

Vestry 2019



Agenda

2018 ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING Sunday, February 24, 2019

	Pages
1. Priest-in-Charge Takes the Chair	
+ Opening Prayers	
+ Appointment of Vestry Clerk	
+ Reading and signing of the Declaration re: Vestry	
+ Approval of "Agenda" and giving notice for additional items of "New Business"	
+ Acceptance of Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Sunday, February 25, 2018 "That the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, and that the minutes of the meeting of Vestry on Sunday, February 25, 2018 be adopted and confirmed."	1-6
+ Acknowledgement of the Pastoral Letters from Bishop Asbil and Bishop Robertson	7-9
+ Acceptance of Priest-in-Charge's, Churchwardens', and Committee reports "That the reading of the reports to Vestry be dispensed with, and that they be accepted as presented in the written Vestry report."	
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3. Presentation and acceptance of financial report for 2018	34-35
4. Doxology	
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;	
praise him, all creatures here below;	
praise him above ye heavenly host;	
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.	
5. Presentation and acceptance of proposed budget for 2019	34-35
6. Acknowledgements and thanks	
7. Prayer for the election of Advisory Board	
8. Presentation of Nominating Committee Report	36-37
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10. Wardens’ appointments	36-37
11. Banking Resolution	
“That the signing officers of the St. George on Yonge accounts be any two of the following: Lorraine Baillie, Kwan Luk, or Aili Maki.”	
12. Appointment of Auditor for 2019	
J. Michael Mulholland, Chartered Professional Accountant	

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| 13. | New Business
+ Motion from the Diocese re: Standing in Solidarity
+
+
+ | 38-40 |
| 14. | Motion to Adjourn | |
| 15. | Closing Prayer, Doxology, Blessing, and Dismissal | |

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 25, 2018

Chair: The Rev. Leonard Leader, Interim Priest-in-Charge
Congregation: 35 members attended

Vestry met in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. Thanks to Olga Joloud and Sangeeta Randive for a great coffee hour spread.

Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Leonard gave a warm welcome to everyone.

Appointment of Vestry Clerk and Scrutineer

The Chair appointed Lorraine Baillie to be Vestry Clerk, and Nancy Dodsworth to be Scrutineer.

Signing of the Vestry Declaration

The declaration was read by Leonard and all in attendance who qualify to participate as members of Vestry were invited to sign the Vestry Book.

Approval of Agenda, additional items of New Business

Leonard explained that the Financial Report would be presented for Anne Wynter as she was not able to attend the meeting.

Items 9, 10, 11 will be treated as one item.

MOVED by Anne Baillie and **SECONDED** by Colette Lyttle **THAT** the agenda for the meeting be accepted as amended. **CARRIED**

Minutes of the 2017 Annual Vestry Meeting

MOVED by Geraldine Sperling and **SECONDED** by Raj Sircar **THAT** the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, and that the minutes of the meeting of Vestry on Sunday, February 26, 2017 be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

Pastoral Letters from the Archbishop and Area Bishop

Circulated with Vestry Report and acknowledged by Vestry. All are encouraged to read the letters. See pages 7 – 10.

Acceptance of Reports from Interim Priest-in-Charge, Administrator, and Committees

Leonard explained that he had elaborated on his report at both services and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

MOVED by Margie Lyttle and **SECONDED** by Doug Heyes **THAT** the reading of the reports to Vestry be dispensed with, and that they be accepted as presented in the written Vestry report.
CARRIED

Report from the Diocesan Administrators

Leonard introduced Lance Wilson and Marilyn Yeung.

Lance referenced part of the day's psalm prayer as relevant to our present situation. He said that since he was asked to be part of the Administration team he has learned a lot from talking to parishioners. He is honoured to be part of the process. According to Canonical Process, Administration is to be withdrawn as their job is complete.

Acknowledgement of Audited statements for 2016

The Auditor's Report for 2016 was acknowledged. Copies of the full report are available for anyone wishing to see more detail.

Presentation and Acceptance of Administrators' Financial Report for 2017

Lance presented the report that was prepared by Treasurer Anne Wynter with the use of slides. Questions were asked:

- 1) Margie Lyttle – How much was the Diocesan allotment? Answer: It was much reduced as the calculation was done differently. Reference to financial report – from projected \$45,000 to \$19,000. The reduction of the allotment has been a big factor in being able to present a balanced budget.
- 2) Hazel Perkin and Sister Connie questioned the large amount in the budget for worship in 2018. The explanation was in the notes with the Treasurer's report but discussion was moved until after the approval of the 2017 financial report.

MOVED by Raj Sircar and **SECONDED** by Felicity Leonard **THAT** the unaudited financial report for 2017 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Leonard thanked all those who worked behind the scenes to help us achieve good results with our finances. Thanks be to God.

Presentation and Acceptance of Proposed Budget for 2018

Leonard thanked the budget working team who were: Anne Wynter, Max Wynter, Kien Siu, Kwan Luk, and Leonard. He explained that extra money for worship expenses allows us to explore ideas, take risks to grow the church.

Comments and Questions

- 1) Hazel commented that she would like to see extra funds to support the Sunday School.
- 2) Kwan Luk – asked about plans for worship. Sister Connie asked about the money budgeted for Saturday evening worship. Answer: There is money in the budget to explore how we can attract young people and families with music and a facilitator.
- 3) Sister Connie questioned the amount in the budgets for Day Care income as she was surprised that the 2018 budget number was less than 2017. Geraldine addressed the question and also explained that the Day Care normally gives a donation and covers some of our capital expenses. The debt incurred with the delay in start-up is being paid back.
- 4) Raj suggested that we need to look at new avenues for working with our older population. Leonard replied that this could be done with a reallocation of time and work by our pastoral care team.

- 5) Hazel suggested that the choir could sing at a neighbouring retirement residence at Christmas time. Leonard replied that he will call on the choir.
- 6) Clavel Lyttle asked from where the Miscellaneous income came. Connie suggested that it could come from such items as HST refunds and other recovered funds. We can consult the Treasurer for further information about this item. Leonard explained that any member has the right to examine Church records if they need further information.
- 7) Izzu commented about the bank charges (line 6400) being lower than expected.
- 8) Hazel commented that she was surprised to see the mortgage payment increasing instead of getting lower. Egan suggested some reasons. There is a fixed mortgage as well as a line of credit. Rates have increased. Hazel would like to know what principle is left to pay.

MOVED by Nancy Dodsworth and **SECONDED** by Geraldine Sperling **THAT** the proposed budget for 2018 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Acknowledgements and Thanks

Leonard thanked all those who served in the past year. Special acknowledgement to Anne Wynter, our outgoing Treasurer, and the Diocesan Administration team, and all volunteers. There was a round of applause.

Prayer for the Election

Leonard offered prayer for guidance to the electors.

Election of Officers and Committee Chairs

Leonard explained that the Nominations Committee worked diligently to come up with the slate of officers. Thanks to Eleanor Gilbert, Max Wynter, Doug Heyes, Anne Wynter and Leonard. They considered succession planning in having a number of Deputy Wardens, to share the load, being mentored by the Wardens.

Clavel Lyttle commented that the leadership appeared to be male dominant. Leonard assured everyone that the nominating committee had encouraged females and younger people to consider a position.

Nancy Dodsworth has withdrawn from the position of Deputy Warden but will be a member of the Parish Advisory Board.

MOVED by Margie Lyttle and **SECONDED** by Hazel Perkin **THAT** the Report of the Nominating Committee be accepted. **CARRIED**

Election of People's Warden

MOVED by Doug Heyes and **SECONDED** by Hazel Perkin **THAT** nominations be closed for the position of People's Warden. **CARRIED**. Kien Siu was acclaimed.

Diocesan Administrators' Appointments

Rector's Warden – Max Wynter

Treasurer – Izzu Umezinne (Anne Wynter to coach during transition)

Envelope Secretary – Anne Baillie

Election of Lay Members of Synod

Eleanor Gilbert withdrew her name, and Doug offered to be the Substitute Member.

MOVED by Hazel Perkin and **SECONDED** by Kwan Luk **THAT** Laura Pummell and Geraldine Sperling will be our Lay Members of Synod for 2018, and Doug Heyes will be the Substitute Member. **CARRIED**

It was suggested by Izzu that Social Media and Website could be merged. Egan was asked to involve Izzu with these ministries. The website needs to be updated.

Although we are still under Administration until the March 22 Diocesan Council decision, Lance encouraged all those who have assumed a role to begin their work.

Report of the Nominating Committee for 2018

Rector's Warden	Max Wynter
People's Warden	Kien Siu
Deputy Warden, Property	Egan Done
Deputy Wardens	John Pummell, Kwan Luk, Lorraine Baillie
Treasurer	Izunna Umezinne
Envelope Secretary	Anne Baillie
Parish Advisory Board	Chip Barkel, Nancy Dodsworth, Doug Heyes, Margie Lyttle, Aili Maki, Hazel Perkin, Laura Pummell, Geraldine Sperling, Kay Yuen
Lay Members of Synod	Laura Pummell, Geraldine Sperling Doug Heyes (alternate)
Parish Tribunal	Eleanor Gilbert, Doug Heyes, Geraldine Sperling
YCCCI Board	Laura Pummell, Hazel Perkin, Chris Hayward, Geraldine Sperling, Lorraine Baillie

Report of the Nominating Committee for 2018 (continued)

Church Groups & Committees	
Altar Guild	Anna Siu, Roshni Sircar
Anointers	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Archives	
Chalice	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Church School	Kathy Baillie
Coffee Hour	Lorraine Baillie
Counters	Richard Snider
Discernment for a Deacon	Max Wynter
Don Valley Refugee Resettlers	Aili Maki, Max Wynter, Chip Barkel
English as a Second Language (ESL)	Craig Robertson, Morning Wang
Intercessors	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Joyful Giving (Stewardship)	Doug Heyes
Legacy Committee	Alan Sperling
Library	Eleanor Gilbert
Mandarin Ministry	Morning Wang, Kwan Luk
Music	Michael Leach
Music Knights	Alan Sperling, Chris Hayward
Natural Church Development	
Outreach	
Parish Life Committee	Kathy Baillie
Parish Newsletter	Kathy Baillie, Craig Gustafson
Pastoral Care	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Prayer Ministry	Margie Lyttle
Property	Egan Done
Pub Knights	Doug Heyes
Readers	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Responsible Ministry	The Rev. Leonard Leader, Craig Gustafson
Servers	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Social Media	
Ushers	Anne Marie Powell
Website	Egan Done, Craig Gustafson
Wednesday Morning Group	Ann Beecham
Welcome Desk	Craig Gustafson

Banking Resolution

MOVED by Hazel Perkin and **SECONDED** by Colette Lyttle **THAT** the signing officers of the St. George on Yonge accounts for the year 2018, following the end of Administration, be any two of the following: Max Wynter, Kien Siu, John Pummell, Kwan Luk, Lorraine Baillie, or Izunna Umezinne.” **CARRIED**

Appointment of Auditor for 2018

The Board has appointed J. Michael Mulholland, Chartered Professional Accountant to be the auditor for 2018.

MOVED by Izunna Umezinne, **SECONDED** by Anne Baillie **THAT** the appointment of the Auditor for 2018 be ratified. **CARRIED**

New Business

1. Motion from the Diocese re: Affordable Housing and Homelessness

MOVED by Clavel Lyttle and **SECONDED** by Colette Lyttle **THAT** the parish accept the Social Justice and Advocacy Vestry Motion on affordable housing and homelessness found on page 42 of the Vestry Report. **CARRIED**

2. Legacy Giving Committee

This committee has been working diligently to plan how to provide information which will encourage planned giving. It consists of Chip Barkel, Sandi Thomas, John Pummell, Geraldine Sperling, Hazel Perkin, and Alan Sperling (in the Chair).

Alan explained that they plan to run a short seminar, in May or June, one during the day and one in the evening. This is not just for our senior members, as everyone can benefit from this information. Geraldine reminded us that in the past 96 years many people have worked for us to have our church. She gave examples of some giving in the recent past. She encouraged everyone to consider making a bequest.

Leonard thanked the committee for their work behind the scenes.

3. Discernment Process for Raising Up a Deacon

Leonard explained that the first step in this process was having the Ven. Kyn Barker preach at the beginning of the month. The next step is to form a committee. We have been assigned the Rev. Carol Brunton to be our coach. Two people have expressed an interest. Leonard asked for prayer for this process.

Adjournment

MOVED by Anne Baillie and **SECONDED** by Doug Heyes **THAT** the 2018 Vestry Meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

Vestry adjourned at 1:55 p.m. with prayer, the Gloria, and a blessing.

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2019

to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.



This will be the first time, in almost 30 years, that I am not chairing a vestry meeting. I am one of those people who actually enjoys vestry; poring over audited financial statements, ministry reports, marking important milestones in the parish, celebrating the incredible contributions of our lay leaders (without whom very little would happen). Deeper than that, a good meeting names the anxiety we have in trying to balance the needs of the parish while trusting deeply in the hope that God will guide, provide and inspire us to deepen our faith, try new ideas and be creative in our endeavour to serve the mission of God. The vestry meeting is one moment in the year when a parish has the opportunity to look back and then to look forward. I am joined by the Area Bishops in assuring you of our prayers as you gather for your annual meeting. We also extend our deepest gratitude for all who have served so faithfully as wardens, committee members, teachers, greeters and leaders who make known the love of Christ through their offering of time, talent and treasure. If you are taking on a new role this year, a particular word of encouragement to you.

Over the last several years it has been our practice to invite each parish to consider a vestry motion that addresses issues of poverty and social action. In view of the drastically rising economic inequity in our province, this year's vestry motion asks your parish to consider *Standing in Solidarity*, by making a commitment to protect all who are living in poverty, through direct local and parish outreach and through meaningful advocacy.

On January 13, 2019 I was formally seated as the 12th Bishop of Toronto. The journey to that moment has been heart-warming, moving and humbling. I am heartened by your words of encouragement, humbled by your support, and moved by your desire to row and to pedal! I will be forever indebted to Archbishop Colin for his encouragement and support. I am invigorated by the passion and faithfulness of our Area Bishops Peter, Riscylla, Kevin and Jenny as we step in together to write a new chapter as the College of Bishops. I am impressed beyond words by the dedication of our staff in the Diocesan office, and by the creative ways that ministry is happening every day in our parishes and centers of ministry around the Diocese.

I am thrilled to be on the road Sunday by Sunday visiting parishes, celebrating worship and getting to know you. I am finding my bearings with each of the committees, councils and task forces of the Diocese. I will be spending time with the clergy in each Deanery to glean the wisdom of those who lead in each community. In the first week of May I would like to meet with the laity of the Diocese through 5 scheduled Town Hall meetings (details will be posted on the Diocesan website). Each gathering gives us time to listen to each other, articulate our hopes for ministry, and catch a glimpse of what might be. I hope that you will join me.

May God bless you as you meet for Vestry.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

The Right Reverend
KEVIN ROBERTSON
Area Bishop of York-Scarborough
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto



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January 25, 2019

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Dear friends in York-Scarborough,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 1:2)

As I begin my third year as your area bishop, I am reminded of the tremendous privilege of serving this part of the Diocese. York-Scarborough is the smallest area geographically, but we have the greatest number of parishes, and are home to more than a third of the Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto!

In 2018, I had the opportunity to visit most of the 60 parishes and ministries of York-Scarborough by being present for Sunday worship, ordinations, confirmations, celebrations of new ministry, anniversaries, meetings with parish leadership, and many wonderful meals and receptions! I want to thank the clergy and lay people of the area for your warm welcome as I have travelled across the five deaneries of York-Scarborough. I have been grateful for your prayers and good wishes, and your desire to be co-workers in the building up of God's Church.

One of the priorities I identified a year ago was for us to become more intentional about mission. In March, I was pleased to gather with over one hundred clergy and lay leaders from across the area to share ideas, and develop strategies for mission. In May, I gathered the area clergy together for an overnight retreat in Niagara Falls with the purpose of learning about Mission Action Plans (MAPs). I am so pleased that a number of parishes have now developed a MAP, and have begun to implement the plan in their own context. For those who have not done so, or are still working away at it, there are resources available from the Diocese and the York-Scarborough Area Council to assist. Just call my office and ask! I was also pleased to be a part of the ministry of making disciples. I participated in the preparation of new candidates for baptism, confirmation and ordination, and was delighted to be in parishes to work alongside those seeking to deepen their Christian faith.

One of the highlights of 2018 in the Diocese of Toronto was the election of a new Bishop. On June 9, clergy and lay people from across the Diocese met at St. James' Cathedral and elected Andrew Asbil. Bishop Andrew was consecrated in September and installed as the 12th Bishop of Toronto just a few weeks ago. Bishop Andrew has stepped into the role with grace, humility and courage, and I am honoured to serve with him. We also had the opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Archbishop Cohn Johnson, who retired at the end of 2018. Archbishop Johnson served our Diocese with faithfulness for over four decades, and we wish Colin and Ellen much joy in their retirement.



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

As I reflect on my ministry over the past year, I realize that my work would not have been possible without the support of my amazing assistant, Sue Willoughby. Sue does a great job of managing my calendar and correspondence, and ensuring that I am able to stay on top of 60 very different and dynamic communities. Sue works closely with our exceptional synod office staff. They are all just a phone call or email away.

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of our five Regional Deans: the Reverend Ian LaFleur (Eglinton), the Reverend Greg Carpenter (Scarborough), the Reverend Sherman Hesselgrave (St. James), the Reverend Shelley McVea (Toronto East) and the Reverend Heather Gwynne-Timothy (York Mills). Heather moves out of that role next month, and becomes the new Chaplain to the Retired Clergy of York-Scarborough. I am delighted to welcome the Reverend Lisa Newland as the new Regional Dean of the York Mills Deanery. Along with our area liturgical officers – the Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine and the Reverend Greg Carpenter – our Regional Deans are excellent resources for parishes, and provide me with invaluable advice.

Our area is also blessed with many incredible youth leaders, who are ably led by our two amazing York-Scarborough Youth Coordinators, Jillian Ruch and Ian Physick. In 2018, we increased their time in that ministry, and we are seeing the fruits of that decision. Just a few weeks ago, I attended the 2nd Annual York-Scarborough Youth Leaders' Summit, where those involved in this important ministry were able to share ideas and strategies for ministry with our youth.

In our Diocese, we are blessed with a College of Bishops, with whom the joys and burdens of episcopal ministry are shared. I am grateful to work alongside my colleagues: Bishop Andrew Asbil, Bishop Peter Fenty (York-Simcoe), Bishop Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Trent Durham), Bishop Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley), and Canon Mary Conliffe (Diocesan Executive Assistant).

Finally, I want to express my thanks to all those who exercise leadership in the parishes, missions, schools, "fresh expressions" and community ministries of the York-Scarborough area. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role at this annual Vestry meeting, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese.

As we move into a new year, may we do so with great courage and faith, confident that the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish us. (1 Peter 5:10)

Yours faithfully,

The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
Area Bishop of York Scarborough
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

Priest-in-Charge – 2018



[Jesus] said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:4b

As I’m writing this vestry report my thoughts keep going back to the gospel reading for the fifth Sunday after Epiphany which we read on February 10. But specifically I have been hearing the words of Jesus to Simon “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch” (Luke 15:4b). This is a call to persevere and to trust God for the results; and I believe that this applies equally to us today, as I sense that we are ready to embrace the opportunities given to us as we respond to the call of mission right on our doorsteps.

We gather for our annual vestry, to give thanks to God for each other and for the parish of St. George on Yonge in this part of his church; we provide reports about parish ministries and finances, in keeping with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and we present ideas for ministry in the parish and in the community, as we support and encourage each other in Christian service.

Some highlights from 2018

Coming out from under Diocesan Administration, St. George on Yonge continued its work of becoming a healthy missional parish, and one sign of progress is our improved financial situation, as the leadership proposed a balanced budget for 2018.

There has been an air of optimism with efforts to consolidate the goals that were set before us from the previous year:

- The ministry of the whole people of God, to encourage everyone’s contribution to the work of the church.
- Nurturing intentional discipleship including a rhythm of Christian life and service; while fostering a welcoming environment at St. George on Yonge.
- Deepening our spiritual life, increasing our parish membership and enhancing our presence in the community.

These priority areas remain foundational, and we continue to place them before God as the parish examines the areas of focus for 2019 and beyond.

On St. George’s Day, there was a tragic event on Yonge Street in the vicinity of the church, resulting in the death and injury to so many. Nevertheless, the parish responded by keeping its doors open and welcomed people into a place of prayer and refuge, as we joined with people of different faiths and the entire Willowdale community in response to the “**Van Attack.**”

St. George on Yonge hosted the York Mills Deanery worship and walk of witness led by our Area Bishop, and erected a floral tribute at the Yonge Street entrance of the church. The parish was a sponsoring partner of the ecumenical worship at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church; and participated in the “#We Love Willowdale” events including the dismantling of the public memorials. The parish reached out in Christian service to the broader community, as this situation emphasised the need for collaboration in serving those in need.

Another highlight was our Area Bishop’s Episcopal visit during which he spoke at the Sunday services in the aftermath of the “Van Attack.” He also presented the “Order of St. George on Yonge to the outgoing treasurer, Anne Wynter, in recognition of her faithful service.

The parish joined in support and celebration of the ordination of the Rev. Morning Wang to the Diaconate, and her assignment as Assistant Curate of St. George on Yonge.

Working within the Canonical and policy framework, the parish is required to do due diligence. In compliance with the “Screening in Faith policy,” the parish conducted a boundaries and ethics policy workshop for the identified volunteers in the parish.

The ministry of lay anointing is offered regularly at St. George on Yonge. Accordingly, our Area Bishop has renewed the licences of the four lay anointers for the next three years.

The regular Sunday worship remained stable, and our worship at midday continued on a seasonal basis. Two small group discussion series were held during the year: “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John,” during Lent; and “The Spirit of Invitation” during Advent. With the help of a small team, pastoral visits remains a high priority within the parish; our monthly worship at Delmanor and Lansing retirement residences, and our prayer group ministry remained stable.

Looking beyond the parish, there has been an increased emphasis on welcome and hospitality for those in need. St George on Yonge continues to be a “collection point” for the Out-of-the-Cold programme. The parish also secured a small grant from the York-Scarborough area to help defray the cost of community lunches and other hospitality for the more vulnerable in our midst; and the monthly gift card outreach program has continued through your generous donations to the clergy discretionary fund.

So how are we doing?

In January, the parish was introduced to Mission Action Planning by Janet Marshall, the Director of Congregational Development for the Diocese. We look forward to working with Janet to help us foster an environment of collaboration among the various groups within the parish including the Mandarin ministry, possibly revisiting our purpose, vision, and mission as we identify opportunities for Christian service within the parish and the wider community.

Looking ahead

St George on Yonge is well positioned to build on some current initiatives:

- Resources for worship, pastoral care, and faith formation
- Stewardship and care of the building and its surroundings, with some exploration of options for building management; and the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment for worship and Christian fellowship
- Preparation for confirmation, as part of a comprehensive ministry to families, young adults, youth and children; with a goal of providing spiritual and programme support for all age groups
- Options for stabilising the parish infrastructure, streamline areas of ministry, and review our leadership and succession planning processes
- Discernment for Deacons in the parish
- Intentional community engagement to reach out to our neighbours and the wider Willowdale community
- Marketing initiatives to share the Gospel and welcome our neighbours to the church
- Preparing for the 100th anniversary of the parish

The ministries of St George on Yonge could not happen without the commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers; and I am especially grateful to all who have contributed to the work of the parish over the years. A special thank you to Sister Connie; the Rev. Morning Wang and all who are involved with the Mandarin Ministry; our dedicated wardens, deputy wardens and other members of the parish executive; our parish advisory board; the synod delegates and members of the YCCCI board; and the members of all the working committees and groups.

The Bishop has entrusted me with the appointment as Priest-in-Charge effective January 1, 2019; and it is my goal to be an example of faithful service, and a catalyst for spiritual enthusiasm in the parish. My wife Felicity and I are blessed with this opportunity to serve, and I consider it a special privilege to be in ministry with you.

Thank you for your faithful service, and your support of our joint ministry at St. George on Yonge.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Leonard Leader

Wardens – 2018

Last year saw the end of the Diocesan administration of our parish and the return to normal operations in March. Your churchwardens took up duties mid-March and have attempted to implement the plan for the year that was prepared by the Administration team and approved at Vestry. Under administration the Administrator had the authority and the support of the Diocese to implement decisions that your previous parish executive had recommended to the Diocese but did not have the authority to implement.

The result is that the interim (unaudited at the time of this writing) financial results for last year show an operating profit of about \$60,000 (before amortisation and depreciation). This is a significant improvement to our financial affairs.

The details below will show the results of our activities for the year.

Staffing and Volunteers

Last year we were happy to have the Bishop's confirmation of the Rev. Leonard Leader as our Priest-in-Charge for the foreseeable future. In addition to Leonard's experience in many areas of the life of the Diocese he has also been appointed (once again) to the Diocesan Council (the highest decision-making body in the Diocese outside of Synod). Leonard is well positioned to guide us through the next few years. He is a great pastor and his wife Felicity is also an active contributor to our mission at St. George as well as in other areas of diocesan life. We are very fortunate to have them both.

Morning Wang was ordained a Deacon and we were asked to accept her as a curate. In an unusual arrangement half of her salary is paid by the Diocese, as is usual for a curate; the other half is paid by the New Hope Ministry of the Diocese for her continued contribution to the growth and support of the Mandarin Ministry here at St. George. This arrangement is expected to continue until mid-2020.

Sister Connie continues to assist as our Honorary Assistant. Her visits are always welcome although not as frequent as we might like.

Craig has continued to support our mission in his work as our Parish Administrator. Working with our auditor he has improved his ability and competence in the use of our accounting systems resulting in much less work for our treasurer. Overall Craig has worked hard to increase his value to the parish.

Philip, our custodian, was unfortunately injured while moving around risers in preparation for a concert. He made a claim for this workplace injury which was approved by the WSIB. He has recovered and continues to do his job.

One of the tasks that the Administration team was not able to complete was that of revising and creating job descriptions for our staff members. This job was successfully completed by Deputy Warden Lorraine Bailie and we use this opportunity to express our appreciation to her for completing this challenging task.

Our biggest challenge is in the area of volunteers. Our parish needs volunteers to grow and thrive. Unfortunately, we have "burnt out" many of our members who have contributed immeasurable hours over the years. If you are not involved in at least two activities, then please consider how you might be able to contribute an hour or two each week to help us to

better serve God and each other. We need new members in our leadership team: a treasurer, wardens, ushers and greeters, social media experts, volunteers for outreach, and others.

This year Egan Done retires as our Deputy Warden in charge of the building. We have already recognised his work by inducting him into the Order of St. George on Yonge. It would be remiss of us not to again acknowledge his hundreds of volunteer hours to this parish.

We continue to have good fellowship with one another, at coffee hour after our services and at our many other events including concerts, our pancake supper, potluck events, community lunches, and the parish picnic. Thanks to the many volunteers who have worked so hard to make these events successful. They enrich our lives together and enhance our ministry to each other and to the community around us.

Finance and Stewardship

On the financial side, as noted above, the intervention by the Diocese’s administration team has helped us to close the year with an operating profit. This was also due to the fact that we did not implement (or was late in implementing) recommendations of the Admin team that were in the budget. More on this later. This surplus is not necessarily cause for celebration, however, since there was a reduction of our offerings and donations. This is partly a reflection of our diminishing membership which is our next major challenge. We have been hampered by the absence of a treasurer and again encourage any member with competence in this area to consider volunteering your skills to the parish.

YCCCI continues to support our church financially and a report from their board is included elsewhere. In 2018 it contributed \$231,400 to our income.

Other income includes the licence of parking spaces to Diamante, the builders of the condo under construction next to our property. Last year this contributed \$20,000 and in 2019 they are expected to contribute just under \$32,000 to our revenue. It is not likely that this revenue will continue into 2020.

Our surplus will be short-lived and will not continue without growth. We stress that without growth to our congregation we will return to the deficit situation that occurred 3 years ago.

Growth

The Admin team left us with two major recommendations for growth, both of which were budgeted and approved by Vestry in 2018.

The first of these was an advertising programme which featured postcards sent through Canada Post (unaddressed ad-mail) to the condo buildings in our immediate vicinity. In December 2018 and January 2019, a total of 12,000 cards were sent to 6,000 nearby condos. We have had visitors resulting from this campaign. Since marketing experts tell us that it takes a minimum of seven “touches” for a marketing campaign to achieve results, we recommend at least six more mailings to these condos in 2019.

The second recommendation was that we hire four voices (one of each of bass, tenor, soprano, and alto) to give our choir and our music ministry what it needs to take our service to the next level. Notwithstanding the approval of Vestry and the efforts by your churchwardens, the choir director and members of the choir strongly resisted this change, so it was not done. Our weak music ministry continues to be a major challenge to our growth, and we note with

interest that one family who visited as a result of our postcard campaign expressed their disappointment in the music. The improvement of our music ministry must receive our highest priority in 2019.

Mandarin Ministry

There is a separate report on this ministry, but we must recognise the success of this ministry. In addition to a regular service at 9:00 on Sundays our mandarin community also has ESL classes every Tuesday, a growing music ministry including a choir that practices regularly, special Bible studies, and a monthly Taizé service. God's presence in this ministry is obvious and we continue to support it.

Raising up Deacons

We have begun the process of discernment to determine if the parish is ready to raise up any of our members to be Deacons. A committee has been meeting with the Rev. Carol Brunton who, until now, was providing the parish with mentorship. Unfortunately, she is not able to continue, and we are waiting on Archdeacon Kyn Barker (Coordinator of Deacons), to advise us on moving forward. The committee members are Max Wynter (Chair), Muriel Thompson, Nancy Dodsworth, and the Rev. Leonard Leader.

Parish Advisory Board

The parish advisory board met during the year and most members attended most of the meetings. The council advised the incumbent and churchwardens on matters concerning church life, growth, and ministry and played a vital part in this process. We are particularly grateful to the all the members who volunteer to serve in this way.

Grateful to God and to you, for the opportunity to serve Him in this way, we are respectfully,

Your Churchwardens,
Kien Siu and Max Wynter

Record of Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals For 2018

Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Funerals
Hendrix Belle Caroline Guo Carter Lyttle Qinger Ying	none	Fei Song & Qinger Ying	Rhoda Gillespie Gloria Roache Horace Wheatley * St. George Parishioner

We also give thanks for the life, faith, and witness of Mavis Herman and Betty Spencer, parishioners of St. George on Yonge; and Aleksey & Wendy Gunko, The Rev. J. Allan Kirk, Elizabeth Neilans, and Douglas Wallace, former parishioners of St. George on Yonge. These names are not recorded in our Burial Register as our clergy did not officiate at the services.

Statistics 2014 – 2018

Average Attendance

Year	8:00 a.m.	Average	Mandarin Fellowship	Average	10:30 a.m.	Average	Total	Average
2014	388*	7*			3,982	77	4,370	84
2015	624	12	292‡	6‡	3,631	70	4,547	87
2016	715	14	505‡	10‡	3,313	64	4,533	87
2017	559	11	696	13‡	3,298	63	4,553	88
2018	573	11	1,139	22	2,631	51	4,343	84

* For several Sundays, only one English service was held

‡ Attendance records began in 2015. For several Sundays, no service was held.

Sacramental and Pastoral Services

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Marriages	1	0	2	0	1
Funerals	16	17	16	9	3
Baptisms					
Children	5	4	1	2	3
Adults	0	2	4	0	1
Private Communions	30	16	7	8	12
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	0

Music Director – 2018

It is very fulfilling, musically, to have both a fine grand piano and a marvellous organ in the sanctuary. The piano gives a nice contemporary sound to modern songs, while the organ can accompany the hymns and liturgy with a traditional grandeur. The acoustics in the sanctuary are wonderful and vibrant, and show off not only the instruments, but our singing congregation, to their best advantage. I am thankful for all these blessings.

It has been a joy to work with The Rev. Leonard Leader, this past year, in his position as Priest- in-Charge. We have frequent, interesting, and far-ranging conversations and discussions, talks about the place of music in our corporate worship.

Working with Fr. Leonard, Morning, Sr. Connie on occasion, and Craig, has been a pleasure.

I would also like to mention Chinonyerem Ukabiala – a young man from Abuja, Nigeria. Chinon is a student at York University, and is learning to play the piano. He likes to play hymns, and occasionally plays one of the communion hymns. I am thankful for his dedication, and that I am able to offer him this opportunity.

Last but not least, a big thank you to the choir, who have all been wonderful and very supportive of my efforts here. Although we are small in number, we are mighty in effort! We always invite and welcome anybody to come and sing with us, at any time. A larger choir will be a natural outgrowth of a growing congregation, so we embrace all ongoing efforts to expand our congregational family.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Leach

Assistant Curate – 2018

On behalf of our St. George Mandarin congregation, I am very pleased to introduce what we have experienced in faith last year. In the past year, we have become God's witnesses. Whether in spiritual growth or the other kinds of services, the Mandarin Ministry is gradually growing.

The Mandarin congregation has used the Nave for the Sunday worship since September last year. We continue to serve the church in the form of a team. The Mandarin Ministry is still at the beginning stage, which means most of the congregation is either new believers or faith seekers; we particularly need the close work and the support of the team. On February 11, 2018 Father James was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral, and since then our St. George Mandarin Ministry have had at least 2 Eucharist services per month. Our service liturgy is almost synchronised with the English service. This provides our parishioners exact one big family concept into practice; even though we have different languages and different times, the worship content is consistent. We have a few English parishioners and English speaking guests joining our worship service, of which they can easily follow. This further shows us that the Anglican treasure, which is our liturgy, the language of worshipping is transcending borders and races, rather is praising Christ on the higher altitude.

We also encourage the lay leaders to be involved more in the ministry, joining our team with the theological students and clergies. Every week we have a staff meeting, discussing the ministry details and studying and confirming the liturgy, whether in the sense of wording or theological aspect. At the same time, we have to try to keep our liturgy consistent with the Canadian Anglican English liturgy. We have compared different versions of Chinese prayer books from 1917, and current Chinese prayer books from various places, and need to edit the liturgy so that is most relevant to both the English and modern Chinese language. Not only is our team is using it, but it is requested by other places, such as New Zealand and the States.

We have also continued our Basic Catechism course, the faith course that matches our liturgy. We have been teaching this Basic Catechism course every Sunday after the Mandarin service at the Playroom. After the learning, their Anglican identities are confirmed.

In the past year, the growth of within the Chinese congregation is also in the fellowship. We have started youth fellowship occasionally on Saturday evening, studying the Bible together. In order to help the young people, we started a series of living out Bible in the professional field, so that we can apply the Bible truth in our own daily life. We also had different activities, such as the Dumpling Event, Mid-Autumn Festival, summer BBQ etc. Not only do the events attract people and enrich their lives, but the events also bring us together, and a sense of belonging. At the same time, we also orchestrated the activities through the local Canadian Feast. Hence, the Chinese congregation has become a bridge between the Chinese community and the local culture. Through it, we can love our church more and love the society in which we live. In the summer last year, we had our very first Chinese Baptism in our Mandarin Service. More people have been encouraged to enter into the Church, into our great family through it.

We encourage parishioners to establish their lives on the Word of God. Every Thursday evening, we have a Bible Study group, learning the Bible together with the weekly distributed Daily Office. Every day we read on the exact same Bible passages, and come back for group study and discussion on Thursday. The first Thursday of each month, we have a bilingual Taizé service. Here neither English nor Chinese is an obstacle, and we experience the blessing of God's presence in the midst of candlelight and singing. We have a theme for the whole year for each year, which is distributed by 12 meditations, to become closer to God in the tranquil setting.

The Mandarin Ministry is actively involved into the whole St. George ministry. We especially encourage our parishioners to serve the church as volunteers. At the end of 2018, we started training our Altar servers and Altar Guild. From preparing the Eucharist, we learn to serve God together. Last year, there are two theology students joining our team, Michael Liu of Wycliffe College, and James Yu of Trinity College. They have been learning in their own individual duties. I believe that it can benefit their later service at other churches.

Regarding the spiritual life development, we continued our Lenten Retreat at St. Martin in the Field parish. The Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, OGS, the Rector of St. Martin in the Field, was the leading priest of our Lenten Retreat. His wonderful sharing and spiritual leading brought huge benefit to us.

We have also established our own choir. Every Wednesday morning, Fr. James teaches and leads the singers. It has been a very difficult outreach ministry. The members learn from the beginning, reading music, and learning the skills of how to sing. Some gave up, but some stayed. Nevertheless, they are all willing to give their best to God.

On All Saints Eve, we had a special service and gave out candies to children and families. We invited families and their children into our church, distributing candies, and at the same time explaining the significance of our faith to them. All the parents felt that it was very good and has benefited them.

From this simple report, it is not hard to see that this is a growing ministry. All of us are very grateful for the support and encouragement of every parishioner, and we would also like to thank the help of all different ministries, whether Craig, our Parish Administrator, or all the Wardens, or Doug and Roshni from our Altar Guild, who have given us great help. We would also like to thank Fr. Leader's care for the Mandarin Ministry, which has been deeply appreciated.

We feel very privileged to be the first Chinese group here. We have witnessed history, and also his work among us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Morning Wang

Envelope Secretary's Weekly Giving Report – 2018

St. George's has 87 families and individuals who make their offerings with envelopes, Pre-Authorized Remittance Programme or a personalised designated system. The table below summarises the distribution of the weekly givings by all individuals. The amounts include only Regular Givings and PAR. They do not reflect FaithWorks or Capital Campaign or special donations (Christmas, Easter, etc.).

The Parish of St. George on Yonge Anglican Church encourages all members to consider using the PAR system of donation. We presently have 32 parishioners taking part in PAR. It provides your parish with a regular income even when you are not able to attend worship services. Our expenses do continue, even if parishioners are not with us. We thank you for considering this request. PAR forms are available from the office.

Please remember that tax receipts, which are tax deductible, are issued for all offerings \$10.00 and over.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne L. Baillie
Envelope Secretary

Range	Number of Givers	Average per week
0 – \$1.99	17 (11)	1.37 (1.00)
\$2.00 – \$3.99	11 (10)	3.10 (3.22)
\$4.00 – \$5.99	4 (8)	5.12 (5.05)
\$6.00 – \$9.99	7 (7)	7.95 (7.66)
\$10.00 – \$19.99	19 (16)	14.99 (14.66)
\$20.00 – \$29.99	9 (15)	24.71 (24.03)
\$30.00 – \$39.99	3 (2)	35.17 (35.21)
\$40.00 – \$49.99	1 (1)	46.15 (47.88)
\$50.00 +	16 (16)	87.32 (88.66)
	87 (86)	25.17 (26.38)

Numbers in brackets are last year's figures.

Property – 2018

1) Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

In general, the regularly scheduled service and maintenance from Johnson Controls keeps the main HVAC systems running. We had one heat pump require a repair after it failed in the early summer. Johnson Controls continues to diagnose and attempt repairs on the main roof top unit that supplies heat to the Sanctuary space.

Lorraine is actively securing estimates for repairing the kitchen heat-pump that has been non-functional for some time. It is likely to be an expensive repair, so she is working with a couple of contractors to get most cost-effective solution.

2) Alarm system

The Chubb alarm system in our building monitors for fire and security as well as in the elevator should someone become trapped. There were no major issues with this system in 2018. As I transition away from being property warden, the contact list used by Chubb when alarms occur in the building is being updated to include Richard Snider, Lorraine Baillie, Leonard Leader, and Max Wynter. A big thanks to you all for volunteering for this responsibility.

Related to the alarms is an initiative to install security cameras in the building to monitor activity. The system has been ordered and is currently planned to be installed by the end of April.

3) Elevator

We have had minimal issues with the elevator this year. Bruce Elevator, our elevator service company, continued their monthly inspections and performed maintenance as required.

We had one emergency incident with the elevator that was caused by drilling work from the construction next door. While installing tiebacks for their retention walls, they accidentally drilled into the casing for the elevator piston shaft that extends below the building 40-50 feet. Because of the compressed air system used for the drilling, this event caused dust to be blown into the building, setting off the smoke detectors and triggering the fire alarms. The building was evacuated, and the fire department responded. Luckily there was no permanent damage and all clean-up costs were paid for by Diamante.

4) Fire and sprinkler system

The regular yearly fire inspection was performed in late December. The remedial repairs from this inspection are scheduled to be completed by the end of January. The yearly inspection of the carbon monoxide detectors in the garage was also completed in March as expected.

5) Landscape and grounds

With the construction of the condo tower now fully underway the portion of the back garden closest to the active site has been cordoned off to ensure the daycare children remain a safe distance away from the open hole. This area has become quite wild and will require significant maintenance once the temporary fencing is removed. Currently, there is no scheduled date for the fencing to be removed but I believe the entire north garden will need work when it does occur.

7) Garage Door

After the major repair to the garage door in 2017 it has worked reliably in 2018 with no significant repairs required.

8) Other Building Repairs

With the help of Lorraine and Laura Pummell, a meeting was arranged with Herb Goldsmith from EduKids to discuss using their handyman, Dave, as a resource for ongoing repairs in the church. Herb was agreeable to the proposal and we met with Dave at a follow-up meeting to go over the list of outstanding issues in the building. Dave will be taking on these tasks either himself or with other contractors as necessary. We are hopeful this arrangement will be effective in fixing the ever growing list of minor repairs in our aging building.

9) Final words and thanks

As I announced in last year's vestry report, I have decided to retire as building/property warden. I am very grateful to Lorraine over the last several months as she has taken up many of the property tasks that I haven't had time to handle. As in previous years, the EduKids staff are always keeping an eye out for building issues and raising concerns when necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,
Egan Done

Pub Knights – 2018

For those that may wonder what it is that we do, and while the format each month may vary, the underlying theme of our group remains the same. We gather together to share a meal and conversation. Our goal is to build relationships of trust and friendship between people who otherwise may never be in a position to share time together. To that end, the get-together is not limiting in invitation and anyone is more than welcome to drop in, such as one member of the recent Trinity course Practice of Diaconal Ministry, when open invitations were extended to the individuals who may soon become Deacons, supporting the people and ministry efforts of their local parishes in the Diocese. Our meeting outside the church, in amongst the people who live or work in our community, allows others to see us physically, hear us, and hopefully may instil a small spark of faith in them as well. We offer support and comfort to each other as needed, celebrate all successes, and talk about what it means to be a Christian in this modern society. We discuss issues or events that have occurred in our lives, in the community around us, or in the world, and try to determine what our response should be as followers of Jesus. We encourage each of those at this Vestry to think about how they would be able to become a beacon of light in the community around St. George on Yonge for others to see. As always, we meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of every month at "The Frog," on Yonge Street just north of Sheppard, and everyone is always welcome to join in as a regular or just drop in for an occasional visit. Hopefully you will feel the urge to join us one evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Heyes

Altar Guild – 2018

The Altar Guild has had a busy year. The Mandarin Service moved to the Sanctuary from the Chapel as their numbers are increasing. And as they also have Communion on alternate Sundays, baptisms and other events, the Altar Guild had the additional responsibility of stepping in to help set up these events.

The Altar Guild would like to thank all members of the team for their devotion and hard work. We would welcome more members. If anyone is interested, please come forward and speak to one of us.

Wishing everyone a great 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roshni Sircar and Anna Siu

Children's Church School Program – 2018

We are currently using the Sermon for Kids program. Each week we do some singing, hear the story for the week, do related crafts, and have a Children's bulletin with various activities. These are also available for the kids to work on when the children's program has to be cancelled when I am away.

Help is desperately needed for our children's program. We would really like to see it thrive once again and build it up from where we are now. One class for children from 3 – 11 is very difficult but since there are not many children, it is manageable for now. Our current situation does not provide programs for our youngest or for the youth from 12 – 17 or the capability to split up the age groups into separate classes once again.

It is said that the children are the future of our Church . . . so one conclusion is that if we have no children, there is no future for the Church. That is far from what we want, but could unfortunately be the reality.

I have currently only committed to continue up until Easter and will evaluate at that time whether I will continue. I have been doing Church School at St. George's for over 30 years and will be very sad if my decision will have to be that I stop. We need teachers, teacher helpers, help to set up each week, help to clean up, help with special activities such as Good Friday, Lent events, Advent events, etc.

One great thing about our children's program is the kids themselves. They are amazing and a great pleasure to work with!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Baillie

Servers' Guild – 2018

Are you able to walk and carry things at the same time? Do you consider yourself dependable? Can you “think on your feet?” If you answered “yes” to these questions then you could be a server. The term “server” is loosely based on the three basic types/designations of individuals such as acolytes, crucifer, and sub-deacon. If we had more people taking part in this ministry we could share the workload and allow for less “double duty” activities to occur during our normal weekly service, as well as adding a sense of importance to those special services which occur each year such as the Easter Vigil, Easter morning, or Christmas Eve.

Basically the server, or acolyte, is a position that we have not used for some time here at St. George, but they are tasked to carry a torch (if there are two of them) in processions, receive the offering at the Altar, and carry the elements (bread and wine/water) to help the priest or sub-deacon prepare and clear the Altar at communion. The crucifer, who fills in for the server if not present, also carries the cross during processions. The sub-deacon fills in for the server/crucifer if they are not present, as well as assisting the priest with the book during the service, the reading of the gospel, assisting as needed during communion, preparing the Altar for the Eucharist, and dismissing the congregation at the end of the service. The sub-deacon may at times also be asked to prepare and deliver the Homily but that is not an activity that is normally carried out. These activities are easy to perform well, and in simplest terms all are there to assist the priest during the service in whatever they may need done. When I was trained years ago, the priest described the duties that he expected in its lowest denominator as “the good server sees what needs to be done, does it, and no one notices that it is being done.”

There is no age limit to a server position, but it is best that the youngest be at least at the youth level so that they can understand properly the duties expected each week and, if needed, are able to lift and carry the processional cross. If you feel that you could be of assistance in this ministry, or if you know someone who might be interested, please let Leonard or myself know.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Heyes

Music Knights – 2018

The Music Committee is trying to establish St. George as a centre for music performance in Willowdale. We are particularly interested in securing at least one group that will make St. George its major venue for regular concerts in the future. At the time of writing, Interro Quartet will be performing at St. George on Saturday, February 9, and they will be performing again on May 25. The Cornell University Choir will be performing at the Church on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m., James Wallenberg, violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra will lead a trio in a concert entitled “Music for the Soul,” that will feature works by Mozart, Beethoven, Sondheim, Bernstein, and Leonard Cohen.

These concerts are being presented on the basis that there is no cost to St. George, and proceeds from the sale of tickets are shared. Support of the Parish for these concerts will be appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Sperling and Chris Hayward

Don Valley Refugee Resettlers (DVRR) – 2018

DVRR is an association of churches in the Willowdale area that work together to sponsor refugees and help them settle into Canada.

March 27 saw the arrival of our latest refugee family – an Eritrean family with 2 young children. In preparation for their arrival we collected furniture and household items to prepare their apartment. After they arrived we helped them move into their apartment and get settled. This includes helping with documentation, finding a family doctor, getting assessed for English skills, registering children for school, etc. The family are settling into life in Canada well. Their already good English is improving, and the father of the family completed training as a fork-lift operator and has found work. We will continue to support them financially until the end of March this year and provide advice if needed after that.

We are now fundraising and collecting furniture and house-hold items for the next family – a Syrian couple arriving on Valentine’s Day. If you have any gently-used furniture that might be suitable or would like to know what other items we need, please speak to Aili or Max. Likewise if you are interested in volunteering, we are always happy to have new members join the group and share the workload.

St. George on Yonge supports the DVRR financially with a donation from its outreach budget. This year the donation was \$500. In addition, we raised \$310 with pre-Christmas honey and amaryllis sales.

Respectfully Submitted,
Max Wynter and Aili Maki
St. George on Yonge DVRR members

Parish Life Committee– 2018

The Parish Life Committee, along with the Coffee Hour team, took care of a number of events throughout the year. The Pancake Supper and Parish BBQ were both successful. Coffee hour was held each week after the 10:30 service and sometimes featured a special event, e.g., Ruth Ross’s 95th birthday, Carter’s baptism. We helped with a reception after Morning’s ordination. Hospitality was also provided for special services held around the van attack situation. We had a very enjoyable Advent Event with a potluck supper, activities, and a short service. We also took care of the December Seniors’ luncheon, when our sponsor fell through, and provided a Christmas lunch for the people in our gift card programme.

The Coffee Hour team has served faithfully and was happy to welcome Cheryl Dawkins back to the group.

The Parish Life Committee became smaller this year with the loss of a couple of members due to other commitments. We would like to get this group rejuvenated again, so anyone who might be interested would be welcome to be a part of it.

We look forward to this year’s pancake supper to be held on Saturday, March 2. As always, we welcome new volunteers who would like to help.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorraine and Kathy Baillie

Synod of the Diocese of Toronto – 2018

Geraldine Sperling, Izunna Umezinne, and I were the lay members for St. George on Yonge at Synod this year on November 9 – 10.

The theme of the Synod, “Growing in Christ,” was a continuation of the Diocese’s Strategic plan that was introduced in 2016. The strategic plan is a five year vision for the Diocese. The goal of the strategic plan is to establish foundations/programmes for how all the parishes will work together to build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Included on the Synod agenda for the two days were presentations from parishes and diocesan leaders describing missional and outreach moments, some business matters pertaining to the operation of The Diocese of Toronto, and several smaller group sessions to further the discussions, reflections, and considerations about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon to allow for same-sex marriage in our Church.

Here are a few of the highlights of this year’s Synod.

1. The Synod began with a Eucharist Service being shared with approximately 400 people. Imagine the warmth and the wonderful sounds of all those Anglicans singing the hymns.
2. The inspiring missional presentations were about parishes trying new approaches to programmes and projects to meet people within their own communities. The projects included operating a summer sports programme, organising an 850 km canoe pilgrimage from Midland to Montreal over 2 weeks, opening a food bank, and operating a youth drop-in centre one day a week.
3. The outreach presentations were given by PWRDF and the Archbishop’s Working Group on Intercultural Ministry.
4. The opportunity to engage in small group sessions of listening and contributing to discussions about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon to permit same-sex marriages. The results of these sessions will be presented to the General Synod in July 2019 where a vote on the motion will occur. The acknowledgement that this subject has been on many agendas for a long period of time and perhaps there was a feeling of weariness and fear. Regardless of the decision at General Synod, there will be a mixture of reactions to the result of the vote. Nevertheless it was stressed that the overall need was for us to move forward in faith with compassion and empathy in boldness representing the diversity of all of us-the people of God.
5. Near the end of the Synod, the Bishop, Colin Johnson, addressed the assembled audience to report that this Diocesan Synod would be his last as a Diocesan Bishop since he was retiring as of the end of December 2018. Bishop Johnson offered the assembly a recap of his time serving in the Diocese Office as well as being The Bishop of Toronto, highlighting some of the changes he has witnessed in the Diocese and the missional work within the Diocese and the effects on our lives. Then the Coadjutor Bishop, Bishop Andrew Asbil, offered his comments about how grateful he was to have been elected in the June Synod to replace Bishop Johnson in January 2019. He acknowledged that currently he is “in-training” but he definitely is very energised and inspired to proceed with the work of the Diocese of Toronto.

In summation the two days offered a brief glimpse into the workings of the Diocese of Toronto and allowed me to reconnect with a few of my Anglican friends that have moved to other parishes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Pummell

Wednesday Morning Group – 2018

In 2018, the Wednesday Morning Group enjoyed another year of interesting weekly meetings. The group has become smaller because some of our long-time regulars have moved out of the area. Whether we chatted about health and family over coffee, tea, and cookies, or enjoyed stimulating talks, Wednesdays have been a great time for fellowship with the added benefit of worship in the chapel. We are very thankful for our church friends who took time out to visit us, especially Felicity Leader for sharing her photos of St. Kitts, Doug Heyes who gave a talk about Anglican Church history, and Dorothy Ewer with her readings from the Book of Common Prayer. This year we are looking forward to a felting workshop and a travelogue on Tanzania!

We always have fun when we make palm crosses for Palm Sunday service, create cards for shut in parishioners, and interact with visitors from Delmanor's retirement community.

We take turns bringing refreshments and are grateful to Craig for making the coffee each week. From the 2018 refreshment donation offerings we regularly contribute, we were very pleased to present Rev. Leonard with \$257.20 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Our new session began on January 16, 2019. Bad weather sometimes impacts our participation. If you are interested in joining us, you can find us most Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in our meeting room. If you have a topic you would like to share, a travelogue you would like to present, have out-of-town guests you would like to bring, or simply want to see what we are all about – no matter your age – you are all welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Beecham

Legacy Committee – 2018

The Legacy Committee will become part of the Stewardship Committee, which will deal with both on-going donations to the Church, and Planned Giving/Estate Planning.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Sperling

Community Connection – 2018

The term “Community Connection” is a new title that has been developed to describe the activities which separately have been known in the past as Pub Knights, Poetry Café, Community Lunches, Gift Card Distribution, as well as other activities which hopefully will become the added expression of our meeting the community around us face-to-face going forward. When the Ven. Kyn Barker was here early in 2018 he talked a lot about the Baptismal Covenant, and the role of a Christian in fulfilling these promises that have been made, in most cases, on our behalf but which we repeat in our worship service. The efforts taken by the volunteers in these groups attempt to meet these promises head on. Remember that St. George on Yonge is, as each of us is, a member of the body of Christ. We do not belong to a private country club, open to “members only” or to people who think like us, look like us, and worship like us. Each of us is different, and brings separate ideas, skills, and gifts. It is our duty as Christians to share those talents and gifts with the people around us. With more help, and more people, we can do much more. We can plan and successfully use this building as a stepping off point, meeting the community on their own terms and offering them the type of aid and support that truly are a benefit for them. Please consider offering your gifts to this ministry in the coming year and beyond. Always remember that it is not just you being served by God and the church, but that it is the responsibility of all of us, with God’s help, to share his love, caring for the world around us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Heyes

Counters – 2018

Every Sunday when the congregation places their givings on the collection plate, the weekly team of counters sorts the envelopes and other givings, counts it, checks it, and deposits it in the bank. I wish to thank all members of the counting teams for their hard work and dedication to this behind-the-scenes, yet very important ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Snider

Responsible Ministry – 2018

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto adopted the *Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith* Policy in 2003 to assist parishes to ensure their places of ministry are safe and healthy, especially for vulnerable children and adults who come to them in trust. As well, this initiative facilitates appropriate training to ensure the handling of sensitive information and the appropriate dealings with anything financial in our parish life. It is very important to ensure that those we place in positions of power and trust be trained and supported, so that their ministry may be life-giving.

In order to comply with the Policy and ensure our place of worship is a safe place for everyone, following Vestry each year we assess risk for any new ministries, and reassess (if needed) existing ministries, to determine what actions need to be taken for each ministry. We contact all ministry leaders for names of members in each ministry. Then we update our list of status of risk for ministries and members, and determine who needs to complete a criminal records check, and who needs to attend a policy workshop. Both need to occur every 3 years.

Members who participate in ministries that are assessed as low-risk (such as readers and ushers) are not required to do either. Members who participate in ministries that are assessed as medium-risk (such as counters and anointers) need to attend a policy workshop; these ministries allow their members and/or leaders to have some access to resources or information, and/or exercise some authority. Members who participate in ministries that assessed as high-risk (such as wardens and pastoral visitors) need to attend a policy workshop and complete a criminal records check; these ministries allow their members to have significant access to resources and information, and/or require them to demonstrate significant authority.

In 2018, 8 people attended the policy workshop and 1 person completed criminal records checks. Many years ago the leadership decided that members would not be required to pay for their criminal records checks to be completed. We certainly welcome donations, however, to help cover the costs; donations will be included in your total givings for the year on your income tax receipt. The parish paid \$22.60 for criminal records checks in 2018. The policy workshop consists of reviewing the policy, and discussing a relevant Bible passage and case studies as a means to practise applying the policy, so that we can recognise situations in our ministries that may compromise use of resources or a safe environment.

We express our thanks to ministry leaders for supplying lists of participating members; to people who attended the policy workshop and for engaging in the discussion and asking insightful questions; and to members of the congregation for seeing that requirements are met to ensure our parish continues to be a safe and healthy place for everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Leonard Leader and Craig Gustafson

Yonge-Churchill Community Centre Inc. (YCCCI) – 2018

YCCCI is a separate non-profit corporation created by St. George on Yonge. YCCCI owns the Yonge-Churchill Child Care Centre that operates in the church building. Under a license agreement, the day-to-day operations of the daycare are managed by EduKids on behalf of YCCCI. All daycare revenue net of operating expenses, employee payroll, cleaning costs, and management fees are donated to St. George on Yonge.

The centre offers an important service to young parents in the local community, providing all-day child care for infants, toddlers, and pre-school-age children, as well as before- and after-school care for students. Daytime capacity is 88 children and after-school capacity is a further 60 children. The centre is open year-round, and also offers all-day summer programmes for children. Information sheets about the child care centre are available at the welcome desk on the main floor lobby; the centre's management office is on the parish hall level and the phone number is (416) 221-4747.

Two years ago, licenses between St. George on Yonge and YCCCI, as well as between YCCCI and EduKids, were negotiated and renewed for 5 years. The new agreements provided for a 2.5% increase in monthly payments each year plus an additional contribution each December when feasible. This income continues to make up a significant part of the church's annual revenue.

In 2018, YCCCI's monthly payments to St. George on Yonge amounted to \$221,400 plus an additional \$10,000 contribution received in December. YCCCI also made payments of \$20,000 towards an outstanding advance for initial set-up costs before the original Provincial daycare license was granted. The daycare also continues to pay for cleaning services throughout the building, and in 2019 will assist with the cost of replacing all flooring on the lower level of the building. Again in 2018, the daycare donated food supplies for the church's Pancake Supper event.

Current members of YCCCI's Board of Directors are parishioners Eleanor Gilbert, Clavel Lyttle, Hazel Perkin (Vice-President), Laura Pummell (President), and Geraldine Sperling (Recording Secretary). The Board holds regular meetings with staff of EduKids and ex-officio parish representatives of the Priest-in-Charge and churchwardens.

YCCCI and St. George on Yonge continue to have a cordial and constructive working relationship, and we look forward to another successful year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Pummell

ESL Programme – 2018

The ESL programme has continued at St. George through 2018 and into 2019, in three different group formats under the leadership of Angela Ducharme (conversation), Craig Robertson (beginner/instructional), and Morning Wang (Mandarin – beginner). As in past years, we offer our sessions once a week, Tuesday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. (Many students have asked for additional sessions, but we would require additional leader resources to accommodate that request.)

Numbers range widely week by week, within a usual range of 40 to 60, across the three groups. The Mandarin group is significantly larger than the other two groups, the usual attendance being around 50 to 70.

We attract a wide range of participants of different backgrounds, but primarily from the Mandarin, Korean, and Persian communities.

Class formats can be free-form according to the talents/personality of the leader and the group, and do not require a high degree of preparation or teaching experience. **We are always looking for people to come forward to lead or help to lead.**

The value of the sessions is not only in assisting in developing English language skills. Probably greater benefits to the participants are:

- Sharing the Gospel and introducing Christian faith to them;
- The opportunity for social interaction among the participants themselves – and especially among people from different cultural and language backgrounds;
- The opportunity to acquire more exposure to Canadian news and issues – it is striking how frequently they admit to being isolated within their communities and their families; and
- An increased sense of comfort, and reduced anxiety, about their ability to communicate in English in the community.

How does our ESL programme fit into St. George's mission and evangelical obligations? We do not seek overtly to gain converts. We are trying to practise Christ's charge to us to be a gift and a resource to the community – and to show Christian love and welcome to newcomers and help them to become at home in Toronto.

That said, Morning has successfully increased the ranks of the Mandarin ministry through our ESL sessions, which our broader English language support network assists.

And we demonstrate to Yonge Street that we are here and working in Christ's name.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Ducharme, Craig Robertson, and Morning Wang

Profit & Loss Budget versus Actual for 2018 (Unaudited) and Budget for 2019

	Jan - Dec 18	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4001 · INTERNAL SUPPORT			
Total 4002 · Offering	38,988.67	46,805.00	41,000.00
4020 · Open Offering-Receipted	5,405.00	3,450.00	5,000.00
4030 · Open Offer'g-Non Receipted	5,716.54	9,300.00	6,000.00
4040 · Pre-Authorized Giving	75,232.20	77,000.00	77,000.00
4050 · Flowers & Decorations	890.00	1,200.00	1,000.00
4052 · Church School	54.85	200.00	75.00
4080 · Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,762.50	5,400.00	4,000.00
Total 4001 · INTERNAL SUPPORT	129,049.76	143,355.00	134,075.00
4060 · SEASONAL OFFERING			
4062 · Lent & Easter Offering	2,010.00	3,630.00	2,000.00
4064 · Thanksgiving Offering	895.00	2,500.00	1,000.00
4066 · Christmas Offering	2,535.00	5,500.00	3,000.00
Total 4060 · SEASONAL OFFERING	5,440.00	11,630.00	\$6,000.00
4100 · NON OFFERING			
4110 · Bequests & Memorials	650.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
4120 · Specific Purpose-Special	2,872.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total 4100 · NON OFFERING	3,522.00	6,500.00	\$11,500.00
4130 · Capital Fund Contribution	2,000.00	8,500.00	\$5,000.00
4200 · SPECIAL FUND RAISING			
4225 · Book Sales	0.00	125.00	-
4230 · Christmas Cake Sales	100.00	100.00	100.00
4240 · Fundraising	1,940.00	0.00	1,000.00
4200 · SPECIAL FUND RAISING - Other	0.00	0.00	-
Total 4200 · SPECIAL FUND RAISING	2,040.00	225.00	\$1,100.00
4250 · CHURCH GROUPS			
4260 · Bazaar	2,610.00		2,500.00
4265 · Rummage Sale	0.00	4,000.00	-
4270 · Pancake Supper	200.00	400.00	200.00
4275 · Picnic/Barbeque	47.10	250.00	200.00
4285 · Church Social Events	0.00	0.00	
4250 · CHURCH GROUPS - Other	12.00		
Total 4250 · CHURCH GROUPS	2,869.10	4,650.00	\$2,900.00
4290 · Faithworks Contributions	474.75	500.00	\$500.00
4300 · EXTERNAL SUPPORT			
4320 · Tor Korean Methodist Church	39,502.30	39,502.30	40,687.25
4350 · Parking	20,160.00	27,720.00	31,640.00
4420 · Alcoholics Anonymous	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
4530 · Hall Rentals	9,000.00	7,500.00	10,000.00
Total 4300 EXTERNAL SUPPORT	70,462.30	76,522.30	\$84,127.25
4500 · MISCELLANEOUS			
4510 · Weddings	265.00	0.00	200.00
4520 · Funerals	0.00	500.00	200.00
4540 · Hospitality Supplies	471.85	650.00	500.00
4590 · Custodial	7,265.65	10,000.00	10,000.00
4500 - Other	7,203.04	0.00	-
Total 4500 · MISCELLANEOUS	8,002.50	11,150.00	\$ 10,900.00
4600 · OTHER INCOME			
4610 · CIBC Interest Income	522.66	0.00	-
4710 · Diocese Dividend Income	30,851.24	30,150.00	30,000.00
4715 · Our Faith- Our Hope	0.00	350.00	-
4750 · Market Value Dec / (Inc)	0.00	0.00	-
4810 · York Rectors Fund	6,800.04	6,800.04	7,000.00
4811 · Diocese Subsidy	2,500.00		-
4600 · OTHER INCOME - Other	0.00	500.00	-
Total 4600 · OTHER INCOME	40,673.94	37,800.04	\$ 37,000.00
Total 4900 · TRANSFERS FROM FUNDS	50.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	264,584.35	300,832.34	\$ 293,102.25
Gross Profit	264,584.35	300,832.34	\$ 293,102.25

Profit & Loss Budget versus Actual for 2018 (Unaudited) and Budget for 2019

		Jan - Dec 18	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
	Expense			
	5020 · EXTERNAL MINISTRY			
	5030 · Diocesan Allotment	19,184.52	19,184.49	15,477.72
	5040 · Parish Outreach	500.00	6,500.00	2,000.00
	5050 · Annual Synod Expense	556.00	1,000.00	600.00
	Total 5020 · EXTERNAL MINISTRY	20,240.52	26,684.49	\$18,077.72
	Total 5101 · RECTOR	65,257.15	66,981.20	\$72,513.76
	5180 · CURATE	46,056.06	0.00	\$48,000.00
	5220 · STAFF and PASTORAL SUPPORT			
	5300 · Supply Clergy & Honoraria	1,849.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	5305 · Pastoral Support	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
	5310 · Supply Organist	0.00	750.00	750.00
	5320 · Organist Prof Development	155.00	0.00	200.00
	Total 5220 · STAFF and PASTORAL SUPPORT	2,004.00	2,750.00	\$12,950.00
	Total 5401 · CHURCH SUPPLIES	2,814.61	28,620.00	\$5,300.00
	5500 · CHURCH PROGRAMMES			
	5591 · Mandarin Ministry Expenses	3,346.71	3,250.00	3,000.00
	5500 · Young Adult Ministry	0.00	4,241.78	6,000.00
	5546 · FaithWorks Grant Expenses	543.76		1,500.00
	5570 · Adult Education	279.64	400.00	400.00
	5572 · Screening Expenses	20.00	150.00	400.00
	5580 · Hospitality Supplies	904.71	1,950.00	1,000.00
	5590 · Special Events	1,089.55	850.00	800.00
	5593 · Social Events	0.00	0.00	-
	5595 · Other Events	923.88	2,000.00	1,000.00
	Total 5500 · CHURCH PROGRAMMES	7,108.25	12,841.78	\$14,100.00
	5501 · FELLOWSHIP			
	Total 5501 · FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
	5520 · CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY			
	5550 · Children's Program and Youth Minis	0.00	850.00	\$1,000.00
	Total 5520 · CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY	0.00	850.00	\$1,000.00
	5805 · Disb re Rectors Discretion	5,762.01	5,400.00	\$6,000.00
	Total 6200 · ADMINISTRATION	15,980.35	20,695.00	\$ 26,600.00
	Total 6400 · BANK CHARGES	2,516.10	850.00	\$2,700.00
	6600 · Payroll Expenses	106,623.43	110,000.00	\$109,000.00
	6700 · WSIB Expenses	695.55	825.00	\$800.00
	Total 7200 · CHURCH EXPENSES	108,545.19	114,100.00	\$109,300.00
	Total 7300 · CHURCH MAINTENANCE	46,443.08	31,800.00	\$54,000.00
	Total 7400 · RECTORY	0.00	0.00	
	8310 · Depreciation Ex Building	0.00	0.00	
	8320 · Dep'n Exp Furnishings	0.00	0.00	
	8330 · Dep'n Exp Equipment	0.00	0.00	
	9000 · FINANCIAL EXPENSES			
	9101 · TD Mortgages Interest	63,407.50	60,337.92	64,000.00
	9200 · YCCCI Payments	-231,400.00	-221,400.00	- 246,935.00
	Total 9000 · FINANCIAL EXPENSES	-167,992.50	-161,062.08	-\$182,935.00
	Total Expense	262,053.80	261,335.39	\$297,406.48
	Net Ordinary Income	2,530.55	39,496.95	-\$4,304.23
	Other Income/Expense			
	Other Income			
	4615 · Curacy Grant	23,333.36	0.00	24,000.00
	4620 · Mandarin Ministry Funding	15,350.00	13,400.00	3,000.00
	4916 · New Hope Grant	23,333.36		24,000.00
	Total Other Income	62,016.72	13,400.00	\$62,295.77
	Net Other Income	62,016.72	13,400.00	\$62,295.77
	Net Income	64,547.27	52,896.95	\$57,991.54

Nominating Committee Report for 2019

The following persons have been nominated and have agreed to serve in these positions subject to the approval of, or their election at, Vestry.

The Parish Executive Committee

Rector's Warden (appointed)	Lorraine Baillie
People's Warden	_____
Deputy Warden	Kwan Luk
Deputy Warden	Aili Maki
Treasurer	_____

Envelope Secretary (appointed) Anne Baillie

Parish Advisory Board

Membership includes Parish Executive Committee and the following members-at-large.

Nancy Dodsworth, Egan Done, Doug Heyes, Hazel Perkin, Laura Pummell, Kien Siu, Geraldine Sperling, Maxwell Wynter, Kay Yuen, Young Adult Representative, Mandarin Fellowship Representative

Candidates for Lay Members of Synod

Laura Pummell, Geraldine Sperling, Doug Heyes (Substitute)

Parish Tribunal Eleanor Gilbert, Doug Heyes, Geraldine Sperling

YCCCI Laura Pummell, Hazel Perkin, Geraldine Sperling, Eleanor Gilbert, Clavel Lyttle

Church Groups and Committees

Altar Guild	Roshni Sircar
Archives/Heritage Room	_____
Children's Ministry	Kathy Baillie
Coffee Hour	Lorraine Baillie
Community Connection	Doug Heyes
Counters	Richard Snider
Discernment for a Deacon	Max Wynter
Don Valley Refugee Resettlers	Aili Maki, Max Wynter
English as a Second Language	Craig Robertson, The Rev. Morning Wang
FaithWorks	Rudy Powell

Church Groups and Committees continued →

Joyful Giving	Geraldine Sperling
Intercessors	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Legacy	Alan Sperling
Library	Eleanor Gilbert
Mandarin Ministry	The Rev. Morning Wang, Kwan Luk
Marketing, Social Media, Website Signage	Max Wynter, Egan Done, Craig Gustafson
Music	Michael Leach
Music Knights	Alan Sperling, Chris Hayward
Parish Life	Kathy Baillie
Parish Newsletter	Kathy Baillie, Craig Gustafson
Pastoral Care	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Prayer Ministry	Margie Lyttle
Property Support	Richard Snider
Responsible Ministry	The Rev. Leonard Leader, Craig Gustafson
Ushers	Anne Marie Powell
Wednesday Morning Group	Ann Beecham
Welcome Desk	Craig Gustafson
Worship Support (Anointers, Chalice, Readers, Servers)	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Young Adult Ministry	Anne Wynter

Respectfully Submitted,

Kien Siu, The Rev. Leonard Leader, Doug Heyes, Laura Pummell

Nominating Committee

Social Justice & Advocacy Vestry Motion 2019
Standing in Solidarity

In view of the drastically rising economic inequity in our province and in the world, and because governments at various levels often appear indifferent to the needs of the most vulnerable, this year's vestry motion asks your parish to make a commitment to protect and stand with all who are living in poverty, through direct local and parish outreach and through meaningful advocacy, calling on governments to fulfil their responsibilities to all our citizens, and speaking out clearly when these obligations are not met. We make these commitments based on our baptismal vows, and understand them to be an imperative of our faith.

Because we follow Jesus Christ as Lord, who preached good news to the poor who declared that whatever we do for those who lack food or drink or clothing, the sick, the stranger, and the prisoner, we do for Him, and who commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves,

And because our baptismal covenant calls us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being,

We, the vestry of the parish of St. George on Yonge commit to standing in solidarity with those living in poverty by taking the following actions:

- 1) Increasing our direct outreach activity by _____
and
- 2) Increasing our advocacy by _____



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Suggestions for Possible Action (choose at least one from each column)

<p>We commit to increasing our direct outreach by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Increasing our parish FaithWorks giving by 10% over last year<input type="checkbox"/> Researching and pursuing options to expand our outreach to our neighbourhood, with a report on results to the 2020 vestry. (Options may include establishing or expanding a community meal, Deacons' cupboard, or clothing exchange; starting a community garden to donate fresh produce to the local food bank or meal programme, etc. Remember to do your homework first – what needs exist in the community that are not already being met?)<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p>We commit to increasing our advocacy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Partnering with groups and coalitions working to maintain the minimum wage increase and labour protections of Bill 148, and advocating for these policies ourselves<input type="checkbox"/> Collaborating with groups and coalitions working to establish a minimum income threshold (whether through basic income or an increase in social assistance rates) and essential health benefits<input type="checkbox"/> Building alliances with groups providing, and working for, housing for all<input type="checkbox"/> Standing in solidarity with those providing safe injection sites and other harm reduction services<input type="checkbox"/> Standing in solidarity with Indigenous people whose treaty and other rights are under threat, and working to support justice for them<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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2019 Social Justice Vestry Motion Backgrounder

Canada is, overall, a wealthy country, and Ontario a wealthy province. Even so, 16.8% of Canadians, and 17% of Ontarians – more than 1 in every 6 people – live in poverty.¹ Poverty rates are even higher for children, especially children in single-parent families. Thirty of the fifty-nine federal ridings in the Diocese of Toronto have child poverty rates above the national average. Nine of these are among the thirty federal ridings with the highest child poverty rates in Canada, including Toronto Centre (where 40% of children live in poverty), Scarborough-Guildwood (32.9%), Etobicoke North (30.8%), York-South Weston (29.9%), and Don Valley East (28.7%).² Poverty rates are also higher than the national average for single people with disabilities, racialized, and Indigenous people.

¹ Poverty Trends 2018, Citizens for Public Justice. Source: Statistics Canada: After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependents based on Census Family Low Income Measure, by family type and family type composition, 2016 income year.

² campaign2000.ca/child-poverty-by-federal-ridings/

Across Ontario, income levels for the most vulnerable have not kept pace with inflation, much less with rising housing costs. Social assistance rates remain between 30% and 50% below the poverty line. In Mississauga, food bank use by seniors has risen by 52% in the past two years, reflecting a growing gap between pension benefits and the cost of living.³ Even in a relatively affluent area like Barrie, the number of people living in poverty has increased significantly, with food bank use up by 36% since 2011.⁴ Ideally, employment would provide a pathway out of poverty for most people, but the rise of precarious (part-time, temporary, and casual) employment has trapped many workers in poverty, which is exacerbated by lack of access to affordable childcare for working families.

Planned increases to social assistance and changes to social assistance rules that would have begun to ease the burden for the most vulnerable people in our province have been cut or put on “pause,” perhaps to be cancelled, by the new Ontario government. While the increase of the minimum wage to \$14/hr in 2018 represented a significant gain for low-wage workers, the freezing of this wage until 2020 and the repeal of key protections for precarious workers, including pay equity, two paid sick days per year, and scheduling provisions will make it harder for low-wage workers to escape poverty, particularly if they have to choose between taking a sick day and being paid, or making childcare arrangements and keeping their job.

Poverty is not just about money. Poverty makes people sick when they cannot afford dental care or prescription medications, cannot afford to take a day off to recover from an illness or injury, or must choose between nutritious groceries and paying the rent. Poverty exacerbates mental and emotional stress on individuals, couples, and families. It erodes people’s dignity and their sense of belonging to and participating in the wider society.

The language used to deny and erode protections for the most vulnerable exacerbates this loss of dignity. People on social assistance and in minimum wage work are often publicly derided as lazy, lacking in ambition, and fraudulent. The reality is that people go on social assistance because of employment, family, or health emergencies – the kind of misfortune to which none of us is immune. Many minimum wage workers work long hours, often at multiple jobs and in demanding conditions to make ends meet. And the rate of fraud is no higher among social assistance recipients than in any other walk of life.

Jesus came to “bring good news to the poor” (Matthew 11:5; Luke 4:18), declaring that whatever we do for those in need – “the least of these” – we do as if to him (Matthew 25:31–46), and calling us to “love our neighbours as ourselves” (Mark 12:31). As followers of Jesus, we are called by our baptism to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. We must, therefore, protect and stand with our neighbours living in poverty, not only by reaching out to meet their immediate needs, but also by calling for public policies that enable them to live in dignity.

³ themississaugafoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Face-of-Hunger-Report.pdf

⁴ www.simcoe.com/news-story/8382666-why-the-number-of-low-income-residents-has-grown-in-barrie-since-2006/