donations, fund-raising events, more members in our pews, etc. We suggest that an increase of 10% would be very helpful at this time to get us off to a good start to cover costs – if you give \$20.00 per week or per month, that would mean an increase to \$22.00. As you already know, our costs for priestly services, set by the Diocese, will increase every year – that is one reason why it is so important that we have a priest who can work with us as we reach out to our community and help to keep us viable.

At our previous announcement, it was mentioned that we do have reserves that presently provide us with regular interest payments through their investment with the Diocese. It is obvious that, if we use these reserves to meet our operating needs, we lose in the amount of interest we receive. It is comforting to have these reserves but if we find that we cannot manage without some withdrawal from them, we will propose that and ask for approval of the congregation.”

(The above report was accepted, and no comments or questions were made in response).

3) Other business

a. Rail Cross (Josef)

Adding a cross in front of the church has been proposed in the past. Recently, the Leadership team considered a proposal to erect a simple wooden cross, similar to that displayed in St. Thomas Anglican church in Belleville. It endorsed the idea, pending a reaction from the congregation at this meeting. If the proposal is agreed to, a smaller group will figure out the details (location, size, anchoring).

(The participants agreed to pursue the plan, and members were invited to contact Josef if interested in being part of the group).

b. Driveway sealing (Josef)

The surface of the parking lot has just been recovered by rolling on an epoxy-based tar product. Leigh, Bruce, Murray, Ted, and Josef did the work. Special thanks to Leigh for initiating the project, securing the paint (which has been in short supply), and preparing it for use. It has been four years since the surface has been treated. Even as the asphalt deteriorates over time and more gravel is loosened with snow removal and continuing use, repeated treatment of the surface

has made it possible to extend the lifetime of the asphalt - now over 20 years old and still of good quality.

- c. Outreach Committee (Paula) Many outreach efforts continue at St. Philip's. We hosted a reconciliation prayer circle on July 1. We continue to consider how we might further work for reconciliation. We aim to have a Roots and Wings article in each issue of the South Marysburgh Mirror. If you have a topic suggestion for an article or wish to write an article, please speak to Sally. We had hoped to have a PWRDF representative speak at our service the last Sunday in October however at this time all their meetings are online. We plan to have an outreach meeting early in November soon after Canon Nancy arrives. It will be announced and all are welcome to attend.
- d. Altar Guild (Paula)
The altar guild is grateful to Elizabeth (Hill). She is providing flowers for our Sunday services. If you wish to give flowers in memory of a loved one or a special celebration please speak to Shirley or Paula. If you wish to become a member please speak to Paula.

Payer for Grace (All)