

## St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

May 10, 2017

### In Attendance:

Beyea, Dianne	Glasgow, Mary Alice	MacDonald, Mike
Breen, Fr. Don	Hache, Charles	Murphy, Dave
Carey, Pat	Howe, Marilyn	Stroud, Anne
Carvell, Trinda	Johnson, Kayla	

### Absent:

Arsenault, Sr. Mae	Ellis, Wendy	Lawlor, Bill
Drummond, Mavis	Isaacs, Denise	

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Carey at 7pm.

The opening prayer was led by Trinda Carvell.

Pat briefly reviewed the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting, which were then approved on a motion by Mary Alice Glasgow, and seconded by Trinda Carvell.

### **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- 1. Parish Pastoral Council election in May:** The election will be held on the weekend of May 27/28 this year if there are sufficient candidates. A minimum of four candidates are required for an election to be held; otherwise, anyone offering will win a seat by acclamation. Pat advised Council that Bob Doherty and Michele Connors have confirmed their willingness to stand for election. He has also spoken with a third potential candidate who may decide to offer. Anne indicated that she would re-offer. Denise had previously notified PPC via e-mail that the three parishioners she contacted had declined to run for election. Dave also reported that the people he contacted were not interested. Charles stated that he will approach two other potential candidates this week. Mike will approach one potential candidate. The election notice that has appeared in the bulletin will be modified to include a final date of May 17 for expressions of interest, and will appear in the bulletin again this coming weekend; therefore, Council should know by May 18 whether a Parish Council election will be held this year. If there is to be an election, candidates will need to provide bios and photos for a poster, which will be displayed in the church foyer on the weekend of May 20/21. Successful candidates will commence their terms in September 2017.
- 2. Diocesan Revitalization and Realignment Consultations:** Anne made copies of two documents (from the Diocesan website) available to members: "Criteria to Drive the Plans for Revitalization" and "Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions". She also circulated a copy of a colour-coded document showing the mergers and closures for each of the models for the Saint John region, which was produced by Bill Stroud. Prior to the meeting, Council members had also received, via e-mail, a spreadsheet that Dave had prepared showing the various models. Fr. Don stated that he was pleased to see that St. Mark's was very well represented at the session held at St. Alphonsus in Hampton on May 4. Pat reviewed the effects that the adoption of the three distinct revitalization/re-alignment models would have on parishes in Quispamsis, Rothesay, Hampton, Norton, Sussex and Upham. A lively discussion took place regarding the merits and disadvantages of the models, and the resultant changes at St. Mark's with each model. Topics included which models would result in merged PPCs and Finance Committees, finances, the transfer of assets and

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

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liabilities, upkeep of buildings and cemeteries, changes to mass times, church closures and priests' travel. Mike expressed his concern that we seem to be "channelled" towards a particular model.

As was discussed at our April meeting, Council agreed that we should organize a Parish meeting in order to obtain input from parishioners. Pat indicated that he has already spoken to parishioners who are in favour of holding such a meeting. Fr. Don stated that the goal of the process is to obtain as much feedback from the laity as possible. People may submit their input independently through the Diocesan website, and Trinda pointed out that a feedback form was handed out at the meeting in Hampton-it is now attached to copies of the handout entitled "Saint John Region Proposed Models", which is available at St. Mark's. Council believes that parishioners at St. Mark's would also appreciate the opportunity to provide input to Council. Council will then submit this feedback to the Diocese prior to the deadline of June 4. Pat offered to lead the meeting and Anne offered to record the input and compile it into a document for submission. Pat will invite Rick Northrup, Chair of the Regional Pastoral Council and of the revitalization working group, to attend. Council agreed to hold the meeting on Thursday, May 25, following the 7pm mass. An announcement will be added to this week's bulletin. Fr. Don will begin the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with a short prayer. Pat will review the three models and their potential effects on St. Mark's. Pat will prepare an agenda. Copies of the Diocesan handout showing the three models will be available. Pat will make clear that the purpose of the meeting is to share information and collect feedback. We do not want to have arguments between attendees. Mike stated that it is important that we "don't plant seeds", as the purpose of the meeting is to promote discussion.

### New Business:

1. **Format of June PPC meeting:** It was decided to hold a short meeting, followed by a BBQ/Potluck with members of the Liturgy Ministry. The meeting will commence at 6:30pm, rather than the normal time of 7pm. The meeting will end at 7pm. Charles will chair the meeting, as Pat will be unable to attend. Due to the shortness of the meeting, we will not introduce any new business. Any member who has items of "New Business" should discuss them with Fr. Don. Council will welcome our new members, and elect our new Executive for the 2017/18 term. Our current Executive is tasked with submitting a slate of names for the 2017/18 Executive; however, names will also be accepted from the floor. Pat indicated his interest in continuing as Parish Pastoral Council Chair. A short report about the parish meeting on May 25 may also be provided at our June meeting. St. Mark's will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and refreshments for the BBQ. Council members are asked to supply salads and sweets, and wine, if they wish. Significant others are also invited, so please advise Dianne if you will be attending, and whether you will be bringing a guest. Dianne will send an e-mail to Maynard for the Liturgy group. New Council members are also invited to attend the BBQ.
2. **Parish Fun Day:** Update by Kayla Johnson: The date has been set for September 10. Kayla will begin planning for this event in June. Fr. Don invited her to speak to parishioners about the Fun Day at weekend masses, and Kayla accepted. Fr. Don emphasized that she has financial support for the event and the assistance of the Men of St. Mark's.
3. **Peru Committee Book Sale Date:** Anne Stroud advised Council that the book sale is always held on the weekend closest to Remembrance Day when no Religious Education classes held. This is important because the entire main section of the church hall is required for set-up, sale and clean-up, with set-up taking place on Friday afternoon and clean-up on Sunday afternoon. The public sale takes place on Saturday; books are also sold after all three masses that weekend. This has become an issue because Remembrance Day falls on Saturday this year. The Peru Committee has proposed holding the sale on November 11, but delaying the sale start time until

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1pm, so that it would not interfere with participation at services. The Committee was unsure whether this plan would be acceptable. Some discussion followed, and most Council members thought that it would not be appropriate to hold a sale on Remembrance Day, even with an afternoon start time. Concern was also expressed that St. Mark's might receive negative feedback. Other possible dates were suggested, including September 9 (could interfere with set-up for Parish Fun Day) and October 7 (hall has been reserved for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration), but the dates were not available. As the Religious Education program does not break until well into December, a December date would not be an option, either. Anne did not feel that it would be possible to hold the sale on a weekend when the hall was available on Saturday only. Mike asked whether there might be a Sunday when all the children in the Religious Education program would be meeting for a shared event upstairs in the church. Anne will contact Wendy Ellis to inquire about this. Anne will discuss the sale logistics again with the Peru Committee members and will update Council. If no workable date can be found, the sale will need to be cancelled for this year.

### Updates re: Parish Ministries:

- 1. Peru Committee:** An update was provided by Anne Stroud. Since we will be unable to continue our relationship with St. Luke's Parish in Otuzco, the Peru Committee met on April 30 to discuss our options. The Committee hopes to continue to fundraise in support of a different group or parish in Peru. We are currently considering two options: Rainbows of Hope for Children Society and a mission by the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland. Rainbow of Hope is a non-profit group based in Edmonton, AB which has projects in Chinchabaja. The group is involved with building homes and improving the lot of women. The Sisters of Mercy minister in two areas of Peru, in the Chiclayo Diocese on the Pacific coast and in Huarvey, Casma, Ancash, where they serve as teachers, social workers, and advocates for social justice. The Peru Committee is hoping to hold a Bake Sale and Plant Sale on June 3/4.
- 2. Hospital Spiritual Care:** Mary Alice Glasgow reported that she met with the members of this ministry: Rick Duffy, Ann Harrison and Joan Small. They shared an issue with Mary Alice: it has become more difficult to obtain the names of parishioners who are hospitalized. Fr. Don stated that this was due to privacy concerns. If patients do not state that they are Roman Catholic and that they would welcome a visit from a priest, their information is no longer shared. Often patients are admitted through the Emergency Department, and are not asked about their preference. Also, patients must request a visit themselves-you cannot request a visit for someone else. This ministry is currently running well with three members, so they are not actively recruiting new members.
- 3. Youth Ministry:** An update was provided by Kayla. The team currently consists of Kayla and her mother. They are currently at a "stand still", as the Responsible Ministry Protocol requires another active unrelated team member aged nineteen or older. Fr. Don asked Kayla to put an "invitation" in the bulletin, and Kayla agreed. Mary Alice suggested that a short job description be included, along with information about the time commitment required. Pat referred to the Diocesan Revitalization plan to hire two youth ministers for each region. While this is very positive, it was felt that this would not happen until 2018 at the earliest.

The meeting was called to a close by Pat Carey.

The closing prayer was supplied by Mavis Drummond (absent) and read by Dianne Beyea.

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

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**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 6:30pm in Room 1.** A BBQ/Potluck with the Liturgy group will follow at 7pm.

Meeting will be chaired by Charles Hache. Minutes will be taken by Anne Stroud.

Opening prayer will be led by Mike MacDonald.

Closing prayer will be led by Fr. Don.