

## **Regional Ministry Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023; 1:30 p.m.

St George's, Hastings

### **Minutes**

#### 1. Opening Prayer

Present: Bryce Sangster, Larry Ricciardelli, Reg Gordon, Helen Lee, Brad Smith, Tom Strawbridge, Hilda Cole, Russ Pollock, Max Dionisio, Ann Chambers

Max opened with prayer at 1:35 p.m.

#### 2. Nine-Month Review of the Regional Ministry (bring the Agreement)

##### Specific Areas

a. Ministry Team: on what frequency should the three regional priests rotate between the parishes? Belmont has no issue with the rotation of Brad/Max and Bryce as it is at present. Ann said she would be happy with once a month having another priest. Should the clergy "pulpit exchange" happen monthly, every other month, quarterly?

b. Finances: We haven't created a common set of financial statements yet; it hasn't felt like a priority. One issue is that Belmont and Peterborough are one vestry whereas Campbellford/Hastings/Roseneath (C/H/R/) is three different parishes with unique wardens, treasurers, finances. Would it be an idea to get the wardens and treasurers from Belmont and C/H/R together to have a conversation about the pros/cons of a unified treasury: Bryce will coordinate a meeting of the wardens to discuss the experience. There is a sense that the various congregations are not yet willing to contemplate a merger of finances/bank accounts. We should also arrange a meeting between church treasurers so they meet one another.

c. Worship: We are doing very well on most of these things, but there are two items we need to work on still: combined services on occasion (esp. 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) and worship at times other than Sunday mornings. C/H/R usually meets together on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays through the year. It could be possible that on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in April/July/October, Belmont and C/H/R would have a combined service and people in Peterborough could be invited but not expected that the whole congregation would attend. One priest would remain in Peterborough. Or, do a regional evensong on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (or any Sunday) with a potluck to follow.

Ideas for other worship at non-Sunday times. This would not be for us to get to know other so much as to reach out to people not already coming to church. Max noted we need some kind of sustainable and regular worship that is open to the community, e.g. soup and bread with very short worship once a week. He could plan but needs help to pull off. We are excited by the idea of food and worship together on a weeknight, or a drop-in for mothers with young children in mornings. Rogation service could be something we use to bring in people who are not parishioners (not in the church building, a picnic, less formal worship)

d. Regional Council: we are doing the first part well (the Regional Council mandate and authority) even if we are not following the agenda in quite the same way that it's laid out in the plan on page 5.

Plan for future governance and leadership: two pieces to this. i.) is the Regional Council structured and working the way it should be? ii.) What is the wider plan for the regional ministry? Is it amalgamating the entire region into a single unity or staying with what we have? The conversation with the people in C/H/R is a first step towards the possibility of more unifying measures in the region. We really need to make sure that no one feels like they are being swallowed up.

e. Congregational Governance: No changes other than C/H/R starting the conversation about the possibility of a unified vestry.

f. Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship: We developed the three priorities (pastoral care, outreach, family ministry). We need to develop the social media presence that is mentioned in the plan. Before we do social media, we really to develop our brand identity. Get some outside help from the diocese (?) on a brand for us? Once we get the brand then we can do social media.

3. Review of Ministries from January 11, 2020 Steering Group Meeting

Tabled until next meeting.

4. Pastoral Visiting Ministry Update

No update.

5. Outreach Update

No update.

6. Youth Ministry Update

No update.

7. Next Regional Worship and/or Social Event.

July 30<sup>th</sup> is next event. Will plan at next meeting.

8. Event Calendar

A couple of posters were circulated at the meeting. Don't forget to send these to Brad to be posted on the website.

9. Other Business

No other business was raised.

10. Next meeting

Tue 9 May, 1:30 p.m., St George's Hastings.

11. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting closed with the Grace at 3:00 p.m.