

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Parkdale Ministry Development Council

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 7:00 pm Church of St. Mary Magdalene

### *Present*

St. Anne's:	The Rev. Philip Cooper Roy Schatz
Epiphany & St. Mark	Dorothy Peers Anne Barcham
St. George the Martyr	No representative
St. Mary Magdalene	Canon Harold Nahabedian Heather McGregor Brian Clarke
St. Matthias	Catharine Dennison Sharon Chandler
St. Stephen in the Fields	No representative
St. Thomas	The Rev. Mark Andrews Kevin Toyne
Diocese of Toronto Secretary	Bishop Philip Poole Norah Bolton

### *1. Welcome and Opening Prayers*

Brian Clarke welcomed those present and the Bishop opened with prayer, asking our special prayers for three persons who were ill as well as for their families.

### *2. Holy Week in the Parishes*

Those present shared their experiences and reflections with vivid images of bright enthusiastic young faces, moving and meaningful liturgies, impressive sermons, many visiting bishops, beautiful music and feeding the poor.

### *3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting and business arising*

The minutes were approved (Motion McGregor/Peers) Norah Bolton reported on the proposed workshop tabled in the previous minutes which St. Anne's and St. Mary Magdalene were considering. After conferring with Phil Cooper they both felt that timing in the fall would be more appropriate. Phil Cooper added that more time would be needed for both planning and marketing.

### *4. Update Reports from Working Groups*

#### *a) Administration*

Heather McGregor reported for the group consisting of herself, Brian Clarke, Sharon Chandler and Roy Schatz. They had met once earlier in March. The results of their meeting were summarized in a grid (attached) in which they were trying to get a clearer picture of current practices re office and custodial staffing, rate of pay, software and telephone systems and accounting practices.

The following areas showed some potential for shared services

*1) Phone service*

A model might include a service with someone to answer in the name of the individual parish, with the capability of taking a message and passing a message on the appropriate person.

*2) Bulk Supply purchase*

This could apply to both housekeeping and office supplies

*3) Common contractors*

A list of good service people would be helpful.

Bishop Poole commented that his own experience of phoning parishes suggested possible improvements. These included making sure that messages are current. For most seeking information, phones are much more important than newspaper display advertising. Parishes need to establish routines for updates. Set messages are all right but many can be more relevant or current. Updated websites also currently play an important role.

In response to the update, smaller parishes were supportive of a centralized administration. St. Thomas's would not require it. The key issue would be cost and this needed to be researched and brought back to the Council.

*b) Programme*

Phil Cooper reported on behalf of Dorothy Peers, Christian Swayne and Marcia McClung. The group had met twice and also presented a summary of their ideas (attached) He highlighted the following:

*1) Joint services of worship*

It would be worth trying one to celebrate the new sense of joint ministry in Parkdale on a trial basis; if it worked well, other joint forms of worship could be considered

*2) Joint worship and study*

Services with special purposes (e.g. healing) could be held jointly. Forms of spiritual formation like confirmation might also benefit from joint activity. The role of clergy and lay leadership in encouraging such activity was stressed.

*3) Coordination of rental space*

Some church space is available and other community organizations often need it. A person, - after research of the vacancies and needs of both, could act as a broker to bring the two together. Mark Andrews suggested that film companies might respond to specific information about sites. Such use was often highly beneficial.

*4) Special needs*

Special ministries would benefit from volunteers in other parts of the deanery. Communication of volunteer needs is key here.

#### *4) Emergency services*

Emergency response is an area where parish churches could play a role. The Bishop commented that there is an existing model in pandemic planning.

#### *5) Sharing of resources*

Many parishes have print and video materials that could be shared. A database of such materials would be a valuable resource.

#### *6) Other issues*

A Deanery retreat would strengthen our purpose; the religious communities could provide both direction and space. Team ministry could be a feature of future clergy placements in the deanery; communication and its role at the parish level will also require more work by the task force. There was also some consideration of a program like Magnetic Church with an urban focus.

Mark Andrews observed that their weekly Out of the Heat programme in the summer could definitely use more volunteers and those from other parishes would be welcome both on Friday evenings and on Thursdays when sandwiches are prepared. This programme has grown extensively in the past year and would benefit from more volunteer help.

#### *5. Revisiting of Timelines*

Brian Clarke noted that the Council has limited ability to deliver recommendations based on the original schedule. While others can be called on for assistance or expertise the primary responsibility lies with Council members. For the time being, one additional task force would proceed.

#### *6, Evangelism Task Force*

Catharine Dennison agreed to head up the initiative and would be joined by Anne Barcham and Norah Bolton.

#### *7. Update on the Deanery Website*

Norah Bolton reported that the information re the site's server had now been obtained and a volunteer webmaster had been confirmed. She noted that the structure of the site was adequate but that the content needed serious updating. She suggested that members visit the site and develop further ideas for its use. Ultimately it would be possible for information to be sent directly to the webmaster by anyone, but it may be better to have a single contact for from the Council to relay updated information.

There were discussions around privacy concerns re material to be posted as well as a mandatory privacy policy. There would also be a short delay while the appropriate software was obtained. Review and comments are welcomed.

*8. Other business*

Several announcements of events were made and some flyers distributed for parish posting including

April 6	Community Easter Dinner 5:00 – 8:00 St. Mary Magdalene
April 20	Area Choral Concert, 4:30 pm at St. Anne's
April 26	Workshop on Passionate Spirituality, Horner Centre
April 25-27	Youth Synod – Homelessness Seneca College
May 3	Advocacy Workshop 9:00-12:00 am Epiphany & St. Mark
May 3	Byzantine Art and Architecture, St. Anne's
May 10	Pentecost Multicultural Concert 7:00 pm Epiphany & St. Mark

The Bishop remarked that young people needing financial subsidy for the youth synod could have it. Clergy could indicate their need by contacting his secretary and costs could be partially assisted or fully covered for the residential weekend.

*9. Date of next meeting Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm  
ST THOMAS'S CHURCH HURON STREET*

Sharon Chandler and Dorothy Peers sent regrets re the next meeting, but after a brief discussion it was decided to continue on the date as planned.

*10. Closing Prayers and Adjournment*

After thanking the host parish, the Bishop closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:10