

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Meeting April 18, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufeld, Iris McKay, Bill Craddock, Lisa Richards, Leigh Carlson, Michael Duncan

Regrets: Kathy Knowles

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement
2. Devotion: Lisa
3. Approval of March 21, 2022 minutes
 - Approved- Moved by Glenn, seconded by Michael, all in favor.
4. Church Groups:

Presentation – Fellowship

- Betty Jubinville presented on behalf of the Group. She reviewed their membership, vision, what excites the group, their challenges, and what they have been occupied with recently, including post-service tea and coffee, the Memory Tree, the Cookie Walk, Celebration Sunday and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. She also reviewed activities of the Caring Community Group that connects with those who are housebound or experiencing difficulty with life, as well as the Rose Ferries Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Other Group Liaison Updates

- Iris submitted a summary from a recent Worship Group meeting.

May Presentation – Worship

- Iris will invite Ruth to our next meeting.
- Rita advised that there is a new pride flag that has been introduced. Rita suggested that we hang one of the new flags in one of our Oak Street windows or perhaps on a flag pole to reflect that we are an affirming ministry. The daycare would support this.

ACTION: Worship in consultation with Property to consider where the flag could be hung and to report back to Council.

5. United Church of Canada Remit (Rita)

- There is a United Church proposal that Indigenous ministries within the Church become more autonomous, and not have to get permission from the United Church for future changes to their structures and processes (ie. self-governing).
- Discussion that the proposal is somewhat ambiguous and broad- they are asking to be able to use their individual cultural practices without adhering to the specific policies and procedures of the broader United Church.
- There was support for working alongside the Indigenous community in the spirit of reconciliation. We benefit from each other's perspectives.
- We must vote at the next Prairie to Pine regional meeting.

DECISION: Council voted in favor of supporting the remit proposal. Lisa and Bill will complete the paperwork to submit the vote.

6. Room Event Set-up Protocol (Rob)

- There were no concerns with the protocol document that Rob prepared to reflect the event protocol decision of Council made at its March meeting. It will be forwarded to Charlotte.

DECISION: We will adopt this protocol for future events.

7. Music Endowment Fund (Bill)

- Bill moved that using income from the existing Music Endowment Fund we establish the John Standing Music Endowment Award music bursary (John was instrumental in creating the Music Endowment Fund) in an annual amount of up to \$1000 to be awarded in a lump sum to a person who attends St Andrews, and who is pursuing training in voice, or a musical instrument.
- It was proposed that an award committee be established to manage the bursaries consisting of the Choir Director, the organist, a member of Council and a member at large from the Congregation, and that Glenn be the Council representative on the award committee.

DECISION: Carried

8. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

- Member givings to date were \$65,440 or \$6,862 more than budgeted. This compares to last year when member givings were \$65,943. Miscellaneous rental income was \$6,157, compared to \$6,191 last year.
- Expenses were \$5,554 less than budget. That was entirely due to the lower than expected assessment from the United Church of Canada.
- The overall year to date deficit was \$18,297 less than budgeted. However, it was still \$28,273. That amount of monies had to be available from our cash balances.
- The carbon tax is increasing our heating costs. Insulating our roof a number of years ago decreased our heating cost significantly. An energy audit could uncover further opportunities to decrease our costs.

9. Other Business:

- We discussed the timing of a Council introduction and a prayer dedication ceremony. We will do this in the fall.
- Caretaker position has been filled by Cecelia. This was announced to the congregation.
- In relation to the Congregational Survey that was done last fall there was a discussion about a follow-up with the Congregation at another "Let's Talk Church" luncheon. Council felt that good progress had been made to date in response to the survey results but that we should follow up with the Congregation.

DECISION: We will plan another "Let's Talk Church" session in the fall.

April Report to Congregation: Michael

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm (note change of date)
 - Devotion: Rob
- Report to Congregation: Bill