

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

**MINUTES**

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

Regrets: 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: Michael

3. Approval of October 18, 2022 minutes

- Moved by Glenn and seconded by Michael, all in favour.

4. Church Groups:

➤ Stewardship – no presentation

- Bill: Not much to report on at this time, other than there has been over 200 pledge forms sent out this weekend to members of the congregation.
  - Requesting pledges for 2023.
  - Membership list is shrinking, individuals/families go off our list when they are not coming anymore or when someone passes away.

➤ Other Group Liaison Updates

- Fellowship- Anne attended their first in person meeting.
- Cookie Walk is their focus now.
- Not ready to commit to regular coffee/tea service on Sundays. Will plan to return this in January if virus season improves.

ACTION: Anne or Karen to ask the group if they would consider resuming this sooner to promote connectedness in the church again. In the meantime, other volunteers may assist with coffee/tea service.

- M&P- Michael: The group has met twice in the last few weeks, with a focus on updating contracts.

- Youth Coordinator is an open position. The M & P recommendation is that we start a search for that position, as youth are an integral part of our congregation and mandate. Review the hours (currently 20 hrs/month, should be at least 40) and expand the role. An updated position description will be developed.
- United Church of Canada has some resources that are available to support programs for youth and young adults, including grants for \$5000 plus matching funds. There is someone in Toronto who supports youth programs like this.
- There is a lack of connection between the youth in our church, and we need to build a program where these connections can be made and sustained.

ACTION: Michael to update the job description and propose a budget for Council's review. He will also review the grant opportunities and criteria for the funding, and Council will consider the proposal at its December meeting.

Karen to ask Josh to come and speak to the congregation on behalf of One Just City and encourage congregants to volunteer for their programs. Lisa will send Karen the link to the volunteer sign up sheet.

#### ➤ December Presentation – Foundation

#### 5. Congregational and Youth Survey Update (Rob, Lisa)

- Survey closed on Sunday.
- Rob summarized some highlights from the survey report:
  - 33 responses from approximately 175 congregants
  - Most were from long term members in older age groups
  - COVID was a concern for about half of respondents
  - Services are generally fulfilling congregant's needs
  - The church should have more outreach programs, and most respondents would participate in them
  - Most were satisfied with Sunday services and they were meaningful to them
  - Most wanted a more diverse music program
  - Most felt that St. Andrews is welcoming enough but that we should develop a stronger culture of reaching out to visitors/newcomers and to other members of the congregation
  - Post service coffee/tea reception is important to a majority of the respondents
  - Responses from an estimated 4 families with young children, some cited COVID as a concern

- Overall, it is uncertain that we captured responses from individuals who are no longer coming to Sunday services.
- Responses from “Let’s Talk Church” this past Sunday were summarized and sent out to Council.

ACTION: Rob will ask Charlotte to sent the survey report out to the whole group so that Council members will have sufficient time to properly review the results. We will summarize both reports for the congregation.

6. Nametag Update (Rob)

- Many people are wearing them, positive comments about these.
- Anyone who does not have a nametag should request one.

7. Church Cybersecurity (Rob)

- Bill and Karen have had computer security issues.

ACTION: Bill to follow-up with Microsoft.

8. Treasurer’s Report (Bill)

- Member givings were \$8,224 over budget year-to-date at \$184,620. It is hopeful that this monthly over budget situation, which has continued for a number of months, may allow a year- end break-even on member givings, notwithstanding the significant number of deaths of congregants this year.
- Rental income exceeds \$19,000 for the year, which is about \$12,000 over budget.
- All expenses are basically in line with their budget projections except heating (gas) where we are \$5,311 over budget.
- The month end deficit is about \$9,000 which compares to the budgeted deficit of \$53,054.

9. Other Business:

- Christmas Hamper(s) (Rob)
  - Could we do something collectively for 1 Just City or Oak Table?
    - Lisa to email Josh about an initiative that our congregation can contribute to
- 2023 Council Membership (Rob)
  - We need 7 positions filled, is everyone willing to stay on?
  - We need a Vice-Chair, as Anne will be stepping down as Past Chair
  - Nomination Committee- Chair, Past Chair, Glenn, Bill
- November Report to Congregation: Anne
- Other
  - Handbells have reconvened, with a performance on December 18

ACTION: Special thanks to Doreen Craddock will go in the Bulletin for her contributions to the Let's Talk Church lunch.

## 10. Adjournment

### **Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:30
- Devotion: Glenn
- Report to Congregation: Kathy