

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Minutes
Council Meeting March 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Anne Grewar, Rob Siddall (virtual), Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Lisa Richards, Sarah Witiuk, Ruth McKenzie, Kathy Knowles, Clark Brownlee & Michael Duncan

Regrets: Bill Craddock

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement (7:33pm)
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: Kathy Knowles
3. Approval of February 15, 2022 minutes
 - Moved by Glenn Neufeld and seconded by Sarah Witiuk, all in favour.
4. Church Groups:
 - Worship Presentation
 - Ruth McKenzie attended on behalf of the Worship Group. Worship has been able to continue to meet during COVID via Zoom and recently the group is meeting in the building. They have taken on the door duties for in person services. She thanked the volunteers: Rev. Karen Lumley, Wes Elias, Katy Harmer, Rita Swan, Judy Bourcier, Kelly McKeag. They have been on the hunt for one or two more committee members, also still looking for a replacement Chair.
 - They have been able to arrange decorating the church for Christmas, Thanksgiving and are preparing for Easter.
 - They are now using the portable communion packs and they can be a little bit challenging, but are preferred for their single serving (rather than sharing).
 - There will be a Good Friday service at Westworth, we will host the Maundy Thursday service.
 - Choir rehearsals resume March 31st. The quartet will stay on the choir loft and the rest of the choir members will be spread around the congregation. The quartets have done a great job of providing music for services. They are being careful about copyright, so an extra cost will be incurred for filmed content that is posted online.
 - Baptisms will resume in April; we are open for weddings and funerals again.

- A thank-you to Lisa Richards and Glenn Neufeld for their guidance and knowledge through the pandemic, and thank-you to the Council for their support. Council thanked the Worship Committee in turn for their hard work!
 - Group Liaison Updates
 - Rob gave a brief explanation about the updated Liaison Guide from last year. The liaison arrangements ensure that the different church groups can stay in touch with Council and keep Council up to date with what the groups are up to, or any challenges they might be facing or additional support they might need from Council.
 - Liaison Group Contacts (Rob)
 - Rob encouraged each of the Council representatives to reach out to their liaison group heads.
 - April Presentation – Fellowship
 - Anne reached out to Betty Jubinville who will attend the meeting in April.
5. Election of Treasurer and Secretary (Rob)
- Glenn Neufeld moved that Bill Craddock to be elected as Treasurer and that Lisa Richards be elected as Secretary, Anne Grewar seconded, all in favour.
6. Rita Swan Lay Ministry Affirmation (Rob)
- Rita Swan has completed her paper and class component of her lay-worship leader program. She has to have a final meeting with the Committee on Lay Ministry Support, and they would like a letter of support from St. Andrews. Ruth had already drafted this for Council to read over and approve.
- ACTION: Rob to review and sign the letter of support.
7. In – person services update (Glenn)
- The province has now lifted all of the health restrictions including attendance, mask and physical distancing restrictions.
 - We have now had two in person services in March. We have had approximately 45 people attending and signed in, even in the face of the brutal weather we have been having.
 - We are still requiring attendees to be fully vaxxed and wearing a mask, there has been no negative feedback.
 - We will monitor the situation, but for the time being we will continue to maintain our mask and vaccination requirements.
 - Fred Cross has been super-efficient with getting the services uploaded. We are very lucky to have him handling this task.
 - Our regular rentals have resumed and we have had many rentals over these last few weeks.

8. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- Member givings were \$3,090 under budget for the month. However, as of this date in mid-March, we are only \$860 under budget for March. All expenses are in line with their budget projections except heating where we are \$2,341 over budget or 42%. The deficit at month end is \$14,004 or \$3,393 more than expected.

9. Website Update (Anne)

- Anne was looking at Augustine United Church's website and really liked the verbiage of describing the different church groups. She suggested that we update certain sections of our website. A suggestion that once a month we 'feature' different groups or members of groups to connect our congregation and community. Optimization for mobile devices.
ACTION: Rob will prepare a more current description of our Council and group structure and when the weather is nicer, we will get a group picture of the Council and have a blessing of the groups.

10. Other Business:

- 2022 Devotion Schedule (Rob)
ACTION: Rob will provide comments to Charlotte
- Clark Brownlee spoke on an Orange Shirt initiative
 - Clark Brownlee attended on behalf of the Outreach Group and mentioned the church is doing a lot of outreach; however, it would be nice to let our community know about some of the things we believe in and support.
 - He suggested we secure an orange shirt on the church sign to show our support for reconciliation and to honour the lives of the missing and murdered Indigenous children. If no room on the sign, to hang in the doorway. Someone will need to speak to Property to confirm if it can be hung there.
 - Sarah Witiuk also mentioned she knew an Indigenous artist who makes beautiful posters.
 - Council was fully supportive of this initiative.
ACTION: Sarah will reach out to the artist about a poster and a shirt. Provide a link on the eblast to the orange shirts website for the congregation to spread awareness.
- 2022 Congregation Reporting schedule (Rob)
ACTION: Rob will provide comments to Charlotte.
- Possible date for Cam Regier presentation (Michael)
ACTION: Will book a date in the future once Cam has had time to prepare his report.
- Rental Policy Update (Rob)
 - Rob reported that the new rental policy has been finalized and posted on the website. There will still be a need to deal with other rental matters that arise occasionally such as liquor license requests and multi-day/unique rentals and Council agreed that those matters be referred to Glenn Neufeld and Sarah Witiuk (with assistance from David Wreford).

- Possibility of choir recital fundraiser(s) (Sarah)
 - Singers from the choir met in February to discuss this. They were very appreciative of the support from the church. They are weighing their options for performing at the end of April and early May. Fun music, not just soloists to be involved.

11. Adjourned at 9:07pm

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:30pm
- Devotion: Karen
- Report to Congregation: Rob