

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Meeting May 17, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Anne Grewar, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Lisa Richards, Sarah Witiuk, Bill Craddock, Joan Stevenson (guest)

Regrets: Rob Siddall, Kathy Knowles

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement

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: Lisa

3. Approval of April 19, 2022 minutes

- Moved by Glenn, seconded by Sarah. All in favor.

4. Ukraine Fundraising Initiative (Outreach – Joan Stevenson)

- Proposed that we set up a process where donations would be accepted for the Ukrainian crisis directly through our church. Suggest that we work through the United Church of Canada to provide our donations.
- Many church members would like to do something to contribute to the crisis.
- Many do not want to go through an unknown website to donate. Our church is trusted to get the money where it needs to go.
- Money could be forwarded to UCC monthly, and we could report back to the congregation on the contributions by our congregation.
- PAR is an option, upon request. Cheque must specify that the donation is to go to Ukraine relief.
- "Minute for Ukraine", and announce at an upcoming service with an announcement in the e-blast.

ACTION: Consensus that this is a good idea. Announcements should be made, as per above.
Moved by Bill, seconded by Glenn. All in favor.

5. Church Groups:

- Minister's report Presentation (Karen)
 - Will people return to church in the fall?
 - What can we do to encourage people to return?

- What is our role as members of the Church Council?
- What are your expectations of your Minister?
- What are the Minister's expectations of the Church Council?

➤ Events

- Celebration Sunday- scheduled
- Fall Supper- not scheduled, no volunteer to organize
- Bridge Luncheon- not scheduled, no volunteer to organize
- Church lunches- Church Council could offer a lunch in the Fall, congregation to bring friends.

Other Group Liaison Update

➤ Worship (Sarah)

- How are we going to get families to return?
- Services-
 - June & July- here
 - August & early September- Westworth (no funerals)
- Caretaker with regular hours now that the church is open again?
 - Rentals result in more need for cleaning- there were events last weekend and clean up would have been ideal before Sunday service.
 - Hours should include weekends, including Sunday morning.
 - Reconsider contract vs PT employee, and hours required for the job.
 - Gord is here a lot to assist with cleaning and maintenance needs.

ACTION: Bill will talk to P&A about contract at next meeting, daycare should be consulted about their needs. Consider inviting P&A to our next meeting.

- June Presentation – Outreach. Kathy who is the liaison is out of the country. Anne will invite Outreach to present.

6. In – person services update (Glenn)

- No longer require proof of vaccination, but still have mask mandate and physical distancing.
- Sometimes masks are not worn when visiting the office.
- Attendance in mid-40-50s over past month (flattened out).
- ACTION: Signage to indicate masks are required when coming in the building.

7. Youth Retention Initiative (Lisa)

- Lisa has reached out to Jan and Megan- Jan provided comments to Karen directly.

- Lisa also reached out to consultant- she is willing to complete the contract this spring at the rate that was provided.
- Celebration Sunday will be an opportunity to connect with children and youth again.
- We are lacking volunteers to run the events that attract families (Church lunches, Fall Supper).
- We are lacking a youth coordinator to organize child/youth events. If hiring someone, they need to be able to connect with children and youth.
- What is Springs Church doing to capture children/youth?
- Should we focus on the parents of young families?

ACTION: Lisa will advise consultant that we will not move forward with the contract at this time. This topic should continue to stay on the agenda for future meetings.

8. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- Member givings were \$7,398 over budget year-to-date for the month. All expenses are in line with their budget projections except heating where we are \$4,103 over budget or 45.5%.
- The deficit at month end is \$15,172 or \$31,067 less than expected. Some of this favorable outcome continues to be because we have not yet been invoiced from the United Church of Canada for our annual assessment. For the past two years, this assessment was \$18,960.
- It has been a very volatile time in the investment market. So far to April 30, the book value of our church investments at CIBC is down \$13,279 or 2.51%. Partially offsetting this loss, we have realized trading gains of \$11,182 or 2.11%. We also have dividend and interest returns so far this year in the amount of \$7,578 or 4.30% on an annual basis. The Canadian TSX index was down .04% to April 30. The US S&P 500 was down 10.91% during this same period.

9. Web-site Update (Anne and Rob)

- Deferred to next meeting.

10. Other Business:

- Choir recital fundraiser(s) (Sarah)- May 28 at 7:30 pm
- May Report to Congregation: Sarah (this Sunday)
- Service for Rob's father- Thursday May 26 at 11 am- lunch will follow
- Doreen- need for caretaker due to clutter in lower narthex

11. Adjournment (9:29 pm)

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:30
- Devotion: Rob
- June Report to Congregation: Michael