

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Council Meeting December 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order: Greetings/Vision Statement

2. Devotion: Karen

3. Approval of October 17, 2023 minutes

Moved by Iris and seconded by Glenn; all in favour.

4. Church Groups:

- Presentations – Stewardship (Bill), Foundation (Rob)

Stewardship campaign was mailed out- 259 pledge letters. Thirty back to date (less than previous years), but may be others trickling in, as the letters were sent out later this year. PAR will stay status quo unless otherwise indicated. Most are giving the same as previous years.

Foundation- Returns of 4.67% over the year, and this was felt to be good performance by the Board. The Foundation will pay out \$33,000 to the church in 2023 (done by formula). \$978,000 in assets.

- January Presentation – Finance

5. Bell/MTS Proposal (Rob)

1) Commercial Lease Terms

We have negotiated good terms now, and Bell has agreed to most of the changes that we have requested. They have agreed to get a structural assessment of our roof done to help us assess the risk of our potential repair obligations under the lease - if

unhappy with it, then we can walk away. Bell will provide its own power source. P & A reps seem comfortable with signing the lease with the changes.

2) Community Consultation

Discussed the possible risks and benefits of this installation, as well as the nearby installations. The installation will meet all Health Canada safety guidelines for these types of installations. It was noted that there are already approximately 33 telecommunications installations in the vicinity of the Church, although most of them appear to be new Rogers installations on posts along lanes in River Heights. The daycare and the nursery have been advised of the proposal and have not objected. Lisa advised she is still concerned about the lack of community consultation and feels this is not a good location for a cell tower due to the proximity of a daycare, preschool, and next to a school.

ACTION: Bill motioned to approve signing the lease subject to the engineering report, seconded by Glenn. All in favor except for Lisa and Leigh.

Special thanks to Rob for all the work he has done to move this issue forward to a decision.

6. United Church Self-Assessment (Rob)

Self-assessment is required every few years. Some short answers remain to be completed, such as the finance questions. Discussed the *Civic and Church Requirements* section, and determined how we were going to respond to this section.

ACTION: Council has approved the responses in the self-assessment form, and it can be submitted by Charlotte.

7. Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (Michael)

Westworth has asked about the current status of our Child/Youth Coordinator position and whether we can share our position description. It is possible that Westworth will recruit more families to the church with this position, which we will be competing with. Michael asked that we reconsider this position again and table it for a future discussion. Who would this position report to, as Karen is very busy with her current duties? We discussed the Christmas Eve service for families being online this year as an example of a missed opportunity to welcome new families into our church.

ACTION: Defer discussion to our next meeting as part of a broader discussion of strategic priorities.

8. P&A October 15, 2023 Report (Rob)

Report submitted with cost estimates for structural and mechanical repairs to the church. It is challenging to see where these funds will come from. Grants may be available, and P&A has requested some funds from the Winnipeg Foundation, but this will not cover all the repairs listed. Funding would be on the basis of having a daycare and preschool here. We will continue to discuss this as part of a broader discussion of strategic priorities.

9. Treasurer's Report (Bill)

Bill summarized the balance sheet. He also advised that salary ranges for United Church Ministers have moved up a tier, effective now, which has impacted our year end actuals. We should achieve a balanced budget this year. The Bell lease will assist with balancing future budgets.

10. Strategic Plan (All)

Deferred to the next meeting

11. Other Business:

- Date of Annual Meeting (Rob)
February 25, 2024 at 11:30 am
- 2024 Council Membership (Rob)
Let Rob know if you plan to continue on Council for next year, may require a Nominating Committee (Lisa, Bill, Rob and Glenn) to come together.
- December Report to Congregation: Iris

12. Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:30
- Devotion: Kathy
- Report to Congregation: Bill

13. Adjournment