

MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD Original 2023-336
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Present: Sharon Davidson, Shelley Grisdale, Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Norma Janzen, BJ Leighton, Rev. Fred Monteith, Larry Pickard, Jacque Scatcherd, Lorne White, Yvonne Wright

Regrets: Andrew Advincula, Terry Matheson,

Sharon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Land Acknowledgment – offered by Sharon

Christ Candle lit by Sharon, to acknowledge the Spirit that guides us, feeds us, keeps us present

Prayer – offered by Sharon

Devotion – offered by Maureen, a reading from Chicken Soup for the Soul “Just One Wish”

Maureen offered her welcome adding she is sensing the winds of change. She also shared that several people have offered feedback about how positive the services are that Fred has led. Shelley was welcomed as the representative to the Board this evening from Stewardship/Outreach.

Motion to accept the Agenda moved by Lorne White and seconded by Shelley Grisdale with corrections as noted below. Carried.

- **Remix to be corrected as Remit**
- **Stewardship and Outreach should be listed together**

Motion to accept the Minutes of November 8, 2023 moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Lorne White with the following corrections. Carried.

- **Under Guidelines from Region/UCC, final bullet ‘of’ to ‘or’**
- **Under M&P should read November 2 not October 2**

Comment – it was noted that Fred’s salary is 20% above the minimum. Do not recall that being addressed at the last meeting. Some people expressed being upset Paul was paid 18% above minimum.

Sharon responded that the salary was noted in the motion appointing Fred. Additionally Fred’s experience is factored into the salary. Fred stated that this is the salary he requests for Pulpit Supply.

Correspondence

- Letter from Arnold Viersen, an MP from Alberta seeking support for Bill S-210 Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act. The support requested is to advocate for this bill with local Member of Parliament.

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- Message received from Gail Merritt (on behalf of herself and a few others) requesting that the Board be reminded that we have not honoured Bill MacKinnon with a celebration upon his leaving. Covid and health issues have delayed this event. The Walls are interested in assisting with the celebration. Could a date be set?
- There were some different recollections of Bill's leaving, after some conversation it was recalled as follows
- A presentation to Bill of a pottery vase was made by Darrell and Sharon in the Sanctuary which was videoed by Paul and broadcast in a service during lockdown
- At that time an in-person celebration could not be held
- **Discussion**
- **Action**
- Sharon will contact Bill to determine if January 21st or 28th would work for him
- Shelley will contact the Walls and determine if January 21st or 28th would work for them

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Adherents list

- Recommendation from Lynn Allen from the Region
- Determines who is able to vote at Congregational Meetings
- **Action:** Maureen to follow up with Aileen

2. Financial Viability Documents

- Will be required when seeking Intentional Interim Minister
- Contained in the Tool Kit #12 on the Horseshoe Falls website
- Our monthly detailed Financial Statements should make the completion of the form when required straightforward

3. Trustees Funds

- CERB Loan will be repaid before December 31st
- Will request \$40,000.00 from investments
- **Discussion**
- **Action** – Trustees will request \$60,000.00. Additional \$20,000.00 is to have available to cover operating shortfall

Motion that the Trustees transfer \$20,000.00 to the Treasurer upon request moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by Lorne White. Carried.

4. Speaker for Laptop utilized in Fellowship Room

- Based on experience this evening, we don't need a new laptop or a speaker, rather a microphone is required to amplify voices in the Fellowship Room so those joining by Zoom can hear full discussion
- **Discussion**

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Motion to purchase a microphone for the Laptop being utilized in the Fellowship Room to a maximum of \$150.00 moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Shelley Gridale. Carried.

Remit

- Package has been forwarded to Board for review several months ago
- The Remit was spoken to in a service by Yvonne and Paul in June 2023
- This remit does not require approval of the congregation, only Board
- Essentially the Remit would permit the Indigenous Churches to determine who God/The Spirit/The Creator wishes them to be, they wish to journey alongside the UCC but worship or do church in an indigenous way, no timelines will be set for the Indigenous Church to develop self determination, wish is to not be obligated to follow the strategies of the UCC, not to comply with Colonial Expectations
- There are examples within the African and Korean Churches who reflect their culture and heritage in Worship, difference is that these churches are operating within the established policies of the UCC, the Indigenous Church wish to create their own policies/procedures
- Granting the Indigenous Church this autonomy will contribute to the healing required from their history
- **Discussion**
- Concern that not operating within the parameters of UCC policies extends privileges without responsibility
- Opens space for conversations
- ‘The Inconvenient Indian’ authored by Thomas King explores the relationship between Indigenous and non Indigenous and the way popular culture has shaped our notion of Indigenous identity
- **Decision**
- **Remit authorized by the 44th General Council, 2022**
- **Remit #1 Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada YES**

6 votes yes, 1 vote no, Carried

- **Action**
- Jacquie will complete the form on behalf of the Board and send to Allison Jordan, Law Clerk at UCC
- Copy will be retained for church records
- Will need to message this decision to the congregation
- Yvonne advised there is a great deal of resources available through the UCC should anyone wish to learn more, understand more deeply this remit

Board Responsibility and Relationship to Transition Team

- Transition Team reps to Board will be Terry and Jacquie
- December 21st and January 7th are next meeting dates

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- Team will provide updates from pulpit on process on weekly basis even when nothing new to announce/share to model transparency
- Meeting content will not be shared in minute form
- Guidelines for the Community of Faith can be found on the UCC website
- Board inquired what they need to prepare
- Transition Team will bring any requests forward to the Board

Request from Secretary

- Jacquie advised that she will be away and requires minute taking and document distribution for the February and March Board Meetings as well as minute taking at the Annual General Meeting

AGM Planning

- AGM will be held February 25, 2024
- Nominating Committee – Sonny Sinclair, Cynthia Advincula and Larry Pickard
- Nominating Committee will be appointed at each AGM for the following year
- Fred reminded Board that if an Intentional Interim Minister has not been appointed by the AGM, a Regional Appointed Pastoral Charge Minister will be required to be in attendance at the AGM
- Sharon and Maureen advised that they do not wish to stand for reappointment to the Board

Schedules for 2024

- Coffee hour and Sunday Worship Schedules have been distributed for 2024

Suggestion

Could we work with a three part budget?

1. Staff paid through givings
2. Building paid through rental income
3. Special projects paid through Grants

Committee Reports:

M&P

- Committee felt it was important to share the Exit Interview of Paul Shepherd with the Board and the Transition Team
- Paul agreed to sharing the notes with Board and Transition Team
- It is highly unusual to share Exit Interview notes
- Content needs to be kept confidential
- The Exit Interview has been received by the Board and will be directed to the Transition Team

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Spiritual

- Worship and Pastoral Care minutes have been circulated
- Worship budget will be same in 2024 as 2023
- Fred's contract is until January 7, 2024, discussion occurring as need a contingency plan for pulpit coverage until IIM is called and realistically with Transition Team just beginning their work, doubtful the IIM will be in place by January 14, 2024
- **Discussion**

Motion to extend Fred Monteith's appointment beyond January 7, 2024 until the appointment of an Intentional Interim Minister moved by Yvonne Wright and seconded by Larry Pickard. Carried.

An Appointment Form needs to be completed on behalf of Fred Monteith for current contract
Action – Maureen will contact Micol Cottrell at the Region to complete the Appointment Form process. Maureen will also inquire if Fred's contract can be extended beyond January 7, 2024 if he is in agreement and available.

If Fred is not able to extend his contract the Worship Committee will seek Pulpit Supply

Stewardship/Outreach

- Coordinated farewell to Paul and Marjorie
- Kind Cooks – seeking insurance coverage for New Year
- Shelley feels some guidelines are needed with this group going forward
- Christmas Morning – preparing 25 bags to share at Victoria Park
- April 2024 – seminar being planned for Service Canada to speak about Senior's Income Tax, Pensions

Youth: No report

Property

- Board agreed to installation of a second light to illuminate the back of the Parking Lot at a cost of \$110-\$120 a year
- LED lights installed inside entrances have improved illumination
- Property is not recommending brighter lights in Sanctuary but will remove light bases in Sanctuary lights where bats frequently become trapped and die and require removal

Trustees

- Report received and items spoken to in Business Arising

Treasurer

- General givings are up \$10,000 compared to last year at this time
- Deficit is down \$15,000 compared to this time last year
- Deficit is \$65,000

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- Finance Committee will be meeting to prepare budget for presentation at January Board Meeting
- We need to reserve a significant portion of the January meeting for discussion
- Dorothy Woltz and Stephen Smith Foundation donation of \$2,500 received. They like to know what the funds are being utilized for, will be brought back to the January meeting for decision
- A change upcoming in the Region – Pastoral Care Supervisors will be compensated at \$35.00/hour and travel costs

Horseshoe Falls Division

- Mark Laird begins his appointment as Regional Council Executive Minister March 1, 2024

Sharing Resources

- Next meeting January 10th at 9:30am
- We need to remain mindful that SHUC is hosting next combined UC Worship Service February 11, 2024

Actions – What, Who, When

- 1) Maureen to contact Micol Cottrell – Fred’s appointment form for current contract can we consider extending Fred’s contract post January 7th extension if he is in agreement and available
- 2) Sharon to share Lynn Allen contact information with Norma
- 3) Jacquie – forward remit to UCC and copy to Church file
- 4) Sharon will contact Lyle regarding microphone for laptop
- 5) Sharon will contact Bill MacKinnon about lunch date in January
- 6) Shelley will connect with Harold and Molly Wall about lunch date for Bill MacKinnon

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 10, 2024

Devotions: Terry or Sharon

Regrets to January Meeting: BJ Leighton

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary