



**MINUTES OF MEETING:
PARKDALE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 20, 2009; Church of St. Mary Magdalene**

The meeting began with a light supper and started at 7:20

Attending:

St. Anne's: Lance Dixon, Nancy Mercey

Epiphany & St. Mark; Anne Barcham, Ken Borrett, Dorothy Peers

St. George the Martyr; Max Woolaver, Amy Chan

St. Mary Magdalene; Brian Clarke, Harold Nahabedian

St. Matthias; Jeffry Kennedy

St. Stephen in the Fields; Christian Swayne

St. Thomas's; not represented

Secretary to the Council: Norah Bolton

Regrets: Heather McGregor, Sharon Chandler, Paul MacDonald, Roy Schatz, Philip Poole, Kim Malcolmson, Eileen Morrison

1. Welcome, opening prayers

Brian Clarke welcomed those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Harold Nahabedian led opening prayers

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved (Motion:Dorothy/Max)

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting and business arising

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the correction that Heather McGregor had sent regrets. (Motion: Ann/Ken). Business arising was covered by items already on the agenda.

4. Updates:

a) Natural Church Development

Epiphany & St. Mark will consider after addressing current priorities re stewardship. St. George's has contacted the Diocese to express interest in proceeding. St. Mary Magdalene has met to consider the findings of their first survey, which will be shared with participants later in January. The initial interview provided new insights and food for thought. It was suggested that two or more parishes could combine for the initial presentation by the diocesan congregational development officer.

b) Lenten Study Groups

Jeffry Kennedy announced that a Deanery wide study group will take place in Lent on Friday evenings hosted by St. Matthias. The subject is The Bible and Law and it will be led by Angela Emerson, a litigation lawyer and divinity student at Wycliffe College. All parishes have been sent the information and are encouraged to promote it in through their own channels. Several other parishes will offer Lenten study groups and visitation among parishes is encouraged

c) Event Calendar

Norah Bolton reported that only two parishes had coming events listed on their websites for January. A better balance of events will be available during Lent and parishes are encouraged to let her know of them via email.

d) Thinking Assessment

Instructions will be forwarded. Participation is voluntary but a group profile would help us to see how we function and contribute to effectiveness.

e) Approval of 2008 Annual Report

Dorothy Peers reported that the minor changes requested at the previous meeting had been made. The article on the Jeremiah project was awaiting revision and she would complete it and forward the revised copy. At the previous meeting it was agreed that approval would be obtained by polling members. Parishes would then use their best judgment as to how best to circulate it.

f) Introduction to the Jeremiah Project

Lance Dixon welcomed the opportunity to provide some perspective on the story of the project. In 2007, the parish of Trinity Streetsville had a conversation with the Diocese about a project, but soon realized that it would be hard to extend beyond their own boundaries. Nevertheless the parish encouraged Lance to pursue a personal journey of

forming an intentional community for gospel living. Uniting with Rob Crosby Shearer, whom he had known for some time, the two developed broad ranging possibilities for the project, exploring and incorporating ideas of urban monasticism, missional community, New Testament living, simplicity, dependence on God and freedom to be of service.

Lance was born and raised in cities. Rob had worked with several organizations including Catholic Worker House. They were definitely keen about an urban project. They approached the bishop, who continued the conversation and at the end of the day, the Wardens of St. Anne's were approached and the parish said yes. There is a desire to see others participate in intentional community living and there are already 30 people expressing interest and ready to dream together.

It is important to recognize that this is not a project of Trinity Streetsville, though they have made a financial contribution to the project's first operating year. The connection is that Lance was working there when the plan for the project began.

Ironically, Lance was not given the Parkdale Report and received it almost accidentally in 2008. The project is an ongoing journey and in spite of a rather convoluted beginning, it does appear to be the work of the Holy Spirit.

The meeting was opened up to comments and questions

- There is surprise that the announcement came as a bolt from the blue
- There is puzzlement that developments were kept from the Council until the announcement
- There was little dialogue within the parish and a very short time frame for decision making
- It is still a fair question to ask what the decision means for Parkdale as a whole
- What is the future of the three smallest parishes?
- Transparency has been missing
- The project offers an opportunity to learn all over again how to be Church
- There will be much learning along the way and moments of grace
- There is interest in the role of associates

5. A Reframed Question

Because of limited time, discussion was limited to one reframed question:

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
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Initially there was some confusion as to whether the items were reversed. None of the original reframers were in attendance, so the version on the right was accepted as the reframed version.

Among points made were the following:

- There is sometimes confusion between unity and uniformity; sometimes a direction is perceived as the correct way and all other options are wrong; but what all are doing is trying to build the Body of Christ
- Constituencies – bishops, members of Executive Council, area clergy, parishioners may talk frequently among themselves but communicate less often and less well with one another
- The work of Executive Council is not well known or communicated
- Processes are not transparent or clear
- Vision is where things start and the Diocese does respond to it; but there are many layers in decision making
- If we do not act, the Diocese will.
- The fact of different Episcopal oversight for St. Anne's could be problematic
- It is difficult to be heard – and difficult to hear other conversations
- Levels do not communicate well with one other

6. Announcements

On February 28, Brother Ignatius will conduct a quiet day, “Cultivating a Discerning Heart” at St. George the Martyr from 9:45 am – 3:00 pm. Max will also conduct a Lenten series in March entitled “Praying through Grief”. St Mary Magdalene's will also offer a Lenten series on “Symbols of Holy Week”.

6. Topic and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place **on Wednesday, February 18 (please note the change of day) at the Diocesan Centre, 135 Adelaide**. It was deemed wise to avoid February 24th as it is Shrove Tuesday. The topic will be announced when the agenda is sent out closer to the day of the meeting.

7. Closing prayers and adjournment

The poem composed for the inauguration of Barack Obama was read, followed by closing prayers led by Harold Nahabedian. The meeting adjourned at 9:25