

St Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak Street

Council MINUTES, June 18, 2019

Board room @ 7:00 pm

Council Meeting:

Present: Anne Grewar, Lisa Richards, Rob Siddel, Bill Craddock, Karen Lumley, John Swan, Gord Shawcross, Noreen Mian, Lorne Hurst

Regrets: Paul Webster, Michael Duncan, Linda Paul

Administration

- 1. Call to Order (time) 7 pm: Greetings/Vision Statement**
- 2. Devotion:** Karen Lumley
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by Bill. Seconded by Loren. All in favour. Carried.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2019**
 - a. Motion to approve the May 21, 2019 minutes. Moved by Rob. Seconded by Lisa. All in favour. Carried.
- 5. Business Arising**
 - a. Caretaker discussion - guest: Gord Shawcross (P&A)
 - i. Report distributed. Sanctuary organized after Service, however, post event clean up is problematic. Currently have a cleaning service but this does not include small repairs and after-event clean up. Discussion re: part time cleaning service or caretaking. Tabled for September.
 - b. Engineer report – Gord
 - i. Additional report distributed, it is too large to be emailed. Electrical system needs to be replaced. Hot and cold running water are past their prime (a commercial plumbing firm needed to asses). Boiler has approx. 2 more years. Air handling units have a best before date of 1986. Steam coils, best before 1986. Electrical is the priority.
 - c. Discussion: Fundraising realities and safety of the current system.
 - d. The most urgent item is replacing the electrical system
- 6. Vision session and strategic planning proposal – Noreen**

- a. Kirsten from KEM Consulting has provided us with a quote. Noreen has reviewed and believes this to be a realistic price for the scope of work.
- b. Kirsten has a connection to St. Andrews and is experienced working with/in the United Church.
- c. We will have the opportunity to engage the congregation through a face-to-face session and surveys, followed by a strategic planning session with the service team.
- d. Discussion. Motion to accept the proposal as outlined. Moved by Bill. Seconded by Noreen. One opposed. Motion carried. 2 votes by proxy.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Communication document
 - i. Email of thanks read
- b. Letter from Bill Muir
 - i. Discussion. We have committed to move forward with strategic planning that will inform how we move forward with communications. Anne will follow up.

Items for Discussion/Update

- 1. Minister update: Michael
 - a. The record of appointment or call was completed under Mary Best's direction signed by Noelle and Michael. We are currently waiting for final approval and signatures. Once PRC signs, we will receive the fully executed document by post (2-3 weeks). Hope to have it by the end of the month.
 - b. Question: When can that be announced? Unclear.
 - c. Michael will follow up as necessary.
- 2. Liaison quarterly reports were due June 10—none submitted
 - a. Affirming update—considered merging with outreach. Decision that the groups are too dissimilar to merge. Next meeting date for the Affirming group is September 10 at 6:00 pm. Both committees will look for new members.
 - b. See attached report
 - c. Christen Education: Met once this year. Members are Jan Demeduk, Lisa Richards, and Karen Lumley. No Chair.
 - i. Sunday School: there are some gap years for the youth age especially junior high/high school. This affects youth programming for the next few years most especially for fundraising (Guatemala Mission Experience, Wreaths and Swags, Soup and Sandwich lunches. There is also less representation of youth in church activities.
 - ii. May/June will be Blue Jean Sunday School for any children who come

- iii. Summer packages are available for any children who come
 - iv. News Board: Pictures and info about upcoming events to be posted. This is another way of communicating with the congregation.
- 3. Covenanting document; read and action plan
 - a. Convening documents need to include the governance documents. The governance group will move forward with their work.
 - b. The materials include a clear template for how the covenant is written. Linda suggests we have it ready for September council meeting. Anne will follow up
- 4. Treasure's Report: Bill
 - a. The deficit for the period ending May 31 was \$17,532, which was \$19,936 better than budgeted. Ten thousand dollars of this is explained by the grant received from the Winnipeg Foundation which had not yet been expended. Much of the favorable result was due to most expense items being under budget. Member givings were \$3,578 better than expected. However, they were \$8,103 less than last year at this time. While member givings continue to exceed budget, it is not likely that this will prevail at year's end.
 - b. The proposed new lease for the Oak Street Nursery Inc. has been completed and is in their possession for possible acceptance. I have information that it will soon be accepted without significant recommended changes.
 - c. The fully accessible door in the family washroom has been completed and seems to be working in a totally satisfactory manner. The cost was about 50% more than originally quoted but it is what it is and is not a significant number.
- 5. Conference update/report: Karen
 - a. Attended the Prairie to Pine regional meeting from June 13-16.
 - b. Trying to work the "bugs" out of the new structure that has been implemented
 - c. New Ordains are going to Garden City
 - d. Two proposals brought forward for a vote by the court:
 - i. The first one was Affirming Regional Council: Prairie to Pine. There were four motions to this proposal which dealt with Prairie to Pine becoming a member of Affirm United; approve interim vision statement & interim action plan from Affirming task group; Prairie to Pine fulfill the interim action plan with the intent to achieve full Affirming status by the Regional meeting in 2020; & that a budget of \$100.00 to join Affirm United & \$2,000.00 for 2019-2020 to carry out interim action plan & \$1,000.00 of which be dedicated to send someone to Affirm Annual meeting. The second proposal was Responsibilities Retained by the Regional Council. Both motions passed.

- e. Question: Was there any comment on U of W closing its school of Theology? How does this impact new people coming in? Non-issue as they are not part of the district.
- Nominations
 - f. Andrea has sent out the group membership. Council chairs are needed for affirming, C/E, Finance, Outreach, Worship. Diane Beul is resigning. Suggestion to consider co-chairs.

Question: Where are we at with the youth position? The Board needs to appoint a committee to conduct a search. Should this position be filled? Brief discussion. Tabled for September.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 8:58pm

Next Meeting: September 17, 2019

ANNUAL AFFIRMING MINISTRIES REPORT 2018-2019

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

As a part of our involvement with Affirm United to maintain and implement St. Andrew's River Heights United Church's affirming initiatives, the affirming group will continue to focus on the following items from our original plan:

1. Using affirming language – set up “basic training” for those who wish to learn about what is meant by “affirming language”;
2. Expand the pool of involvement in church activities and/or worship services, e.g., scripture reading, music open to all;
3. Continue to work with the caring circles interest group in order to expand the pool of people who might assist the ministers in visitations or community contacts;
4. Include our affirming symbol in all public communications.

The congregation at the AGM in February 2015 unanimously supported the above items.

We are able to report the following:

- A member of our Affirming Interest Group continued to take part in the city-wide Affirm United meetings until it was disbanded in the spring of 2018.
- Once again, we participated in the Winnipeg PRIDE parade for 2018 under the umbrella of the United Church affirming banner. In 2019 a small group of UC congregations gathered together and walked as one large group.
- We continue to request that new outdoor signage be part of the discussion at service team meetings.

- April 2019 we celebrated our 5th Anniversary as an Affirming Ministry.
- During the May (2018) planning meeting, we confirmed specific dates for three “Minutes for Affirming” as well as a couple of dates for speakers. There have not been any specific plans made for 2019 as of yet.
- Our group had meetings several times in 2018 but struggled to gather much in 2019. We will continue to attempt to meet as required.
- The group is in the process of making plans for a few different information sessions to be held throughout 2019-20, as well as to possibly start thinking of setting further priorities with the Outreach Interest Group regarding partnering on new and inclusive ideas.

Our members are as follows: Vinny Ashton, Peter Brehaut, Anne Grewar, Tara McCallum (resigning for 2019-2020),

Linda Paul (resigning for 2019-2020), Rita Swan and our ministerial support is Karen Lumley.

Respectfully submitted by,

The Affirming Interest Group