

St. James Advisory Board Meeting
March 7, 2006

Present: Bruce Neville, Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, Kim James (Chair), Gordon Morton, Cobina Price-Jones, Carl Kinzinger, Alan Whike, Ruth Sowrey (Secretary), Heather Sabbagh, Deirdre Fowler, Diane Allengame, Robin Holder, David Finch.

John Stephenson opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the February 7, 2006 Meeting

- Diane Allengame moved acceptance of the minutes.
- Cobina Price-Jones 2nd. All in favour.

Business Arising

- There was a discussion of the meeting start time of 7:00 p.m., and of keeping the length of the meeting to two hours. Many members were not here for the beginning. John Stephenson expressed the importance of monthly meetings, but is the 7:00 workable? A statement of encouragement to the wardens is needed to advise that at least one needs to be present for the beginning of the meeting. We will stick with 7:00 for one more month.

New Business

Special Meeting

- The Regional Dean has encouraged the holding of our special meeting to discuss our objectives and future. The new Bishop is being consecrated the same morning we had planned to hold our meeting. (25th) It was decided that from 1-3 p.m. on the 26th, after the Special Vestry, would be the alternate date. Print material on the Parish Profile and Visioning Process will be available to members of the board ahead of time.

Special Vestry

- Because of the unique situation of a warden (Peter Sabbagh) resigning, Karen Carley is willing to serve as People's Warden for one year. This is an elected position so requires a special vestry.

Proposal for Redecoration of the Sunday School Room

- Cobina presented a plan to remove the coat racks, repaint the room and use the blank wall for murals and art work.
- The coat rack is solid oak. Can it be used elsewhere?
- Cobina moved that these proposals be made to the wardens. Carl 2nd. All in favour.
- Bruce commented that the money earned from the Pancake Supper needs to be put through the Church books. It is a Diocesan requirement. The expenses for the redecoration will come out of the church account.
- Cobina has spoken to Jonathan about removing the sofa in the downstairs gathering space. Could the men remove it during a clean up? We should check with Daycare as to whether it is needed.

Incumbent's Report

Worship

- There were 26 people at the Ash Wednesday Service.

- We have begun Lent and it is wonderful to have the choir doing anthems.
- Last year the Evensongs that we held were not well attended. We have agreed to take part in combined Evensongs with other parishes and the first of these that we have attended was held last week in Orangeville.
- World Day of Prayer was held last week at St. John's Albion.
- Planning is taking place for Holy Week. Last year we had a big crowd for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Plans are being made to expand it this year.
- John has had a request to hear a confession during Holy Week, and wondered whether it would be offensive to this parish to offer confession to the congregation. It was suggested that John write about this simply in the bulletin and offer it to people who might find comfort and help in this.

Education

- Confirmation classes are ongoing in preparation for April.
- Baptismal preparation is also ongoing.
- We finished the DaVinci Code Dialogue.
- Having just returned from Israel, John and Rev. Geoff Sangwine are planning a trip there for our combined parishes next January or February.
- Lent at the Movies starts tomorrow night.
- We have two new coordinators for the library. They are Deirdre Fowler and Bob Waller.

Pastoral Care

- Madeline Elms is back at the King Nursing Home.
- Norm Taylor has had his surgery and after a frightening setback he is doing much better.
- Win Mellor-Hay (daughter of Ena Badger) has lost the use of her legs and the doctors cannot find a reason.
- Theatre Night was fun. It would be wonderful to have more of these fun, informal times together.
- John expressed that Vestry was a difficult experience and he felt that this body had let him down. Advisory Board is crucial. The Baptismal Policy was settled at this meeting. The two who spoke most vehemently were not at that meeting. Those who voted for it at this meeting voted against it at Vestry. This body is important and needs to flag issues that might be contentious. We need to be free to disagree around this table and with the wardens. Bruce acknowledged that all 3 wardens voted against the policy. He feels there needs to be more discussion with the Parish. Bruce is convinced that John will interpret policy appropriately. Gordon wondered at what point this group has the total sensitivity of the parish. Do we know where to draw the line? Are we enough of a representation? Kim asked if Bruce could suggest a process for next meeting to nullify this type of thing happening. John is very willing to sit down with anyone who is concerned about the policy, but doesn't want to stir up trouble by throwing it open again. John wanted to affirm the importance of the Advisory Board.

Warden's Report

- The wardens are preparing to renegotiate leases with tenants. They are trying to bring them in line with standard business practices.
- They have approved the establishment of a Remembrance Wall in the Gathering Space.

- Alan and Bruce have worked on our allotment payment with particular care as it will affect the future.
- Church membership is increased, but attendance is not proportional. Are there any ideas? The February snows and the weather were suggested. Old members don't seem to be out as often.
- Ongoing maintenance is important. A priority is space for the Youth Group.

Ministry Areas

Worship

- We are down one number in Deacons. This should not cause a problem for the foreseeable future.

Education

- The Nursery has been very quiet for a month.
- Deirdre has taken the library computer home and it will be returned operational, with connection to the internet.
- The Pancake Supper was a great success. One hundred and forty-three were served. The newspaper coverage was great.

Property

- The basement windows in the rectory will be replaced by the same people who did the other windows.
- The protective storm window on the stained glass window at the north side of the church is awaiting repair.
- Edward's Glass from London have been out to look at it. We have been led to believe that plexiglass is not the right way to go. The window's value is 15 -20 thousand dollars. We don't want to scrimp on the protection. Most of their customers are using tempered glass for superior strength and it doesn't become discoloured. The estimate – not a firm quote – is \$4200.00 for an aluminum frame and either tempered glass or plexiglass.
- The wardens will look into an insurance claim.
- Diane will raise this at the next Heritage Meeting.
- The south window storms should be looked at also.
- Gordon will phone for a firm quote.

Communications

- Nothing to report.

Service

- Nothing to report.

Finance

- Envelope givings are not keeping up to the budgeted figures. By May we may be \$10,000 down.
- What figures give the most accurate story for the bulletin? Alan feels that envelope givings is the most relevant. We should concentrate on figures for givings.

Pastoral Care

- We will be holding a breakfast in the foreseeable future, probably in May.

Administration

- Retired donations must not be discarded, but honoured in a display. The curio cabinet will be refurbished and lit for this purpose. It will be placed where the flag and Honour Rolls are at present. The Honour Rolls will be incorporated into the memorial wall.
- Boxes in the basement will be sorted in the next few weeks and catalogued.
- A gift of a processional cross has been donated. The old one will be incorporated in a display in the gathering Space and taken down for special uses.

Bulletin Board

- Bishop's Consecration – March 25th at 11 am – St. James Cathedral
- April 1 Area Ministry Day at St. Brides
- April 7-8- 30 hour famine
- April 13-16 Holy Week
- April 23 - Confirmation at the Cathedral
- June 17 – one day financial synod
- June 23 – Confirmation at the Cathedral

Bruce made an announcement about the PAG. The Anglican Diocese has stopped administrating the program. We are able to use the United Church program for less that going on our own.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, April 4
7 P.M.