

St Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak Street

Council Meeting – March 18, 2025, 7:30pm

Minutes

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

Regrets: Lorelei Friesen, Heather Ragot

Guests: Ruth McKenzie and Linda Paul from the Worship Group

1. Call to Order: Greeting/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.

2. Devotion: Glenn shared an article by John Longhurst in the Winnipeg Free Press about the recently formed group of inter-faith communities from River Heights, Crescentwood and Fort Rouge brought together by MLA Mike Moroz; with aging congregations and faith infrastructures - how can the communities work together to improve the area, share activities, understanding and explore how the Manitoba government may help i.e. community nursing programs hosted by the churches.

3. Approval of February minutes – Moved by Glenn, seconded by Leigh

4. Church Groups:

- a. Presentation by Worship – see attached report.
- b. Stewardship: Glenn reports that a postcard invitation is to be mailed to share Spring and Easter events, Karen suggested some also be placed at the back of the church for the congregation to take as required. The Aaron Hutton concert has officially been scheduled for the evening of October 18, 2025. Bill reports that plans for the spring bridge luncheon have been discontinued and they may consider doing something in the fall.
- c. April presentation – Ministry and Personnel

5. Minister's Report: Karen tabled her report, and then Council discussed possible April meeting dates and logistics based upon Karen's availability.

6. Election of Treasurer and Council Secretary – Rob: Glenn nominated Bill as Treasurer and Leigh as Secretary; all in favor – elected

7. 2025 Devotion and Congregation Reporting Schedule – Rob: see schedule

8. Augustine United Church Proposal – Rob: A letter has been received from Augustine United inviting St Andrew's to a meeting regarding an exploration of a collaborative ministry – a way of thinking out of the box to share resources and explore possibilities in the future; there is no need to commit to any suggestions but it might be useful to discuss and learn more about their proposals. Rita can perhaps attend while Karen is away on leave.

9. **Ministry and Personnel Group** – Rob: The M&P Group does not have a chair at this time and the 2 remaining members seem to be willing to stay on but would not be able to take on the Chair; there are concerns that while there are 6 official staff members, some of the responsibilities of M&P have fallen to the wayside i.e. annual reviews. The UCC Manual recommends 3-5 members, and the suggestion was made to “build” a committee and see if co-chairs/chair may appear in time to take the lead. We will need to check the UCC Manual and by laws while we continue to ask for names to come forward.

10. **Amendments to Governance Statement** – Rob, Linda Paul: A number of proposed amendments to our Governance Statement were discussed, and the following proposals were supported by Council and will be presented to the next Annual Meeting for consideration by the Congregation:

- a. The Governance Statement currently provides that “fundamental amendments” must be approved in advance by the Congregation (and that other amendments need to be subsequently ratified by the Congregation), but since there is no definition of “fundamental amendment”, the proposal was that all changes to the Governance Statement need to be approved in advance by the Congregation.
- b. The Governance Statement currently does not provide for term limits for members of Council. In order to encourage turnover on Council and to enable more members of the Congregation to participate on Council and to bring new ideas and perspectives forward, the proposal was that the terms of elected Council members be limited to two years, provided that terms could be extended with the approval of the Congregation.

It was also agreed that the mandate of the Nominating Group would include ascertaining whether a nominee for Council Chair is a full member and listed as such in the St. Andrew’s Membership Roll.

11. **Treasurer’s Report** – Bill: After many months of negotiation, the finalized form of the lease with the Daycare is to be delivered imminently and is anticipated to be signed officially; the annual UCC assessment was paid in full in January which skews the expenses at this time of year. An Independent Reviewers Report for the 2024 year-end financials has been received from Howard Rempel – please see report.

12. **Other business:**

- a. March Report to Congregation: Rob
- b. Other – April post service coffee – Rob in lieu of Leigh

13. **Next meeting;** Tuesday April 15, 2025, at 7:30 – likely to be changed to April 22nd to allow Karen to attend after her leave.

- a. Devotion – Rob
- b. Report to Congregation – Rita

14. Adjournment