

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Meeting February 21, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Regrets: Anne Grewar

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement
2. Devotion: Kathy
3. Approval of January 17, 2022 minutes
 - Moved by Glenn and seconded by Sarah, all in favour.
4. Church Groups:
 - Presentation – no February presentation
 - Other Group Liaison Updates
 - Over 40 people at the first outreach speaker series this past Sunday. Provided some good insight into homelessness and addictions. Next presentation is in March (topic TBD).
 - Josh Ward's sermon will be rescheduled to the fall.

ACTION: Lisa to reach out to Anne to see if they would like to consider a volunteer outreach initiative for 1JustCity.

- March Presentation – Worship (Karen)
5. Youth Worker Position (Michael)
 - A Youth Worker position description will be required before M & P can make a recommendation to Council.
 - Position is proposed to be 20 hours per week and up to \$20/hr (approximately \$18,000 per year). Anything less would not be enough time to engage in the role (10 hours for the previous position was not enough).
 - Goal would be to create a vibrant youth program that would assist in both retaining existing families and attracting new families to our congregation.
 - Joining a community could address mental health concerns in youth.
 - The successful candidate would require some of Karen's time, and would have to be able to connect effectively with youth.

- Social media will play a part in connecting with youth.
- Which churches have successful youth programs in place?
- Funding will be an issue because we are already having to draw upon investment income to help pay for our current operating expenses. Could we seek funding from the United Church, United Way or other funding organization?

DECISION: Majority of Council feel that we should proceed with M&P developing a position description for Council to consider.

6. February 26 Annual General Meeting Logistics (Rob)

- Meeting logistics were discussed. Glenn and Rob are available to set up the room at 9 am.
- Annual reports will be available.

7. Cybersecurity (Rob, Lisa)

- Council discussed the merits of increasing the security of our network.

ACTION: Bill to contact Broadview Networks (local consultant) to ensure that our current practices/system is consistent with best practices for cybersecurity.

8. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

The first month of the year does not usually provide much information as to how the year will go. The results for 2023 are no different.

Member givings at \$36,633 are \$8,543 over the budget number (which is an average percentage of the two previous Januarys). This increase reflects one member changing their giving pattern. Expenses are within \$856 of budget, so the extra givings revenue follows through to a surplus of \$10,328 which is similar to the revenue excess.

While it does not show in the January statement, the unpaid United Church of Canada assessments for both 2022 and 2023 were paid in February (and these payments cleared our bank account on February 21).

I believe that we have developed an effective payroll system after considering ADP, Quickbooks and others. The system involves simply writing individual cheques and accumulating payroll deductions in other accounts. In filing 2022 T4A's, which was a combination of Quickbooks, my new system and several others, the T4A forms were completed with little difficulty.

9. Choir Bursary Fund (Sarah)

- Funds are interest earnings from an approximately \$13,000 investment fund.
- Funds for Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts could be allocated as a specialized scholarship or bursary. Bursary would require demonstration of financial need and would be anonymous, which would not allow for a performance at the church.

ACTION: Council to further consider the options at our next meeting.

10. Other Business:

- February Report to Congregation: n/a - Annual Meeting
- Other

11. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7:30
- Devotion: Karen
- Report to Congregation: Rob