

**St Andrew's River Heights United Church**  
**255 Oak Street**  
**Council Draft Minutes**  
**Council Meeting September 20, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Sarah Witiuk, Kathy Knowles, Bill Craddock, Anne Grewar, and Michael Duncan.

Regrets: Lisa Richards

Also present : John Swan and Susan Wiste

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement (7:30pm)  
***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: Sarah
3. Approval of June 21, 2022 minutes
  - Moved by Glenn Neufeld and seconded by Sarah Witiuk, all in favour.
4. Church Groups:
  - Property and Administration Presentation (John & Susan)
    - Council showed appreciation to the P&A for their hard and continuous work.
    - P&A is close to budget for the year-to-date.
    - Roofing issues have been made worse by the harsh winters. The Narthex and Christian Education buildings flat roofs need replacing.
    - The Narthex roof was inspected and a report shows that the roof needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$32,850. The CE roof has been leaking and will cost \$74,410 to be replaced plus additional structural engineering costs. In the meantime, monies will have to be expended to maintain these two roofs as well as other flat roof areas
    - P&A is in need of additional members and is encouraging people to sign up for P&A.
    - ACTIONS: The Finance Group will be asked to look at grants and other possible funding sources for the new roofs.
    - Concern about youth climbing up onto the roof, as a priority item P&A will take steps to prevent access to the roof.
  - Other Group Liaison Updates

- Greg Fearn is chair of the Stewardship Group; he is starting the process for the fall stewardship campaign.
- October Presentation – Christian Education

5. In - person services update (Glenn)

- In June, the wearing of masks became optional, many continue to wear masks and we fully support them.
- Glenn tried to contact Fellowship members to see what the plans are for coffee after church, they were away on vacation.
- Choir is back, and a total of 53 people were in attendance at the service this past Sunday.
- Council thanked Glenn for his hard work in connection with the reopening for in-person services.
- Council decided to remove the social distancing requirement. There is lots of room in the Church and people can decide where they feel comfortable to sit.
- ACTION: Glenn will remove the yellow tape on the pews.

6. Congregational and Youth Survey (Rob, Lisa)

- Rob reviewed the draft survey with the group. A questionnaire will be sent out in October to help get a sense as to whether there are things that the Church could be doing differently to retain existing members and to attract people back to Sunday morning services and to other Church activities. It will likely be sent through eblast (using a Survey Monkey type of format) and some physical forms may be mailed out.
- There were no suggested edits to the survey questions.
- ACTION: Rob and Lisa to finalize the survey and arrange for it to be sent out.

7. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- Member givings were \$15,363 over budget year-to-date. This over budget situation will prevail for at least several more months because of member accelerated givings. However, 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. Based on PAR contributions alone, our givings for 2023 will be approximately \$14,500 less than was expected for 2022.
- The termination of givings by members of the congregation, mainly because of death, is a significant issue for our church.
- All expenses are basically in line with their budget projections except heating (gas) where we are \$4,356 over budget.
- The deficit at month end is \$3,875 or \$45,712 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.

## 8. Other Business:

- Daycare Security System Update (Bill)
  - The system is up and running, there is a small monitor in the office with a clear image of who is at the door, with the ability to buzz people in. We agreed to pay \$1,600 for the Church office video portion, while the remainder is covered by the daycare.
  - Will announce and explain the intercom in the eblast and on the pulpit on Sunday.
- Possible use of nametags (Rob)
  - Discussion and Council support for members of the congregation wearing nametags to enable us to more easily identify and therefore welcome guests or new attendees of the church.
  - It's also helpful to jog your memory on whom you are speaking to.
  - People will be given the choice as to whether they would like to wear a name tag, have blank ones ready to write up new guest's names.
  - Order name tags in bulk, print labels out and insert them.
  - ACTION: Kathy to purchase nametags, Charlotte will print out labels and insert them.
- Clapping in Church (Karen)
  - Some believe it is great to clap in worship to show appreciation, others say it changes the mood of the service.
  - The postlude is meant to be a meditative thing rather than a performance.
  - ACTION: Worship group to discuss at next worship meeting.
- September Report to Congregation: Rob
- Other
  - We were gifted a banner by Kelly, created from an indigenous artist for the church.
  - We received a beautiful painting of the church from Rev. Terry Hitichuk and are trying to find an appropriate place to hang it.

## 9. Adjourned at 9:46pm

### Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:30
- Devotion: Glenn
- October Report to Congregation: Lisa