



*God is calling us to be an evolving community of faith inspired to embrace our future as we;*

- Deepen our commitment to each other*
- Nurture our spiritual vitality and growth*
- Live a life of loving influence in the world.*

**PRESENT:** Rev. Joe Gaspar, Rev. Heather Power, Kathy Shortt, Jennifer Allan, Jack Reynolds, Don Linkletter, Rob Vanderlinden, Kathy Hagedorn Hehl, Barb Leask-Wynne

**REGRETS:** Karen Schertzberg, Maureen Crawford, Jim Bowman, Debbie Mietthig

**OBSERVERS/GUESTS:** Shelley Mutton, Bruce Mutton, Mary Reynolds, Franceen Wagner, Lynn Harper, Rob Hehl

**1. Opening Prayer and Lighting of Candle** Rev. Joe Gaspar/Rev. Heather Power

Kathy Shortt welcomed everyone and thanked us for the time and consideration we've already put into the question of renting our space to St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church. Jack Reynolds prepared an initial fact-finding document and CE also has put considerable time and effort into preparing a document listing their concerns.

**Some additional information from speaking to Mariana (the contact for the Romanian Orthodox Church):**

1. They actually plan to have their service at 10:00 am with coffee hour at 11:00. The priest would be arriving around 9:00 to get ready for the service.
2. If we give Mariana an absolute decision by December 11, they are okay with that. That gives us some breathing room!
3. CE suggested that they hold their services in the gym, but Mariana feels the gym will not meet their needs as the space is too big.
4. Jack Reynolds and Bert Blackburn have looked into parking and determined that we have enough parking spaces for both St. Mary's and Parkminster at the same time, even in the winter with reduced spaces available because of snow. We would ask St. Mary's to save the spaces close to the sanctuary for people who have difficulty walking.
5. They have been exploring other churches in the area, but only have offers for afternoon services. They are very hopeful to work something out with Parkminster. They say we are known in the community as being a friendly church.

**So we need to decide:**

1. Can we offer the Double Classroom to St. Mary's Romanian Church for a 10:00 service?
2. If not, can we offer them the Double Classroom for a morning service at another time?



3. If not, can we offer them the gym for a morning service?
4. Can we offer them the Double Classroom for an afternoon service?

### **Our Challenge:**

How do we help our neighbours and show respect for the situation they find themselves in while also looking after the needs of our congregation and the needs of the youth in our Christian Education Program?

**Jack Reynolds acquired information by speaking to Robin Hatt (custodian and long time member) at St. Paul's Lutheran, and Mariana (the contact) from St. Mary Orthodox Mission:**

### **Information re St. Paul's Lutheran**

1. St. Paul's Lutheran is located on Erb Street, at the corner of Bridge and Lancaster...a very short distance from Parkminster.
2. They are demolishing their existing building in order to build a major affordable housing complex on their property. The new building will include a place for St. Paul's to continue to worship.
3. They are holding their decommissioning service on January 12 and must vacate the building by January 31.
4. St. Paul's has only about 25 people worshipping on Sunday and are moving for an expected construction period of 18 months to Bloomingdale United.
5. St. Paul's worships at 9:15 on Sunday.

### **Information re St. Mary Orthodox Mission (Romanian)**

1. St. Mary Orthodox Mission has been worshipping at St. Paul's for many years, and uses the sanctuary for their services.
2. They are looking for a permanent arrangement elsewhere...they don't plan to return to the new St. Paul's worship facility.
3. If we accept them, they would hold their service from 9:00 to 10:00. Many stay for conversation afterward, and they have periodic lunches afterward on other occasions. So they wouldn't vacate the space until 11:00 or so.
4. When asked if they would consider holding their services at noon or 1:00 p.m....with the added advantage that they could use our sanctuary...they said they couldn't. They have children at their services and don't feel that they can move to an afternoon time.
5. They would like to rent the double classroom for their Sunday services. The chapel would be too small.
6. About 30-40 people come to their services, so they would likely take up 15-20 parking spaces.
7. They presently pay \$1,000 per month to St. Paul's.
8. When they hold a lunch (an agape) after their service...they bring their food and Tim Horton's coffee, but presently use St. Paul's dishes, mugs and cutlery.
9. They do their own set-up (chairs, tables, artifacts, etc.) and clean-up.



10. They do not use a sound system or a/v system.
11. They would not need any services from our office staff.
12. They would need a small amount of storage space for a small number of 3x8 religious signs and other items used in the service.
13. Their priest drives from London to conduct their services.

**Feedback from Christian Education**

- safety concerns (e.g., stair traffic) re: coming and going
- want our youngest members to feel comfortable
- how will our young families feel about “strangers” in the double classroom
- limits flexibility for programming
- running up and down the halls would be challenging
- who manages complaints,
- if it isn’t working, will we help them find a space (No, that would be too much)

**Other feedback**

- noise travels from the chapel, double classroom, and the corner classroom
- a trial basis is a good way to check it out
- shouldn’t negatively impact the inclusive mandate
- the more the church is used, the more vibrant it is
- does the orthodox calendar have any other services, special events?
- will use the washrooms near the gym
- consider a 6 month trial

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Income</li> <li>-Outreach opportunity</li> <li>-Share our faith</li> <li>-Sharing social time (i.e., coffee)</li> <li>-Need to be flexible during special services/events (e.g., chili lunch, soup)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery is too small and doesn’t have an</li> <li>-appropriate wall to use with the projector</li> <li>-would need to move play group stuff in order to use the nursery</li> <li>-gym activity? Inconvenient to move youngest children to the gym to play a game</li> <li>-noise from our children (disrupting their service),</li> <li>-adults mixed with children</li> <li>-wouldn’t want the children to feel they need to quiet down</li> <li>-more coordination</li> <li>-impact on young/new families</li> <li>-use of kitchen</li> <li>-CE opposed to double classroom use</li> </ul>



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**Other questions/comments**

- own insurance (3rd party insurance)?
- discussion about the rental fee
- busy time premium rate ( to be discussed by property and council)
- where to put coats?
- need to hear the voices of our young families
- growing sunday school
- CE opposed to double classroom
- chili lunch, baptism, confirmands, soup lunch, TCOW

What is the best way to proceed?

- people aren't keen on sharing the space at the same time
- change their time, or change to the gym (10 a.m.)
- discussion about events in the gym that happen more often than we realized (1/month)
- could offer them any spot if it's the afternoon (2 p.m.)
- sanctuary or double classroom 1 p.m. or gym for 2 p.m.

**Motion** by Jen Allan that we offer the afternoon options (Sanctuary/Double Classroom at 1 p.m. or the Gym at 2 p.m.) to St. Mary Orthodox Mission and that council and property use the rental agreement to determine the rental price. **Seconded** by Barb Leask Wynne. **Carried.**