



Minutes of Meeting
PARKDALE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Diocese of Toronto, 135 Adelaide Street commencing at 7:00 pm

Attending:

St. Anne: Phil Cooper, Kim Malcolmson
Epiphany & St. Mark: Anne Barcham, Ken Borrett, Dorothy Peers
St. George the Martyr: George Lowe
St. Mary Magdalene: Brian Clarke, Harold Nahabedian
St. Matthias: Jeffry Kennedy, Paul MacDonald
St. Stephen in the Fields; Christian Swayne
St. Thomas's: Mark Andrews, Kevin Toyne
Diocese of Toronto: Bp. Philip Poole
Secretary to the Council: Norah Bolton

Regrets: Roy Schatz, Max Woolaver

1. Welcome, opening prayers and reflection

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited the bishop to lead in prayer and reflection. Philip Poole noted the negative press, the increase in use of food banks and attendance at Out of the Cold. The challenge is to be people of faith rather than people of fear and to be mindful of the poorest among us.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved (Motion: Jeff/Kevin)

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting and business arising

The minutes were approved with the replacement of "Agenda" by "Minutes of Meeting".

- Consideration of Natural Church Development Program – feedback
St. Matthias is looking ahead to a presentation in February
Epiphany & St. Mark will look into it early in 2009
St Mary Magdalene has completed the initial survey and will bring back to participants and roll out within the parish in 2009
St Stephen's is not in a position to consider NCD

- Sharing of Lenten study groups
Jeff Kennedy had spoken with the clergy and received some feedback. There was some consensus around one common programme with better promotion of individual parish study groups
- Event calendar
Norah admitted to dropping the ball on this on in December. A January calendar would be developed and posted
- “Thinking assessment” – Dorothy Peers
Dorothy Peers had tried the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument and found it interesting. Its greatest value would be in seeing a profile of the group. Norah repeated her offer to all members of the Council and would send out instructions.

4. Report of 2008

Feedback and corrections

Dorothy announced that some changes would be required in the information concerning the Jeremiah project. There were a few additional suggestions and comments. It was the consensus of the meeting that the final report should be reviewed before wider distribution. A motion that The PMDC have an opportunity to vet and approve the amended document was approved with one abstention (Motion: Ken/Paul)

Options for use in the parishes

Options included print versions to be available at Vestry, posting on the Parkdale Deanery and parish websites, and oral presentations to Advisory Boards (a short slide version supporting the content is available and a data projector can be borrowed from the Diocese).

It was asked whether we are asking for approval. The consensus appeared to be that the report is a snapshot of current level of activity. The report could simply be appended to others presented to Annual Vestries

Christian Swayne noted the lack of energy at St. Stephen in the Fields, which may preclude much further participation. The parish is merely surviving and several parishioners are in poor health. Something different will have to happen and there is a need for new people with fresh energy and vision.

5. 2009 – Reframing the Conversation

Introduction of the concept

Norah indicated that research indicated that the process in the life of the Council had reached a typical stage where complex matters with no easy solutions were becoming clearer. The previous meeting had indicated that we are in what one facilitator has termed the Groan Zone, indicating frustration and a need for a change in direction. Reframing – or restating a problem was one way of moving forward.

After reviewing a sheet with several examples of problems or issues in original and reframed versions, small groups produced the following reframed issues pertaining to the PMDC.

ORIGINAL	REFRAMED
Our buildings are expensive and costly to maintain	We need to learn how to use our buildings effectively
Clergy act as solo agents	We need to learn how to use the clergy's diversity of gifts
We spend a lot of time on secondary issues	We can learn how to implement our ideas
We aren't able to make decisions around our buildings even though we know some of our spaces are financial drains	We need to utilize our resources in more effective ways. We need to regard our buildings as assets
We are ignoring the financial realities of problem parishes	We need to become better equipped to deal with financial realities
We are identifying with our own parishes more than with the deanery's big picture	We need to take gradual steps of working together rather than with seven at once
People are too busy	We can broaden our horizons by including others
We have differing levels of commitment	We need to enable and support the people we have in new ways
We haven't spent enough time getting to know one another in order to build relationships of trust	We haven't yet discovered how to be relevant to the political processes of the Diocese
People are seeking "spirituality"	How do we find the people who are looking for the things we have to offer

Following the discussions, the Bishop spoke briefly on "Back to Church Sunday" to be introduced in the fall of 2009. Members were invited to Google the term to obtain more information and sources of materials. It is hoped that parishes will use the opportunity to ask questions regarding what they do and how they will welcome visitors. Tentative date is the last Sunday in September with the possibility of variation if there are conflicts.

As it was Phil Cooper's final meeting, Phil was thanked by the chairs and the members for his work for the Council, who also wished him well in his new appointment as Priest in Charge of St. Wilfred's parish, Etobicoke.

6. Date of next meeting – January 20 at St. Mary Magdalene

Supper will be provided at 6:15.

7. Closing prayers and Adjournment

The meeting closed with prayer and several participants proceeded to *C'est What* for refreshments.

