

A message from the Rector

Friends,

I am writing you concerning some changes we have made regarding when and how we meet as a Vestry.

For the uninitiated a Vestry in an Anglican Church is made up of individuals on the parish list who are 16 years old and above and who are committed to the ministry of All Saints in our community and beyond. Vestries are charged with passing motions having to do with finances and properties, and to elect selected parish officers.

The Canons of the Diocese of Toronto require us to hold a meeting of Vestry before the end of February each year in order to receive the financial statements for the previous year, and to authorise a budget of income and expense for the current year. Traditionally these February Vestries have also been the occasion to elect officers, to receive programme reports, and to hear the Incumbent's report and vision for the parish.

Over the past number of years the Diocese of Toronto and many parishes in the Diocese have effected changes around these meetings. For instance the Diocese of Toronto now separates what used to be an annual Synod into two meetings of Synod. The one meeting is a Financial Synod and the other deals with issues of programming, identity, and the election of officers. Many parishes have adopted a similar model by **moving to two meetings of Vestry and this is what All Saints is planning to do beginning in 2012.**

Henceforth we will have the canonically required meeting of **Vestry each February solely to deal with financial matters.** This is predicated by the fiscal year being January to December and will include receiving financial statements for the previous year, and approving a budget for the current year. Other motions or reports of a financial nature could also be considered. In 2012 this meeting will be **Sunday February 26 following the 10:00 Celebration.**

Our **second meeting will deal with issues around programming**, including the reception of programme reports, discussion around strategic vision, the election and appointment of officers, and the Incumbents charge to Vestry. The timing of this Vestry will reflect a more accurate perspective on what constitutes a church year at the programme level. For all intents and purposes our life together follows a September to June lifecycle with reduced programming in July and August. As such our 2nd meeting of Vestry will take place sometime in May with a mind to receiving reports from the current programme year, planning and strategising for the coming programme year - and indeed years beyond that - and lecting and appointing new leaders who will turnover at the end of June in preparation for the next programme year. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this change is that a meeting unburdened with financial statements and budgets will allow us to use Vestry more effectively and creatively in addressing programme needs and imagining innovative ways forward.

I should also add that a Special Meeting of Vestry can be called at any time the Canons require.

This is, I believe, a positive development for all sorts of reasons, and is the result of much conversation and consultation. Our Bishop is fully supportive and encouraging, and myself, the Churchwardens, and other parish leaders completely onside. I would especially like to convey my gratitude to our Churchwardens Sheri, Ron, Carolyn, and Ross who by supporting this initiative have voluntarily added some months to their initially agreed upon term.

Every blessing,

Andrew

The Rev'd Canon Dr Andrew Sheldon

All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church

2850 Bloor St W

Toronto ON M8X 1B2

416.233.1125 ext 1