

Laurentian Regional Ministry Council Meeting  
September 23, 2020  
MINUTES

**Present:** Bevin Boyd (Vice Chair), John Richard (Sec.), Rev. Nick Brotherwood, Rev. Josée Lemoine, Rev. Tania Lesack, Andy Mason, Robert Percy, Quitterie Roques de Borda, Mike Tott, Dave Ward.

**Regrets:** Hugh Mitchell.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Josée opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 12: 4 – 8 followed by a prayer.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Proposed by Robert and seconded by Josée.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of August 25<sup>th</sup>:** Proposed by Robert and seconded by Dave.

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

John will distribute the Minutes of our meetings to the email addresses on the list provided by Josée. As a group we will ensure that they are “ready for distribution” when they are formally approved. The Minutes are useful to the community because they indicate what we are up to and keep us in the public eye.

Neil Mancor: A Zoom meeting with Neil Mancor was on a past Agenda and had to be postponed. Our comments were solicited as to whether it was pertinent to reschedule with him in the near future. No consensus was reached other than that next year might be a better time.

5. **Tour de Table:**

St. Simeon's: The phone chain is doing well. Calls are made every two weeks. The Wardens sent out a mailing for the holiday including a Thanksgiving letter from Nick. The Parish is aiming for a November 15<sup>th</sup> re-opening.

St. Aidan's: Is still waiting for a written proposal from Wentworth.

Mille-Isles and St. Paul's: The LRM is still awaiting written confirmation of their opening intentions.

Holy Trinity Lakefield: An October 25<sup>th</sup> re-opening is being planned. Groups will be permitted to return October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Josée reported that all the churches in the Parish of the Lower Laurentians (PLL) are now registered with the Registre des Entreprises. The new Hymn and Song book is closer to reality.

St. Francis: Looking at a possible reopening in 2021. A large number of congregants follow the Zoom worship services. The Hall has been re-opened to groups.

Holy Trinity, Ste. A.: They have been busy preparing the church for the re-opening (September 13<sup>th</sup>) and are preparing to reopen the Hall in Phase 3. A monthly newsletter is also produced.

Grace, Arundel: They have been preparing the church for re-opening (September 13<sup>th</sup>). Bible Study continues on Thursdays. A Thanksgiving newsletter was also sent out.

Trinity, Morin Heights: Has been preparing for their re-open last Sunday (Sept. 20). Their Corporation has expressed concern over church members who have fallen into the “black hole” of neither returning to in person services or following on Zoom.

Tania reported that Education for Ministry (EFM) courses are starting up again. Rev. Paul Tidman is this year’s mentor.

Christ Church St. Andrew’s East has been sold to the village of St. André d’Argenteuil which will take over care of the church and the cemetery. The Museum and Historical Society will remain.

Parish assessments have been forgiven by the Diocese for the rest of 2020. It is unclear what the policy will be next year.

## **6. LRM Covenant:**

We referenced an email sent to us by Hugh on September 2<sup>nd</sup>: *“I have spoken to Bishop Mary today and she has asked us to put off further consultation on the Covenant until next year, perhaps reflecting on it towards the beginning of the summer nine months from now.”*

There was an animated discussion among the Council members who were disappointed in the delay after many months of deliberations, writing and editing. A division arose between members in favour of continuing the proposed timeline for the Covenant and those who preferred to wait.

It was decided to consult with Hugh upon his return. A mini committee could be formed to plan the next steps.

Council agreed unanimously to table this item until October.

**7. Feedback on Re-Opening Church for In-person Services:**

Grace Church – First service had an attendance of twenty (out of twenty-four places). A reservation system is being used. The congregation was happy to be back. The second service had eight worshippers. Volunteers are not an issue.

Holy Trinity, Ste. A. – There were eight in attendance week 1 and six on week 2. Volunteers are an issue. Phase 3 may resemble Phase 2.

Trinity, MH – They had eight worshippers on short notice. This congregation prefers face to face recruiting of volunteers.

We are living a temporary difficult problem right now. The Church is changing and has always changed. A new “regional” congregation has emerged online. A new “faithful” congregation. We are confident that God will lead us forward.

**8. Online services on Zoom vs Live Streaming:**

A new topic was brought to the attention of the Council, whether the LRM should favour online Zoom services or live streamed Sunday services.

The clergy are in favour of maintaining the online Zoom services because they are participatory (break out rooms, guest readers) and are appreciated by those who log on or phone in.

The Corporation at Trinity Morin Heights is interested in purchasing the technology to live stream regular Sunday services from their church. This has not been sanctioned by the clergy at this time as it is non-participatory.

A discussion arose on this topic, but it was apparent after a few minutes that the majority of the Council was not aware of this issue and would need more information in order to make an informed judgment.

It was unanimously decided to table this issue until the October meeting. Both the clergy and Trinity Morin Heights were invited to bring more information back to the table. Mike stated that he would consult with his Corporation and report back.

**9. Budget:**

It is difficult to proceed with the budget with the Covenant on ice.

As Zoom time was expiring, items 10 and 11 were tabled.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

**13. Closing Prayer:** Tania led us in prayer and the Grace.