

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

255 Oak St

Council Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025, at 7:30pm

Present: Rob Siddall, Leigh Harris-Carlson, Loralie Friesen, Bill Craddock, Glenn Neufeld, Karen Lumley, Rita Swan. Regrets: Heather Ragot

Guests: Anne Grewar – Chair of Outreach Group, Peter Brehaut

**1. Call to Order: Greetings & Vision Statement**

**To live as Christ would want us to 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: Rita** – As National Indigenous People's Day approaches on June 21, Rita shared a prayer from the UCC along with a brief history of the UCC relationship with Indigenous peoples and how faith communities share in the day with gratitude and hope.
- 3. Approval of May 20, 2025 minutes:** Glenn moved that the minutes be approved; seconded by Bill, all in favour.
- 4. Church Groups:**

**Presentation – Outreach by Anne Grewar and Peter Brehaut:**

Anne and Peter outlined the very busy year the Outreach Group has had and Council expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the many initiatives, the insightful work and the representation the Group shares on the congregation's behalf.

**Other Groups Liaison Updates:**

**Fellowship:** A request was made by Fellowship to access funds in order to assist One Just City while they host a large number of wildfire evacuees, specifically, the active and hungry youth who are not a

common demographic in the OJC routine; the group has already taken sandwiches, snacks and supplies (many leftover from previous events held at St. Andrew's) and would like to continue to provide snacks, treats and games if the evacuations continue. Bill advises that it would not be an issue if an approximate budget of \$500 were to be used and Council felt confident that Fellowship's skills and contributions would be greatly appreciated, if and when needed.

**Ministry and Personnel:** The Terms of Reference were forwarded to M&P and the terms from the UCC manual match well, so at this time, our M&P can refer to this outline of their role. While it may need to wait until after summer, staff appraisals need to be started and the Police checks required of Ministry personnel should be paid for by the Church.

### **September Presentation: Property & Administration**

- 5. Minister's Report: Karen** - The Strategic Planning for the Church was created prior to Covid: what has changed? How does the Congregation proceed now? It would be appropriate to check on what resources might be available and to check on costs associated as this is an unbudgeted item; Karen to investigate.
- 6. Proposed Daycare Development – Rob:** P&A were approached by the Daycare to reconfigure a portion of our property into a fenced "quiet space" separate from the busy play yard; they have been given a \$45000 grant to carry out the work. The proposed site is along the Oak St side of the church, from the fern garden against the wall towards the bike rack. While some ideas and rough sketches were given to P&A, it is difficult to picture the plan, involvement of windows etc. at this time and Council will request more detailed information be provided before approval of the request.
- 7. Rental Policy Update – Rob:** Rob will reach out to M&P for an update on past or current communications with personnel regarding rental agreements.
- 8. Succession Planning – Rob:** In continuing discussion, while it has been thought that the Treasurer role may split into two positions, it may be

worthwhile to consider engaging a third party investment advisor to manage our investment portfolios.

- 9. Treasurer's Report – Bill:** Spaces have been measured for two new fire proof safes: one for documents accessible by only M&P and one for historical documents of the Church. Regular offerings are above budget but Operations income is down and expenses are up therefore we have a deficit in current revenue as compared to budget. On a positive note, the carbon tax has been officially removed as of the May heating bill and we look forward to significant savings going forward. We also look forward to the Bell MTS payments once installation work begins.

**10. Other Business:**

**\*June report to Congregation: Bill**

**\*Other – July post-service coffee prep: Loralie**

**11. Next Meeting:**

**\*Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 7:30pm**

**\*Devotion: Heather**

**\*Report to Congregation: Heather**

**12. Adjournment**