

12 November 2023

Dear friends and fellow Anglicans,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are writing with this update on the work amongst the Anglican parishes of St. Andrew's, Sunny Brae; St. George's, Moncton; St. James, Moncton; St. Mary's and St. Alban's, Hillsborough and Riverside-Albert; and St. Philip's, Moncton. Our aim is to reach every Anglican in these five parishes to communicate the following information:

1. A legal name for the new parish was recently determined through a voting process in the five parishes. 'The Corporation of the Anglican Parish of the Five Saints' received the most votes of the 38 submissions. Thanks to all who submitted names, and thanks to those who voted! This new, legal name will be used once Archbishop Edwards officially declares the amalgamation. The names of each of the Churches (St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. James, St. Mary's, St. Alban's, and St. Philip's) will remain as they are.
2. On October 29th, we gathered at St. James' Church for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Sunday School, and a pot-luck lunch. Many thanks to the folks at St. James and to all who contributed to the worship and to the meal. The next combined Service is set for The First Sunday in Advent (December 3rd) at 4:00 PM at St. George's. Archbishop Edwards and Archdeacon Ham plan to join us for 'Advent Carols and Lessons', and for a General Meeting of Greater Moncton Anglicans that will follow the Service. At 11:00 AM on December 31st, (The Sunday After Christmas Day), we are scheduled to worship together at St. Philip's for 'Christmas Carols and Lessons'. A pot-luck lunch will follow.
3. Through the Summer and Fall the Planning Committee has been meeting to discuss some of the details of the amalgamation, including these recommendations:
 - a. that the new parish have a Vestry composed of two members from each of the five Congregations;
 - b. that the new Parish Corporation consist of the Vestry plus two Parish Wardens, the Vestry Clerk and Parish Treasurer (note: voting privileges could be extended on special occasions to Chapel Wardens);
 - c. that each Congregation elect a Chapel Warden to act of behalf of the Parish Wardens in their respective Congregations;
 - d. that each Congregation establish an Executive Committee (including their two Vestry members and Chapel Warden) to convene Congregational meetings quarterly, or as required, to oversee the financial and maintenance management of its building, property, church furnishings, investments, outreach ministries, etc., and to facilitate communications from Parish Vestry Meetings;

- e. that each Congregation (as well as groups and organizations) will continue to manage and control their bank accounts, making arrangements to do so with the new Parish Corporation;
- f. that each Congregation be responsible for all costs and expenses related to their church building. This means that all capital projects for church maintenance, and all utilities (water, sewer, power, heat, telephone, photocopier, internet, snow removal, cleaning, lawn care, insurance) will be the sole responsibility of their congregation. Therefore, the expense budget for each church building will NOT be included in the budget of the new parish;
- g. that each Congregation explore opportunities for community partnerships – partnerships that would result in significant income, to assist with church building costs;
- h. that all expenses related to the clergy of the new parish, including supply clergy, will be shared by the Congregations and included in the budget of the new parish;
- i. that all expenses related to the new parish office, including equipment, materials, and the Administrator's stipend will be shared by the Congregations and included in the budget of the new parish;
- j. that rectories and rectory funds will be managed by the Congregations to which they belong. However, rectory expenses (maintenance costs, utilities, snow removal, lawn care, etc.) will be shared by the congregations and included in the budget of the new parish;
- k. Although debts will rest with the new corporation, management of debts will be the responsibility of the Congregation that presently carries them. Congregational debts will NOT be assumed by the new parish Corporation;
- l. that the Parish Central Office be located at St. George's Church and the current Administrator be retained, if possible;
- m. that satellite offices may continue in each Congregation to facilitate communications and logistics, as required, with the help of volunteers;
- n. that the method of accounting (whether by maintaining separate bank accounts or by sub-ledgering) be arranged with the Parish Central Treasurer by each Congregation;
- o. that one set of offering envelopes with the names of the five churches be ordered/used in the new parish, along with the Pre-Authorised Remittance system and E-transfers;
- p. that each congregation conduct its Annual Meeting as early in the New Year as possible, and no later than Monday, February 19th, so that the first Parish Meeting of the new parish may be held before the end of February. At its Annual Meeting, each congregation will vote on whether or not to join the amalgamation. Congregations that decide to join will then elect two members to serve on Vestry; one or two Chapel Wardens and an Executive Committee. It is conceivable that a Chapel warden could be 'double-hatted' and serve as a Vestry member. At their Annual Meetings,

Congregations may also nominate two people to serve as Parish Wardens, to be elected at the first Parish Meeting. The two Parish Wardens could be from the same congregation, but only as a last resort. If possible, it is recommended that the Parish Wardens be from different parishes;

- q. that the proposed budget for the new Parish be circulated before the Congregational Annual Meetings and voted on at the first meeting of the new Parish;
- r. that specific banking and accounting details be arranged between the Parish Central Treasurer and the five Congregations, in accordance with the principles noted in the above recommendations, and generally accepted accounting practices;
- s. that no equation/formula be requested of the Congregations forming the new Parish; rather Christian charity will be the standard for giving; and
- t. that concerns and objections to the Archbishop's Notice of Intention be communicated to him, in writing, by December 29th, 2023. These will be considered according to the Anglican Church Act directives.

4. Anyone with questions about these recommendations or about any aspect of the process is encouraged to contact one of the Planning Committee members or email office@stgeorgesmoncton.ca and answers will be provided by the Planning Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Members of the Planning Committee:

St. Philip's:	Michael Briggs	Robert Caddick
St. George's:	Cliff Reid	Sheila Colbourne
St. James:	Milton Pratt	Chris Mutch
St. Andrew's	Brian Johnson	Natalie Leighton
St. Mary's	Peter Jubb	Ann Moreton
Clergy:	Wendy Amos-Binks	David Alston
	Chris VanBuskirk	Rob Salloum