

Laurentian Regional Ministry Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 25th, 2020
Via ZOOM

MINUTES

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

Regrets: Rev. Josée Lemoine.

1. Opening Prayer: Nick opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda: Robert moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by David.

3. Approval of the Minutes of June 23rd: A suggestion was made to have future minutes not mention individuals outside the Council by name. The July minutes will be corrected to reflect the wish of the members. Moved (with correction) by Mike, seconded by Andy.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of June 23rd: Quitterie Roques de Borda was introduced and welcomed to the Council as the representative for St. Francis until a new member can be elected.

5. Tour de Table: Notable items from the round table included:

St. Simeon's Church is looking at a reopening in November.

St. Paul's does not foresee reopening in 2020.

St. Aidan's is in discussions with the Wentworth Council.

Trinity Lakefield doubts they will be open before Christmas. Finances and bank account are now in order.

Clergy Team are working on making online services on Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and Lessons and Carols a little more special.

Trinity Morin Heights hope to reopen in late September. They have purchased a hand washing station and have budgeted for tv and WiFi in the future.

St. Francis's parishioners are happy with the online services. They will wait a bit before reopening.

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Andy to express the deep appreciation of all of our churches to the Diocese for their management of salary subsidies and assessment forgiveness in 2020.

A thank you is also deserved for St. Francis and Trinity Morin Heights who have continued to pay their organist during the pandemic.

Arundel is working to open their church for September 13th. The community misses their church and will be back.

Holy Trinity Ste. Agathe is also planning to open on September 13th.

Tremendous work has progressed at the cemetery at Holy Trinity, Lakefield. A dedicated team has done a great job restoring both the headstones and the grounds.

The Council wishes that a copy of the approved minutes continues to be sent to the Wardens. They would like the Secretary to do this task. Any questions from the Wardens should be directed to their Council representative.

6. Budget: A draft budget was presented to the Council by Robert. Draft figures appeared in the columns, but they have not been finalized. The budget will need to be fine-tuned over the next two months. A proposal was made to have the churches pay in quarterly installments. This could make the payment of invoices more efficient and regular. The budget will hopefully be adopted by Council in November.

7. Church Re-Opening: Online Sunday services on Zoom will change time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning on October 4th. This is due to clergy commitments for in-person services in the morning.

8. Diminishing Congregations: The Sunday attendance both online and in-person will have to be tracked over the next month or two. Church will be a very hybrid offering for the next nine months or so. How can communication be improved to those who are neither on ZOOM or in the Church?

9. What have we learned from our Pandemic experience?

Unofficial Pastoral Care has intensified. This is very good and needed.

Strength in numbers has made the region stronger.

Remembering the lessons of “Reimagining Church” has helped many to get through these times.

Grateful for flexibility as online presence evolves.

Possibility of a ZOOM ecumenical service with LAM?

Can we be of service to the local United Church community?

Thanks to Hugh, Wendy & Astrid for taking some evening services on ZOOM.

10. Pastoral Care: How can we validate the informal Pastoral Care that has been going on? Could we build that into our regular Sunday intercessions? Do we need to set up a formal structure?

Encourage the *one another*ness of intentional pastoral intervention. Make the invisible, visible. A caring clergy call is also still valuable, especially in cases of parishioners who are ill or in hospital. We will need feedback and information from the Wardens or Council members. Suggestions are also needed to improve the communication for Pastoral Care in the PLL.

11: Covenant: Mike gave a quick summary of our proposed Covenant for Quitterie's benefit. It was suggested that we present the Covenant to the Parishes before Vestry to allow conversation and discussion to take place before it is to be approved. The Vicar-General will discuss the Covenant with the Bishop when she returns from vacation. A copy of the Covenant will be sent to Quitterie.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday September 23rd at 2 p.m.

13. Closing Prayer: Tania led us in a closing prayer.