

**St Andrew's River Heights United Church**  
**255 Oak Street**  
**Council Minutes**  
**Council Meeting June 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Lisa Richards, Sarah Witiuk, Kathy Knowles, Bill Craddock

Regrets: Michael Duncan & Anne Grewar

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement (7:34pm)  
***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: Rob
3. Approval of May 17, 2022 minutes
  - Subject to changing "Ministerial team report" to "Minister's report", moved by Glenn Neufeld and seconded by Bill Craddock, all in favour.
4. Church Groups:
  - Outreach Presentation - postponed
  - Other Group Liaison Updates
  - September Presentation – Property & Administration
5. In-person services update (Glenn)
  - > Online services
    - Continue with online services and revisit in the fall.
    - Another way for congregants to be connected.
  - > Mask mandate
    - Gradually learning to live with COVID. With the high level of vaccinations that has reduced the frequency and severity of COVID, Manitoba Health no longer mandates the use of masks in public space, and federal and municipal authorities have also largely removed their mask mandates.
    - Masks have become less common in public areas and it has become common to not wear masks at funerals and funeral homes.
    - Westworth has just adopted a policy to remove the mask mandate, but is still encouraging congregants to wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so.
    - The motion was made by Glenn that **masks no longer be required when in the church building. However, Council supports those who wish to continue to wear face masks and still encourages social distancing. Council will reassess this if the situation changes.** Motion carried.
  - > Resumption of post-church coffee
    - Promotes socialization within the church community, those that feel comfortable with this will be able to do so.
    - ACTION: Glenn to organize a coffee sign-up sheet in the e-blast for volunteers.

- ACTION: Anne to discuss with Fellowship for the fall.
- > Congregation Questionnaire (e.g. why have you not returned to Church?)
  - Questions were drafted by the consultant that could be used as a starting point for a general questionnaire targeting the congregation.
  - A questionnaire might provide insight as to whether there is anything that the Church can do to better meet the needs of the congregation to maximize attendance and participation in Church activities.
  - Survey questions could be circulated to the congregation via a Survey Monkey link on the e-blast, or a Google form. Give congregants plenty of time to fill it out with regular reminders in the e-blast.
  - ACTION: Lisa and Rob to draft a set of questions for the survey to be reviewed by Council later this summer. Plan to launch this in early September.
- 6. Youth Retention Initiative (Lisa)
  - See above- it has been decided to broaden the survey to all members of the congregation, not just families with children.
- 7. Daycare Security System (Bill)
  - The daycare operating in the Church is perhaps the only daycare in the city without full security, any person can come in at any time and the daycare is concerned about the safety of the children. The daycare would like to see the 255 Oak St entrance with a FOB system. We would like a FOB and buzzer system (two buttons- one for daycare, one for church), visible in the office with video. The daycare is open to our feedback, and this will be fully funded by the daycare. From 7am-6pm on weekdays the FOB system would be on. Relevant church staff would receive FOBs and the system should have minimal impact on members of the congregation.
  - To date, the daycare has been grandfathered with allowing this open access to the building. If a daycare were to open today, this would not be allowed.
  - Nursery has been using the back area for their entry point.
  - Motion was made by Bill to **authorize the daycare to go ahead with the plan to have FOB access to the front of the building during weekdays when they are in operation, with our requests for a separate buzzer and video to be able to physically see who is at the door.** All in favour, motion carried.
  - ACTION: Add announcement in the e-blast of the change once it is installed.
- 8. Treasurer's Report (Bill)
  - Member givings were \$5,879 over budget year-to-date for the month. This over budget situation will prevail for at least one more month. We will likely be significantly under budget on member givings by year end. We have had the passing of a number of congregants so far this year.
  - All expenses are in line with their budget projections except heating (gas) where we are \$4,356 over budget.
  - The deficit at month-end \$18,265 or \$33,885 less than expected. Some of this favourable 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.
  - Raised \$850 from the choir recital.

9. Website Update (Anne and Rob)

- Deferred

10. Other Business:

- Update on caretaker arrangements (Bill)
  - Deferred
- Update on contributions to Ukraine initiative (Bill)
  - \$1,100 raised so far, it keeps coming in. Will send that amount off and will continue to send it off. Will put an announcement in the e-blast
  - ACTION: Will put an announcement in the e-blast to advise on the amount raised to date.
- Lower narthex cleanup
  - Discussion with Property that we need to clear out the lower narthex area of tables and chairs. It was recommended that the extra chairs and tables we have received will need to be moved to clear up some space in the hallways.
- June Report to Congregation: Michael
  - Michael is not available for this. Glenn offered to report to congregation, Michael to report in September.
- Other
  - What is the future of the Handbell choir? It would be ideal if the choir could be reinstated for the fall.
  - ACTION: Lisa to follow up with Katy.

11. Adjourned at 9:26pm

**Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:30
- Devotion: Sarah
- September Report to Congregation: Michael