

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
Service Team Meeting Tuesday February 21, 2017
Lounge @7:00 pm

REMIT Presentation: 7:00-7:30

Congregational Visitors re: Remit #1 & #2 – Cathy and Karen

Cathy and Karen distributed a handout with information on the remits. Remit 1: Three Council Model proposes that the church have three councils, or levels, of decision-making structure, rather than the current four courts. The intent is to create a sustainable church structure given the decline of volunteer and financial resources. The Video: The Proposed Three-Council Model was shown, available at www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report. Discussion followed.

- It was asked what the benefit of this model would be for individual churches, such as St. Andrew's.
- One advantage of the model is it would eliminate some levels of bureaucracy, and therefore allow churches such as St. Andrew's to have more autonomy in decision-making.

The Question (Remit 1) was brought to a vote:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) the United Church be re-organized into the three-council model approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Result: Unanimous “Yes”

Following this, Cathy presented Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement. Transfer and settlement is a process which matches ministers with pastoral charges. Since transfer and settlement became optional for candidates for ordination and commissioning, fewer and fewer candidates have chosen to be settled. Most candidates seek their own calls or appointments by applying to specific churches.

- If transfer and settlement is eliminated, it may become more difficult for rural churches to obtain a minister.
- Without settlement, some candidates may have difficulty finding a position.

The Question (Remit 2) was brought to a vote:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Result: Majority “Yes”

Administration

Call to order: 8:00 pm by Chair Joan Stevenson. Joan acknowledged it was Linda’s last meeting and thanked her for her years of service.

Present: Karen Lumley, Cathy Kinsman, Joan Stevenson, Paul Webster, Linda Paul, Bill Craddock, Fred Cross, Peter Brehaut, Anne Grewar, and Kelvin Koots. **Regrets:** Sharri Bertram

Devotional: Linda Paul

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved with the addition of one item: Finance Report.

Approval of minutes from January 17, 2017: The Service Team agreed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated.

Business arising: None.

Correspondence: Letter from Wpg Presbytery re: Service In April: Joan informed everyone that the Presbytery-wide worship celebration scheduled for April 23, 2017 has been cancelled.

Discussion

1. Nominations – Linda

Linda reported that nominations are now closed. With the exception of Finance, all interest groups now have a chairperson or an acting chair or a contact person.

2. Quarterly Reports – Joan

Joan proposed that the quarterly report due in March could be moved to April, in order to provide sufficient time after the February report. However, it was noted that the February quarterly report is actually the AGM report, which is due in early January. The Service Team determined that the dates of the quarterly reports will remain as decided previously: November, February, March and June.

3. Hungarian Mission – Karen

Karen has been in contact with a representative from the group, but a meeting has not yet taken place.

4. Treasurer’s Report – Bill

Bill presented the financial statements to the end of January 2017. We ended the month with a deficit of \$8,199. Regular offerings were about \$8,000 short of budget. However, Bill explained that the deficit appears worse than it is due in part to the timing of PAR offerings and an insurance payment. It is expected that things will even out over the next month.

Bill reported that Howard Rempel has completed the annual review of St. Andrew's finances. The review indicated no major concerns. Bill mentioned that he is pleased with the quality and thoroughness of Howard's services.

Bill then commented on the proposed baby room. P&A has learned that moving the wall would affect the electrical system and necessitate a code upgrade. They propose to remove the pews under the balcony and create a multi-purpose baby room and coffee area in the east side of the narthex.

5. Finance – Bill

Bill distributed and discussed the Finance Interest Group's report to the Service Team. This report examined all sources of revenue as well as expenses and concluded that under our present structure, we will continue to experience annual financial deficits. The Finance Interest Group believes it is important not to expend the capital of either the Foundation or the church investment fund in order to ensure that these sources of revenue are available in the future.

Page 4 of the report provides a comparison of the revenues and expenses of St. Andrew's and those of a "healthy church," according to the United Church of Canada website. The comparison shows that at St. Andrew's, congregational givings form a much lower proportion of total income than in the healthy church model. Outreach, as a proportion of total expenses, is also significantly lower at St. Andrew's. All other revenues and expenses are within the ranges of a healthy church.

Page 5 provides pledging and giving statistics between 2008 and 2017. The statistics show that people who pledge have been generously increasing their pledges every year. From 2008–2017, the average yearly increase for those pledging was 6.6% for a total of \$121,909. The reality is that people pass away or leave our church and new members do not make up for the loss in revenue.

Page 6 indicates that of the 320 family units on our mailing list, there are 112 who did not contribute financially to our church in 2016. Bill explained that the figure of 320 family units needs to be revised, because many of these people have not attended our church or donated for several years. Page 8 indicates that Sunday morning church attendance has

gradually declined during the period of 2005–2016, although 2016 had higher attendance than the 12-year low in 2014.

Bill mentioned that a potential source of increased revenue is in rentals. When our lease with the daycare expires in 2018, Bill believes that we should negotiate a significantly higher rate. Property & Administration has determined that the daycare will have to pay for use of the auditorium, kitchen, and storage area.

Having examined the current situation, the Finance Interest Group does not anticipate any new sources of revenue. Bill expressed the possibility that a better investment policy for the Foundation could allow it to earn higher interest and therefore make greater contributions to the church. Also discussed was whether our church can afford to have two full-time ministers in the long term.

New Business

1. Fundraising Interest Group – Karen

Karen and Kelly McKeag are in the process of forming an interest group that would look at planning some additional fundraisers.

2. Discussion of Process for Lease Agreement (R H Smith Inc and Oak Street Nursery) – Fred, Liaison for P & A

Property and Administration has requested that the responsibility for negotiating the daycare and nursery contracts be transferred to the Finance Interest Group. Consensus was reached that P&A and Finance will work collaboratively in this process.

Adjournment: 9:45 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 21, 2017