

St Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak St

Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025, 7:30pm

Present: Rob Siddall, Rita Swan, Leigh Harris-Carlson, Glenn Neufeld, Lorelei Friesen, Bill Craddock, Karen Lumley.

Regrets: Heather Ragot

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.

Welcome to Lorelei for her first meeting.

2. **Devotion: Rob** shared an article "Hope is more important than gratitude" and the importance of hope for healthy bodies, minds and spiritual optimism.

3. **Approval of March minutes:** Moved by Glenn, seconded by Karen

4. Church Groups:

a. **Presentation: Ministry & Personnel** – No presentation - currently the M&P is without a chair. Lisa Richards has agreed to become a member and brings the group to 3 people; perhaps more volunteers will come forward. We hope to create a "process manual" of M&P functions/responsibilities in the St. Andrew's model to be shared with the members.

b. **Other Group Liaison updates:** Glenn – Stewardship has put out their postcard of upcoming events and Easter services; it was only sent to families on the mailing list that we do not see regularly to save on postage. Some will be placed at the back of the church as well for anyone who wants to take home a reminder.

c. **May Presentation** – Fellowship

5. **Minister's Report** – Karen continues to think about visioning and how to update our plan for the Church; there is a lot of new hope and energy, but we need to find the direction we want to go.

6. **Augustine United Church Proposal Update** – Rita: Seven churches met and shared conversations of each church's situation. It is likely important to collaborate at some point

but there was no talk about amalgamation. There will be another meeting to have further discussions, but no date has been set at this time.

7. **Succession Planning** – Rob: Specifically with regards to the Treasurer role, it is important to look ahead for the position. Bill has confirmed his intention to remain as Treasurer for the next 2 years and will plan to give a full year's notice. Upon Bill's retirement the Treasurer's role will likely be split into two separate roles – one being the Treasurer and the other being a bookkeeper. The allocation of responsibilities between these two roles will be settled closer to Bill's retirement. Bill's thoughts are we would need to hire a bookkeeper who would not necessarily need to be on Council whereas the Treasurer would continue to oversee everything financial and must be a member of Council.
8. **PA meeting update:**
 - a. It is estimated that it will cost \$4500, or closer to \$6500 with taxes etc., to replace the lights behind the stained glass; likely not a priority to do at this time.
 - b. There is a request to replace all the light bulbs in the sanctuary while the electrician is here to replace the few that are burnt out – it is \$60 per bulb plus service fee; likely not a priority to do at this time.
 - c. Keys are to be given to Al Anon and doors will be opened/managed by John Swan while he is in town and while David Wreford is away.
 - d. It is a busy time of year for rentals and recitals.
9. **Treasurer's Report** - Bill:
 - a. A refurbished copier has been acquired to replace the broken one in the office. This will decrease the cost per copy but increase the annual cost by 7.5%. It is recommended that we reduce the number of colour copies especially and new codes will be distributed to staff and daycare with a miscellaneous code that would be managed by Charlotte and is not to be shared with everyone.
 - b. The April budget shows an increase over budgeted total income and there is a net revenue of \$13 966.
 - c. The lease is finally signed with the Daycare.
10. **Other Business:**
 - a. April report to congregations – Rita but with Easter coming, we will bump the report to April 27th.

- b. Rental Policy: An update to the previous discussion; the concern with staff use of Church premises is the potential for lost income from third-party rentals. Rob will collect more information and report back to Council at the May meeting.
- c. Other: May 4th post service coffee does not need to be served by Council as that will be the date of the Church picnic; coffee on June 1 to be served by Glenn and Carol.

11. Next meeting: May 20, 2025 at 7:30pm

- a. Devotion: Leigh will swap with Rita as she will be away, Rita will therefore do June's devotion
- b. Report to Congregation: Glenn

12. Adjournment