

St Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak Street
Service Team Meeting - Tuesday October 17, 2017
Lounge @7:00 pm

Present: Karen Lumley, Cathy Kinsman, Paul Webster, Bill Craddock, Fred Cross, Peter Brehaut, Anne Grewar, Jeff Kremer, and Kelvin Koots. **Regrets:** Sharri Bertram

Administration

1. **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm by Chair Paul Webster
2. **Devotion:** Karen Lumley
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of an update from the Affirming group.
4. **Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2017:** As the minutes were not circulated prior to the meeting, it was determined that the Service Team will decide on the approval of these minutes at the next meeting in November.
5. **Business Arising:** Paul informed the Service Team that the Anna Blair Circle has proceeded to buy new couches for the lounge.
6. **Correspondence:** Paul read a letter from Presbytery which thanked St. Andrew's for its decision to become the host congregation of Spirit Path.

Items for Discussion

1. Treasurer's Report – Bill

Bill discussed the financial statements as of September 2017. We ended this period with a deficit of \$28,662 which is more favourable than the budgeted deficit of \$40,555. Regular offerings were \$5,836 higher than budget. On the expenses side, the major reduction compared to last year is in the operation of the building. Our operations expenses for this year are \$65,600 compared to \$91,419 at the same time last year, which was partly due to maintenance of the heating system. Overall the financial situation is favourable at this time.

2. CE Interest Group Presentation: Tara McCallum, CE representative

- CE and the Sunday School are following the "Through the Spirit" curriculum.
- The Sunday School teachers will be blessed in worship on November 26.
- Jan Demeduk and Derek Morphy were successfully able to get enough children involved in the Junior Choir this year.
- Jan Demeduk is continuing in her role as CE coordinator. Tara expressed her appreciation for Jan's commitment and enthusiasm.
- There are currently five Sunday School teachers including the Youth Group leader. The limited number of teachers is challenging, and CE is always looking for more teachers.
- Two students alternately supervise the baby room.

- The Sunday School is trying a new format of meeting together in the auditorium before splitting off into groups. Whereas previously children would sit on the stage, they now sit in a circle of chairs which allows for more of a quiet, centring time. They have also begun doing Prayers for the People with the goal of teaching the children more of what is happening upstairs during Worship.
- The Guatemala Mission Experience will pose a challenge in the near future for two reasons: the number of youth in the Youth Group will be lower in the next few years, and the leaders of the Guatemala trip are almost done.

3. Affirming – Anne

Anne thanked Paul for moderating the Affirming workshop on October 15. She asked the Service Team for feedback on the event. It was acknowledged that it was a challenge to start and finish the workshop on time in order for people to be able to stay and participate without affecting their afternoon plans. On the other hand, it was felt that it is important that people have the opportunity to visit during the Soup and Sandwich lunch and that they do not feel rushed.

4. Presentation – Stewardship – Fred

Fred reported that wherever possible, the Stewardship team is taking a minute to speak to the various groups and committees at St. Andrew's. Fred acknowledged that the Service Team is very much aware of Stewardship and the church's financial situation, and he invited Service Team members to take some time to consider what they are capable of and willing to contribute in order to support the church.

5. Follow-up from September Meeting

Paul asked for input further to September's discussion about addressing the financial situation. The Service Team brainstormed the following ideas:

- Paul knows someone who will help negotiate a new lease for the daycare in June 2018
- The Stewardship campaign is trying to increase revenue
- Paul read a letter addressed to the Service Team from his daughter Kristen Webster which proposed creating the new volunteer position of Social Media Coordinator. Everyone agreed that this is a great idea as it is an area in which we are lacking and which has a lot of opportunity.
- There are opportunities to collaborate with other churches in the neighbourhood
- There is a possibility that the Foundation could contribute more money toward the church budget
- We could capitalize on the new piano by promoting our church as a venue for graduations and other events
- We could also promote our church for weddings, perhaps by creating a YouTube video

- We should be keen to offer our building when there is a local film production that is in need of a facility for actors and other staff
- A potential fundraiser could be a winter garage sale, or perhaps we could partner with other churches to host garage sales on the same day
- There is the possibility of sharing staff with other churches (for example, one person could be the CE coordinator for two churches)

Items for Decision

1. Fund Raiser – Karen

Karen reported that there is a fundraising interest group (comprised of two individuals) which has a plan to increase revenue generated by the Basement Bookstore. During the month of October, members of the congregation are invited to drop off books in the coffee area by the sanctuary. Bringing this upstairs will increase the visibility of the bookstore. Then in December the bookstore will have a big sale, and in January there will be a “Buy a bag of books” promotion. Bill expressed his support for a Fundraising Interest Group to ensure that various fundraisers happen throughout the year.

Adjournment: 8:30 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 21, 2017