

St. Luke's Leeds Parish Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024

Attending: The Rev. Trish Miller (chairing), Angela Kelman (recording), The Rev. Nancy MacLeod, Donna Robinson, Susan Thorpe, Greg Smith, Mary Haigh, Mark Jamison, John Duncan

Nancy opened the meeting with a reflection on our Ministry Plan. Regarding the LAM Diocesan Ministry Task Force Covenant, does our new Bishop know about this? Are any other parishes doing it? About 60 individuals are actively volunteering in parish ministry.

Minutes from the Meeting of November 7, 2023

- Clarification: Rev. Nancy was not canonized – she was installed as a Canon.
- The annual vestry meeting will begin at noon on February 24.
- The minutes from the meeting of November 7, 2023 were accepted as amended by consensus.

Business Arising

- McDonald estate: The fourth quarter statements for investment funds were received. The “Inez McDonald Bequest” account has been created and shows funds transferred in on November 1, 2023. \$218.34 in interest was earned for November and December, deposited in January 2024. It is estimated that \$1300 will be received in 2024 for children’s ministries.
- Affordable housing town hall meeting: Natalie Appleyard (Citizens for Public Justice) can do a zoom meeting during the week of February 5. Nancy will find the best time for those who want to participate.
- Stewardship: There was no participation in the Lyndhurst Santa Claus Parade. Light up the Night in Elgin was cancelled.
- Intention Sunday: 9 cards returned, \$25,200 pledged, all with offers to volunteer. More returns are expected.
- Epiphany jug campaign: To be extended until Easter, for school nutrition programs. Run social media campaign with frequent posts and updates for virtual campaign. Trish will do a post and poster and Susan can add ideas. Match funds up to \$1000 (not \$5000.)
- Someone will cover Mark’s thrift shop shift on the day of the vestry meeting.
- Bishop William has been booked for a LAM service. He will also be invited for a Friday community lunch and then can visit the thrift shop.

Congregational Development

- Ash Wednesday: Ecumenical retreat at noon at Seeley’s Bay United Church with a screening of “The Way” with lunch and worship.
- February 16: Mid-Lent Quiet Day
- Nancy Beale: nothing new yet about rural ministry.

Outreach

- There is no natural gas in the area, so we won't take part in a marketing approach.
- Stretch grant: Mixed messages from Synod Council about the "revised" application process. We will go ahead and apply by the current deadline. We are submitting a budget of \$15,625 (several activities and presenters) and for a blanket exercise.

Worship & Pastoral Care

- March 10: St. Luke's is giving up its regular worship time for the Kitley Vestry meeting. Congregants can attend another church or online.
- Evensong services: Begin around Pentecost (May 19.) One at the end of May and one in June in the Elgin community room. Donna to check dates.
- National Indigenous Day of Prayer: June 21 at 11:30am.
- June 23: Regular Sunday morning St. John the Baptist worship and St. John's Cemetery service at 11:30am.

Stewardship & Financial

- 2023 financial report is complete. Meals-to-go report - Generous donation received from Duncan's Appliance. \$89,742 in assets at the Diocese. \$3062 in interest.
- St. John's Cemetery report is final as well. Tax receipts have been mailed for cemetery donations. Thank you cards were not included with the receipts – next year! They need to be updated first.
- Other tax receipts are also complete.
- Draft budget: Thrift shop sales were \$73,000! CMM is up. Truth & Reconciliation \$1000 grant not budgeted for. Deficit forecast - \$11,075. Simpler format for the vestry report. Mary's budgeting for 2023 was very accurate! Donna will continue to try to fulfill needs even if it creates a deficit. LAM regional summary – Ministry & Mission costs are almost \$75,000. Incredible!
- 2024 Ministry Plan: This will be seriously revamped if Donna remains Stewardship Chair. It will be based on approach responses. There will be different scripture verses under some categories. Congregational input will be encouraged. Pandemic and online elements will be eliminated. Children's ministries need to be more specific.
- Synod Council meeting: Resurrecting the Diocesan Stewardship Committee.

Property/Personnel/Safe Church

- Thank you to our thrift shop volunteers for improvements done over the Christmas break. It was noted in a Review Mirror article. A narrow, shorter desk is needed for the thrift shop office.
- Volunteer appreciation lunch: April 26
- Vestry nominations: Donna may need a replacement in 2024 but will stay on as Warden for one more year. It would be good to have a Deputy Warden. Consider who could fill this role.
- Lyndhurst Cemetery: It has apparently been discovered when the Lyndhurst property was sold, that the Diocese has never owned any part of the cemetery. It probably belongs to the United Church. Its investments are with the Diocese. The current cemetery board would like the Parish to assume control of the board, but this is not canonically appropriate and there is no will to do so. The current board needs to contact the Diocese regarding the investments. Parish clergy can only host memorial services and attend burial services. John no longer needs to represent the Parish on the cemetery board, so he will be resigning. There are two separate cemetery licenses, so there are technically two

cemeteries on this site. The current board does not want to abandon the cemetery. Funding is not an issue. One of the sections officially belongs to a denomination that no longer exists. It is possible that the Diocese did not search the municipal (Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands) archives. If the Township were to take it over, it would be considered abandoned and could no longer be used. The board needs to look into insurance as the previous assumption was that it was covered by St. Luke's property insurance. Changing demographics affect a commitment to this historical connection to the community.

- The Township Cemetery Grant application must be submitted by March 31.

Scheduling & Events

Annual Vestry Meeting: February 24 at noon at Elgin Community Hall. Potluck lunch. Vestry reports must be submitted by February 11.

Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for April 5 at 7pm on Zoom.