

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak Street

Council Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023, 7:30 pm

Present: Rob Siddall, Karen Lumley, Glenn Neufield, Michael Duncan, Bill Craddock, Iris McKay, Leigh Harris-Carlson; Lisa Richards via call in from cottage

Regrets from 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: Glenn shared thoughts on "Vacations in the Bible" as we enter the summer season.
3. Approval of May 23, 2023 Minutes: Moved by Glenn and seconded by Iris; all in favour
4. Presentation by Outreach by Joan : Outreach is a small but busy group, with Anne Grewar as Chair, who meet as required with much of the communication conducted by email. They had a new initiative start in Feb 2023 inviting guest speakers in to discuss a variety of social topics; there have been 3 successful speaker sessions so far. A fourth session is being planned for September 24, 2023 leading up to Truth and Reconciliation Day. There will be a lunch provided by Feast Café, and financing will be from Outreach budget. Donations to One Just City will be accepted.
5. Bell/MTS update by Rob: P&A was approached by Bell with a proposal to have telecommunications equipment installed on the roof of the Church and has provided us with a draft lease. Council discussed the merits of the proposal and the possible community response. Lisa provided her comments in light of her expertise in public health. The Bell proposal involves placing small antennae on the Church parapet. The City of Winnipeg may have a policy that requires community consultation and it was noted that previous attempts in the neighborhood

to construct telecommunications towers have been opposed. As we understand at this time, there are 3 steps to proceed: 1) we negotiate and sign a lease, 2) there is a community consultation process, 3) the requirements of Safety Code 6 by Health Canada are met. It is understood that the process can be shut down at any step, and that Council will notify the daycare and nursery prior to signing the lease. **Motion by Bill Craddock: "That St. Andrews pursue the Bell proposal with a view to negotiating a satisfactory lease. Seconded by: Karen In favour: 7 Opposed: 1**

6. Strategic Planning Update: with all other matters going on, this will be revisited in September 2023.
7. Treasurer's report: Bill – see financial notes
 - a. Member givings to date were \$95,333 or \$3,777 more than budgeted. This compares to last year when member givings were \$103,428. Miscellaneous rental income was \$11,882, compared to \$12,492 last year.
 - b. Expenses were \$3,517 more than budget. That was due to the unexpected elevator repair in the amount of \$4,154.
 - c. The overall year to date deficit was \$8,665 less than budgeted. However, the deficit was \$44,960.
 - d. It is noted that there is a decrease in the over budget of givings – this will start to balance out from higher givings at the start of the year
 - e. The elevator continues to be broken and there is no ability to have a cheaper price or ability to break down specific costs of parts
 - f. Givings continue to drop and we will likely start to run a deficit without government help, fundraising and continuing to squeeze all possible church costs as small as possible.

- g. The carbon tax is also looming and there is an increase in heating costs each year.

Should national churches band together to be exempt?

8. Other business:

- a. The music bursary application deadline passed Friday June 16 – there were 2 applicants
- b. A police check for all caretakers is required – Michael will pursue this and we will pay the fees incurred.
- c. “Let’s Talk Church” is scheduled for October 22 – details to follow

9. June report to congregation: Glenn

10. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:30pm

Devotion: Michael

Report to congregation: Iris

11. Adjournment