

St Barnabas Church, North Hatley
Special Vestry Meeting - March 1, 2015
Minutes

1. The Venerable Edward Simonton chaired the meeting.
2. Father Edward called the meeting to order and led the congregation in prayer.
3. Father Edward explained that there was one item on the agenda which was to determine how the congregation would move forward following the retirement at the end of June of the Vicar, the Venerable David Oliver. As Archdeacon, Father Edward has been in discussions with the wardens about the future of the parish. He also explained that the Deanery Ministry Committee (DMC) has been discussing the development of the churches in the southern end of the Deanery due to clergy retirements.
4. Father Edward described what he had observed and what had been reported to him about the culture of the Parish of St Barnabas. It seems that there is a history of difficulties with how parishioners treat each other. There has also been a tendency to find fault with the priest (not all.) The parish members present at the meeting agreed with this description and expressed a desire to change the culture. Father Edward pointed out that their energy would be better spent on outreach. There was discussion about the process for improving the culture. Could solicit opinion through questionnaires. A counselor could be used for conflict management.
5. There is a need for two processes of discernment: 1) the six months from July to December and 2) the long-term future.
6. One option is for the parish to enter the deanery model of ministry for the initial six-month period. The Bishop could name an interim priest for this period, but he would probably appoint Father Edward. Since Father Edward is part of the clerical team for the deanery model the effect would be the same as joining. The new model was described, and the many activities were described. The funding formula was also explained.
7. Various other topics were briefly discussed which related to the future of the parish.
 - a. A draft budget for 2015/16 has been prepared which is based on joining the new model for 18 months. The budget has not yet been discussed and ratified by the vestry.
 - b. It would be preferable not to sell the rectory until the long-term future has been decided. However, the parish would have to pay municipal taxes if the property were rented.
 - c. The parish could become a major contributor to the health and welfare of the community with the surplus funds that would be available if the church were in the model. Increased community outreach would be a big change for the community since there presently is not much community engagement outside of services. The parish will need strong leadership if significant changes are to be effected.
8. A motion was moved and seconded for the Special Vestry to enter the deanery model for six months following the departure of the Vicar. However, some of

those present wished to consult more widely with the parish members who were unable to attend the meeting, especially the summer members. After further discussion it was decided to accept the proposal in principle pending consultation.

- a. Motion: that the Special Vestry of St Barnabas accept in principle the proposal to enter the deanery model of ministry for a period of discernment following the departure of the Vicar. The motion to be ratified at another Special Vestry meeting at the end of April following wider consultation. Moved by Brad, seconded by Page. 21 in favour, one opposed.
9. The wardens will disseminate information to the parish members.
 - a. Letter from the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean
 - b. Letter from the wardens
 - c. Final report of the DMC approved by the Bishop and the Deanery Council
 - d. Archdeacon's Winter letter
 - e. Minutes of the Special Vestry
 10. The meeting was adjourned.