

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Draft Minutes
Council Meeting February 15, 2022
Zoom meeting: 7:30 pm

Present: Anne Grewar, Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Bill Craddock, Lisa Richards, Sarah Witiuk & Michael Duncan

Regrets: Kathy Knowles

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement (7:32pm)

To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.

2. Devotion: Glenn

3. Approval of January 25, 2022 minutes (see attached minutes)
 - Motioned by Rob and seconded by Glenn, all in favour.

4. Regrets: Kathy

5. Update on any action Items:

- Rental policy - Rob, Sarah
 - Last meeting the policy rate structure was approved, but have been tinkering with additions over the last few weeks. Addition of an 8-hour rental price. Discussion on case-by-case rentals.
 - Long term and multi-day rentals should also be on a case-by-case basis.
- AGM: Expressions of Appreciation, photos and musical contribution - Anne
 - Sarah connected with Katy about an audio recording to be played at the AGM during the thank-you slideshow.

ACTION: Anne will connect with Charlotte to update the slideshow for the AGM.
- Cam's in-person presentation to Council?
 - The presentation date has not yet been set but we are hopeful that the presentation might be delivered in person sometime in April. Michael will stay in touch with him and will update the group as we know more. We are looking forward to the presentation when he is ready.

6. Treasurer's report – Bill

- The Operating Account statements show little that is noteworthy. Member donations for the first month of the year are similar to last year.
- A surplus of \$11,546 is shown at month end. However, this is illusory. Compared to last year, our insurance bill was not paid until February. The amount will be \$13,984 which is \$334 more than budget and \$704 more than last year. In consultation with the Property and Administration committee, we were able to keep the increase to this amount by changing our insurance coverage to a \$5,000 deductible, compared to \$1,000 which we have had for many years. This change will save \$1,772 per year. This change was made on the basis we have had only one insurance claim since at least 1996, and that was in 2004 in the amount of \$3,427 because of a break-in.
- The UCC assessment of about \$19,000, which was paid in January last year, has not yet been received. Property expenses are already almost \$5,000 more than last year. Part of this is due to our heating bill doubling compared to last year.
- Howard Rempel has completed the Independent Review, and has given a totally positive report on our church finances and financial procedures.

7. In – person services: long term planning – Glenn

- Glenn referenced two letters Karen circulated to council about the future of churches after COVID. Glenn circulated to council a proposal to restart in person services at St. Andrew's with Manitoba Health announcing the removal of gathering restriction limits as long as everyone is fully vaccinated. In a practical sense, that doesn't impact us per se.
- To date, we have chosen to hold off on in person services (even if we could've met in person during this time); however, there are signs that the Omicron wave has peaked and we are starting to see numbers decline.
- Karen indicated numerous churches are considering re-opening, a few churches have brought back in person services already.
- Glenn proposed a restart of in person services on March 13th on the second Sunday of Lent. Asked council if they would prefer to open a week earlier on March 6th as the first week of Lent.

ACTION: Assuming that the current COVID wave continues on a downward trend, Council agreed March 6th to return to in person, continuing with proof of vaccination and wearing masks.

8. Church Groups Updates:

- Outreach is continuing with Truth & Reconciliation calls to action.
- Karen will check with Bible Study to see how they are feeling about returning.

9. Website – Anne

- The website discussion has been put over to the March meeting

10. February 27, 2022 @ 11:30 am via zoom – AGM

- Agenda items that need a poll
 - Rob to inform Charlotte of which Agenda items require a poll.
- Notice of meeting is in the e-blast and announced at church
 - Announcements & notices have been made in preparation for the AGM.

11. Highlight and invite church groups to present at upcoming meetings (see attached reference guide)

- March: Worship (Sarah to contact Ruth)
- April: Anne to contact Betty for Fellowship (change meeting date to the 19th)

12. Council Meeting Report to Congregation (attach schedule)

- Update: At the AGM
- March: Rob (Charlotte to re-do the schedule for the year)

13. Other Business:

- Sarah mentioned that members of the choir will be discussing at their upcoming meeting some possible fundraising recitals
- A big thank you to Anne for all of her hard work as council chair these last few years!

14. Adjourned at 8:34pm

Upcoming meetings:

- **AGM:** Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 11:30am on Zoom
 - **Council meeting:** March 15, 2022 at 7:30 pm in person
- Devotion: Kathy