

saint benedict's table

Kitchen Table Meeting January 9, 2024

Call to Order: was at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints Church by John with an opening prayer offered by Ian.

Attendance

John Berard (Chair) Katharine Langille (recording secretary); Danielle Morton, Rob Kwade, Beth Downey-Sawatzky, Ian Mowat, Christen Rachul, Rachel Titterton, Murray Krushel, Zoe Matties, Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, Paul Peters-Derry, Jim Cornelius, Andrew Colman.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

Reports

Communication & Administration

Sarah (Coordinator)

There were 175 in attendance at the 8:00 service Christmas Eve, 81 at the 4:00 p.m. service. The baking was great! Approaching annual meeting is on her radar. Andrew's appointment has been announced in appropriate places. Mission fund had met, food pantry at Epiphany is running quite low and the \$1000 from the Mission Fund came at a very opportune time. Volunteers to help with the service are hard to muster lately, please keep this in mind.

Logistics

Murray (Coordinator)

Christmas Eve Murray worked with Paul, Sarah and Danielle. There are 4 church seasons in quick succession which require changes to the menu and lay reader and presider guidelines. The Pivneack family visit on January 7th was well received. Murray had joined the HR Committee but there is not a need for that anymore. He got a lockable filing cabinet and a locked cabinet in the club room. The Lay Reader applications have been sent to the Diocese but have not yet been returned. Beth will follow up. There was a mouse spotted in the church and was reported to Joy (All Saints). Just a reminder to keep food items in closed containers.

The need (use of) Lay Readers going forward will be determined.

Beth thanked Murray and Audrey for their incredible work. A round of applause ensued.

A phone number is required for Immigration Canada re: the arrival of the Haddad family. Beth volunteered to have her number added.

A follow-up in February will be needed to get phone numbers established (switched to Andrew).

Committee to help with onboarding: HR committee rep, Murray, Andrew, Sarah and Jim.

AGM Prep

Will be February 24, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. at All Saints Church Rachel, Danielle and Murray have met. There may be a time for fellowship at the meeting. Not decided if before or after or during. Cameras make it possible to

have a hybrid meeting. We need to rent a speaker (around \$20) and need a zoom link; Zoe offered her corporate account. Pot luck snacks will be available. Andrew will chair the meeting. Please connect with each other regarding reports that need to be submitted for AGM.

Other Action Items

From previous meeting group activity:

- Facilitate connections (Danielle, Zoe)

They have had initial discussions.

- Inclusivity/Accessibility (Rachel, Murray)

Door issue – the doors open at 6:45 and are closed at 7:00. The door requires monitoring as well.

- Transparency (Beth)

Beth requested a partner. The workings of saint ben's should be apparent to the congregation. Sarah offered to help Beth. They will take 6 months to look at these areas and put action items in place.

Missions Fund

Christen

The committee met in December and chose 11 organizations to support. The amount disbursed is based on 10% of the previous years' givings. The following organizations were supported this year:

1. Hope Ministries - \$1100
2. EMAS/ El Shaddai Church, Haiti - \$7500
3. Ndinawe (Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.) - \$2000
4. Bell Tower Community Café - \$2000
5. Intervarsity Canada – \$1500
6. A Rocha - \$1500
7. Artbeat Studio - \$1100
8. Canadian Compass Rose Society/Princess Basma Centre – \$1000
9. Good Food Club – \$1500
10. Epiphany Indigenous - \$1000
11. Anglican Foundation – \$500

Jim has disbursed the funds. This list will be posted on our website. A discussion regarding when to distribute funds followed. It was also suggested that some mention of this fund be made during worship service and in the prayers as well. During the offertory, a thanksgiving for all. Can have a podcast on this as well.

Financial

Jim Cornelius - Treasurer

The year-end statements will not be finalized until the finance committee has completed its formal review prior to the AGM.

While this financial report is quite sobering, I hope that it does not detract from recognizing and celebrating the good work so many have done to appropriately celebrate the ministry of Jamie and manage the transition we are still in the

middle of. Nevertheless, it does present the congregation with some challenges as we enter a new era in the life of the congregation.

Offerings

We received offerings of \$35,702 in December, almost triple the average monthly giving during the rest of the year. However, this December giving was - \$25,556 (-42%) less than offerings in December 2022. Year-end giving in December has usually been very robust, helping us cover any operating deficit. That was not the case this year.

Accumulated offerings for the calendar year 2023 were \$174,570, some - \$36,987 (-17%) less than total offerings in 2022. It seems that 2023 is the year we have seen the full financial effect of the disruption from Covid-19 combined with the departure of our long serving and beloved founding pastor. While there are still many households continuing to provide regular and substantial support, the number has declined with few new households becoming regular substantial supporters.

Expenses

Total expenses for 2023 were \$198,341, some -\$25,371 less than the 2023 budget, almost entirely due to the four months we were not paying a rector and the much lower costs of fill-in presidors.

Expenses came in on or under most budget lines. We were overbudget on the follow four areas:

- Community hospitality (farewell celebration and more community events than forecast) +\$3,965
- Clergy coverage (needed following Jamie’s retirement) +\$4,400
- Insurance (surprise increase across the diocese for parish level insurance) +\$268
- Equipment (need to purchase equipment that got damaged) +\$349

We proceeded with the full budgeted mission fund disbursements of \$21,000.

Deficit

For 2023, we ran an operating deficit of -\$21,235, substantially higher than the \$9,912 deficit we had budgeted for. If we had fully expended the approved 2023 budget, we would have run a deficit of -\$46,606.

Funds

Year-end fund balances are as follows:

Operating Fund	\$78,025
Arts Fund	\$3,583
Refugee Fund	\$15,892
Collegeville Grant	<u>\$3,507</u>
	\$101,007

We have received the wonderful news that refugee approval has been given for the parents of Atallah Haddad to now come to Canada. The family is hoping that

they will be able to fly to Canada in the coming weeks. We have designated funding of at least \$11,638 being held in trust in our refugee fund to support their arrival and settlement as per a sponsorship agreement. We will be working to sort through our financial and other responsibilities as the signatories to this sponsorship arrangement.

2024 Budget Preparation

Given the financial situation facing the congregation, more kitchen table conversation will be required than normal in preparing a 2024 budget (or budget options) to present to the congregation at the annual general meeting. That conversation should begin during the January 9 kitchen table meeting as I and the finance committee will need guidance and direction in developing the budget. I will prepare some scenarios to inform the kitchen table discussion.

KT members discussed the budget for 2024 – it will be further discussed at the February meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Inclusive Discussion	How and when to engage in this discussion with Andrew starting – Rachel and Murray – can we initiate conversations on this.
Lent Services	Will be happening. Stay tuned for further details.
Nomination Committee	Work is ongoing. Their report will be presented at the next meeting.
Refugee Fund	Ian - The Haddads are coming soon. The Diocese is looking to us to help get them settled. The money is in place. Further discussion regarding the excess \$4000 will be needed. What should we do with it? Supporting the Haddad family has been a joint effort with St. Margarets.
Next meeting	February 13, 7:00 – All Saints Chapel (<i>note: February 13th is Shrove Tuesday, and All Saints are having a pancake dinner from 5 to 7 pm and have extended an invitation to any kt members to drop in for pancakes if you like prior to the meeting</i>)
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.