

**St Andrew's River Heights United Church
Service Team Meeting - Tuesday May 16, 2017
Lounge @7:00 pm**

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

REMIT Presentation

REMIT #3 and #4 – Cathy and Karen

Cathy and Karen began by presenting Remit 3: Office of Vocation. The proposed office of vocation is intended to relieve volunteers of doing the work on vocational matters. Unlike the current system, it would be centralized which would allow for more consistency. Discussion followed.

- Several people agreed that if a centralized office of vocation is established, it would be important that it have broad representation.
- Some questioned the cost implications of the proposed structure. It was noted that the establishment of an office of vocation is intended to lead to a reduction in costs. The board which oversees the office would consist of volunteers.

The Question (Remit 3) was brought to a vote:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) a denominational office of vocation be established in the structure of the United Church, with responsibilities and structure as approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change.

Yes: 15

No: 0

Following this, Cathy and Karen presented Remit 4: Funding a New Model. A short overview video was shown, available at www.gc42.ca/remits. A chart was then displayed which demonstrated how the proposed funding model would affect us. Under the proposed model, our assessment in 2015 would have been \$20,322. For comparison, our presbytery assessment that year was \$16,784. Discussion followed.

- It was noted that in the proposed model, assessments are based entirely on a church's revenue. Expenses do not affect the assessment.
- Concern was expressed that assessments could be used to direct funds to other churches. However, the proposal provides no detail on this.

- Concern was expressed that the proposal leaves open the possibility of an additional assessment from regional councils.
- It was noted that the proposal is a ‘top-down’ approach, with the assessment being decided by the General Council. A ‘bottom-up’ approach may be more effective.
- Several people expressed that the proposed funding model is vague and lacks details.
- Some questioned whether the remit could be amended. It was felt that we should provide feedback and/or express our concerns.

The Question (Remit 4) was brought to a vote:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree to a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles?

- (1) use Mission and Service to fund ministry and mission activities;
- (2) fund governance and support services of other courts/councils by assessing communities of faith/pastoral charges;
- (3) share assessments equitably across the whole church;
- (4) permit Conferences/presbyteries/regional councils to use additional resources for regional purposes; and
- (5) encourage sharing of all resources across the church.

Yes: 13

No: 2

Administration

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:55 pm by Chair Paul Webster
- 2. Devotion:** Cathy Kinsman
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2017:** The Service Team agreed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated.
- 5. Business Arising:** None.
- 6. Correspondence:** Paul mentioned a letter from the City about street work on Kingsway

Items for Information

1. Calgary Trip – Cathy

Cathy talked about her experience visiting Hillhurst United Church. Some highlights:

- Worship services often start with a short video or speaker that provides a message relevant to the minister’s message
- A hot lunch is served each Sunday following worship. Each week a different group is responsible for preparing the lunch

- There is an Outreach program every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that offers food and other necessities to those in need
- THRIVE – program for young adults (20-30's) with two paid coordinators
- The church advertises/promotes itself to the broader public
- The ethos of Hillhurst is such that everyone always strives to be hospitable and to serve the 'other'
- They are not afraid to try new things. Risk is one of their core practices.

2. Planning Meeting – Karen

Karen reminded everyone that the Church Planning Meeting will take place May 24 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is asked to encourage their Interest Group to send a representative to the meeting.

Items for Discussion

1. Treasurer's Report – Bill

Bill presented the financial statement for January through April 2017. Our actual deficit during this period was \$23,789 whereas we had budgeted a deficit of \$27,097. Bill noted that Maintenance and Repair expenses have been significantly less this year: \$18,935 compared to \$32,032 at the same time last year. Regular offerings were \$1,273 greater than budget. On the expense side, staffing costs were a little over budget due to the transition in caretaking. Bill stated that overall, the financial statements are favourable and there is no need for alarm.

2. Fellowship Interest Group Presentation: Betty Jubinville

- The 'Broad Vision' of this Interest Group is to help the congregation come together as a community. The group promotes fellowship after worship on Sundays, as well as at other events.
- Contrary to popular belief, the Fellowship group is not just the 'food committee'
- One thing which excites the Interest Group is getting out into the community. The group has been involved at various organizations such as Ronald McDonald House and West Broadway Seniors.
- Some of the group's many successful initiatives:
 - Church picnic
 - Pancake supper
 - Easter breakfast – the group tries to invite newcomers to this event
 - Cookie walk – a successful fundraiser for the church
 - During Advent, the Fellowship group delivers gifts to houses on Oak Street and provides invitations to the Christmas Eve services
 - Memory Tree
 - Serving coffee after worship from September to May

- Serving breakfast at the Hustle for Hunger
- Challenges:
 - Reminding people that Fellowship is not the ‘catering committee’
 - Preparing coffee every Sunday requires a lot of prep/clean-up time
 - The Interest Group does not know what the goal of our church is right now
- The Fellowship group, throughout all its initiatives, ensures that it is being inclusive as part of the affirming ministry at St. Andrew’s.
- The Fellowship Interest Group also consists of two other parts. One of these, the Caring Community, is responsible for keeping in contact with shut-ins and others who need visits. In addition there is a group that knits prayer shawls and baptismal blankets.

Items for Decision

1. Removal of Members’ Names from the Membership Roll

Recently, a number of names of inactive members were removed from the mailing list. Based on this, it is believed that there are several names which could be removed from the Membership Roll. A list of names to be removed was distributed to the Service Team. Service Team members were asked to review the list prior to the next meeting, at which point it will be edited.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: 9:15 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 20, 2017