

**St. Andrew's River Heights United Church  
255 Oak Street  
Council Meeting – October 17, 2023 at 7:30**

**MINUTES**

Present: Iris McKay, Rob Siddall, Kathy Knowles, Leigh Harris-Carlson, Michael Duncan, Glenn Neufeld, Bill Craddock, Rev. Karen Lumley; Regrets: Lisa Richards

1. **Call to Order:** Greetings and Vision Statement

**To live as Christ would have us live, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.**

2. **Devotion:** Iris – Reflections on gratitude and Thanksgiving featuring the history and relevance of the 16<sup>th</sup> century hymn “And Now Thank We All Our God”
3. **Approval of September 19, 2023 minutes:** Moved by Bill Craddock and seconded by Michael Duncan; all in favour.

4. **Church Groups**

Presentation by Christian Education by Rev. Karen Lumley – see attached handout for details – The Council greatly acknowledges and appreciates the efforts made by Jan Demeduk as Chair of the Group

Other Group liaison Updates:

- Stewardship (Glen): Committee Chair is Greg Fearne; 2 mini-Stewardship reminders have been shared from the pulpit and pledge cards will go out to the congregation in the second week of November in hopes of increasing financial support and volunteer participation
- Fellowship (Leigh): The Cookie walk will be looking for donations for December 2&3; the Memory tree service has been scheduled for December 11; there is a need for helpers for coffee time after the service; Fellowship encourages Council to help in as many of these projects as possible
- Worship: (Karen): There has been a suggestion to decrease the announcements at the start of each service as it may be redundant with the information shared in the weekly E-blasts and bulletins; the congregation is encouraged to comment on the idea if they feel differently or have other suggestions

November Presentation – Stewardship

5. **Bell/MTS Proposal Update** (Rob): Bell was again approached as per last month's request to further explore modest community engagement or some form of community communication. It is recognized that there would be challenges with holding our own, less rigorous consultation

process and it was noted that when the daycare was previously approached, there was no response. Questions still remain with regards to the lease overall i.e. liability of repairs for 20 years which would make a consultation moot. Rob will reach out to Bell again looking for clarification of maps, power emitted and of lease terms; reaching out to Gord Shawcross may give insight to the building and any possible risks of liability.

6. **United Church Self-assessment** (Rob): This is a new mandatory assessment issued by Prairie to Pine Regional Council which includes financial, governance and vision information from each church in order to discover our strengths, concerns and any new issues that may help plan for the future of the congregation. The survey will be broken into smaller more manageable parts: Glenn and Iris to work on questions #1-3 (Vision/Mission, Joys/Sorrows, Hopes/Fears), Bill #4 (Financial) and Rob #5 (Organization). Council will work to approve this at the next meeting.
7. **Strategic Plan Update** (All): Our last strategic plan was 5 years ago. Is our Vision statement still valid and representing where we want St Andrew's to be in another 5 years? Thoughts included:
  - Place for spiritual development
  - Open and welcoming sense of community within the congregation and outside our doors
  - Attract and retain youth
  - Outward facing and the challenges when we are already stretched thin within
  - Is "now" good enough i.e. numerically, financially, levels of enthusiasm
  - Same old thing isn't working but last year's questionnaire did not give the anticipated path forward or ideas to bring numbers back
  - Working in collaboration with other churches (i.e. sharing Messy church) and reaching out to other churches to see what is working within their congregations

Further discussion to follow at the next meeting.

8. **Financial** (Bill): See report –
  - Member givings were \$95,333 or \$3,777 more than budgeted. However they were \$19,634 less than last year at this point in time.
  - Expenses were \$3,517 more than budget. This was because of the unexpected \$6,883 in elevator repairs.
  - The overall year to date deficit was \$41,812 which is \$11,346 better than expected.
  - We are budgeting for \$21,500 of interest and divided earnings and \$23,500 from past revenue from the Federal government. These will be transfers from allocated accounts at year-end.
9. **Other business:**
  - a. The church is to receive \$2500 USD from the licensing of a choir performance snippet to be featured in an upcoming movie.
  - b. October Report to Congregation – Rob
10. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:30pm  
Devotion: Bill  
November report Congregation: Iris

## 11. Adjournment