

**St Andrew's River Heights United Church**  
**255 Oak Street**  
**Service Team Meeting - Tuesday June 20, 2017**  
**Lounge @7:00 pm**

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

### **Administration**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm by Chair Paul Webster
2. **Devotion:** Karen Lumley
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.
4. **Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2017:** The Service Team agreed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated.
5. **Business Arising:**
  - **Removal of Members' Names from the Membership Roll:** This item will be dealt with at the September meeting.
6. **Correspondence:** The message "Presbytery Strategy for Churches/Congregations" has previously been emailed to Service Team members.

### **Items for Information**

1. **Past Chair position**  
The Service Team was informed that Joan Stevenson has resigned her position as Past Chair due to personal issues. It has not yet been determined what will happen with the vacant position.
2. **Church title/Trustees**  
The trustees will be meeting on February 4, 2018. John Barber is working to ensure that the church title includes the seven current trustees.

### **Items for Discussion**

1. **Treasurer's Report – Bill**  
Bill reported that as of the end of May, our financial situation was better than expected as our deficit was \$29,253 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$37,349. Regular offerings were almost at budget, while open collections were over budget, resulting in total revenue that is in line with the previous year. Maintenance and repairs expenses were \$20,676 compared to \$22,222 budgeted. Notably, "Repairs and Maintenance" (which is only a part of all maintenance expenses) was \$7,969 compared to \$23,522 at the same time last year. Utilities, particularly natural gas, have been under budget which is helping the bottom line. All other revenues and expenses are mostly in line.

## 2. Westworth United Church – Karen

Cathy and Karen have met with the minister from Westworth United Church about the opportunity to share services (e.g. Good Friday service, summer worship). Karen spoke on the importance of keeping the congregation informed about potential upcoming changes.

## 3. Stewardship Interest Group Presentation: Clark Brownlee

Clark presented on the Stewardship Interest Group's plans for this year's campaign. He began by introducing the Stewardship theme for the whole United Church of Canada: **"Inspire, Invite, Thank."** The Stewardship Team has come up with several ways to **inspire** members of our congregation:

- Testimonials will play an important role in this year's campaign
- A narrative budget will demonstrate not only "where the money goes" but also "what the money does"
- Face-to-face talk about Stewardship will be used as much as possible, as it is shown to be the most effective way to get the message across
- Some of the Stewardship Team's goals:
  - Communicate in advance, e.g., inform the congregation when "Stewardship Sundays" will take place
  - Ensure the Stewardship message does not turn people off by coming down too hard
  - Include Jesus in the messaging
- The Stewardship Team is in the process of drafting four different letters for top givers, consistent givers, occasional givers, and non-givers. Some other ways by which the team will **invite** people to give:
  - The Stewardship Team could be commissioned on the first Stewardship Sunday, as a way of introduction to the congregation
  - The group would like to increase its use of social media – perhaps an active "Donate Now" button on the church website
  - Several good audio-video resources are available from the United Church of Canada – the group is considering how to best show these to the congregation
- The Stewardship Team will make every effort to **thank** people who contribute to the church. The mantra is to "thank every person seven times in seven ways."
- The group would like to encourage more contributions to Mission & Service. Last year, 6% of total givings went to M&S, but this year it has been reduced to 4%. Special appeals will therefore be more important.

## Items for Decision

### 1. Extension of Governance Model Trial Until August 2018

It has been recommended that the governance trial model remain in effect until August 2018 in order to coincide with the next General Council. The General Council in August

2018 is when the outcome of the remits will be determined, which could result in the elimination of Presbytery. The Service Team was in consensus with extension of the Governance Model Trial until August 2018.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** 8:45 pm

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**