

Approved by HUC Council

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
February 25, 2020
(commenced 7:04 pm.)

Attendance: J. McCrae, F. Steggles, D. Gilmour, M. Garrie, M. Grayhurst, M. Steggles, B. Burke, A. McGregor, L. Steggles

Regrets: H. Gaskin, B Packham, C. Evans

Guests: B. Gilmour, D.Seth

Gathering

1. Welcome by Beverley.
2. Worship: Jessica provided a moment of prayer.

Administrative Ministry of the Church

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 28, 2020 Council meeting.

Motion: Melanie/Aileen

CARRIED

That council approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 council meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Melanie/Aileen

CARRIED

That council approve the agenda for the February 25, 2020 meeting.

5. Chair Report/Correspondence

As a follow-up to Heritage Designation, Beverley reported on her discussion with Alex Corey, Heritage Planner, Heritage Preservation Services for the City of Toronto, who confirmed that Humbercrest Church will be part of the heritage designation. Also on the theme of history, Beverley talked of Jessica's first session on Telling the Stories of Humbercrest and urged all to consider attending the remaining two sessions scheduled for March 1st and March 15th.

Follow-up / New Business

6. Vice-Chair Nomination

Melanie presented a motion nominating Linda to assume immediately the position of Vice-Chair and to confirm the annual general meeting in March.

Motion: Melanie/Aileen

CARRIED

That council accept the nomination of Linda Steggles as Vice-Chair of Council and to be confirmed at the annual general meeting in March 2020.

7. Visioning Update

Linda used the four sessions in January arranged by the Visioning Committee as an example of connecting. Visioning will plan to invite Alex Corey from the City of Toronto to speak to the congregation so people will better understand the impact of the heritage designation on our church.

Dianna and Marg attended the February 10th Etobicoke Cluster Meeting, a meeting of several west-end churches discussing their common financial challenges with Katja Brittain as the guest speaker.

8. Meeting House

Melanie requested that council again explore The Meeting House (TMH) interest in renting space based upon her projection that Humbercrest needs the rental for two more years before the church's future is solidified. Beverley asked if council wanted to discuss a motion to present to the congregation at the AGM but members felt this was not the time. The discussion that followed covered the possible alternative use of the Heritage Hall by TMH, the renting of space for Sunday school classes, the TMH philosophy on homosexuality and its attitude to LGBTQ issues, the challenge of there being limited parking, and the question of church services running simultaneously in the sanctuary and the Heritage Hall without disruption or interference for either group. Council members agreed that Katja Brittain represent Humbercrest Church in discussions with TMH on rental possibilities.

9. Long Term Rental Report

The rental committee has changed with Dianna Seth and Dorothy Lothian joining and with Charlie stepping back as an active participant but being available for consultation. Katja Brittain has suggested that the rental committee consider sharing with other United Churches in the hiring of a summer student for the purpose of learning more about expanding our social media presence. Funding for the position would come from a federal government grant which Katja would apply for on our behalf and TUCC would provide the oversight. Marg also advised that she is looking to have a list of ministers that could be available to conduct wedding services if called upon. Jessica volunteered to help provide also a list of ministers for David Drake to share with potential renters. On the subject of summer time projects, Mike will call a meeting of Facilities Team to plan work in the B&G budget and to consider hiring a summer student.

Follow-up action: Fern to inquire of David Drake as to whether the wedding co-ordinator job description has been provided to Natalie Cakebread.

Follow-up action: Mike to call a meeting of B&G to schedule work in the budget.

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10. AGM Preparation

Beverley noted that the Annual General Meeting of the congregation is set for March 29, 2020 and that David Drake will be expecting all reports submitted to him by the end of February.

Follow-up action: Beverley to check with David on the status of annual report preparations.

Stewardship of Our Resources

11. Treasurer's Report

In Charlie's absence, David presented the financial results for January 2020. The one month results are in line with budget and comparable to the prior year. However, council was reminded that it was in the third week of January that the church was without heat and soon had to close the church building in the last part of the month which affected regular group revenues.

The total for the Mission Fund is \$3,041 compared to \$2,579 for January 2019.

Motion: David/Linda

CARRIED

That council accept the Treasurer's report.

A Time of Reflection and Discernment

12. Minister's Report

Jessica commented on how pleased she was with the first of the Story Telling sessions. The session looked at the Mission Statement in the context of changing times. The stories told are a reminder that the church has gone through difficult times in the past and has survived. People are encouraged to come out whether or not they have personal stories to tell. The next scheduled sharing of stories, Faith and Hope, will be on March 15th.

Jessica reported on her recent study leave, February 17-24. The focus of the study was on being sustainable, how best to use the spaces in the church in the week.

Jessica is working with Meredith on planning a wine and cheese event to meet with the neighbourhood. It is possible the date will be in late April or failing that do the event in September. Beverley commented that there may be a question about having alcohol with a church sponsored event.

Follow-up action: Beverley to include a vote at the AGM for the church's policy on alcohol.

Our Shared Ministries

Committee Reports -

13. Trustees

No report.

14. Devotions

No report. However Jessica commented that on March 8th there will be a baptism for John Parsons' two sons, Nate and Dash. These are David and Marg Parsons' grandchildren. The story of Nicodemus will be presented. The plan will also be to video tape the service for David who cannot be in attendance.

15. Facilities

With the forecast of snow coming soon, Mike advised that minimal snow clearing will be done at the start of the day due to Patrick and Mike having school and work commitments and the full clearing will be done at the end of the day.

16. Resources

No report but Marg raised the matter of how the annual report is distributed. She recommended that Humbercrest consider e-mailing the report wherever possible to reduce the cost of printing the books. Linda volunteered to work out the details with David Drake to make this happen.

Motion: Marg/Melanie

CARRIED

That council approve of the distribution of the Annual Report by electronic means one week ahead of the holding of the AGM and that a limited supply of copies be available for people that request a printed copy.

Follow-up action: Linda to assist David Drake in organizing the details.

17. Community

Fern reported that on March 2, 2020 the Young at Heart Seniors' Lunch will be held. The Teatime schedule for next year is being worked on. In the coming plan each group will be scheduled for two dates to be hosts. Looking in the long range, a Community Fix-it event is being planned for June 21, 2021.

18. Ministry and Personnel

As reported previously Aileen has been working on amendments to the rental contract to include information for renters serving alcohol and is receiving help from Karen Anderson. Clauses have been added to cover liability and to be covered under the laws of Ontario. Melanie recommended that the contract refer to Smart Serve so that the renter or user is aware of their responsibility to know the law. Aileen will also share the draft of the contract with Katja Brittain.

Follow-up action: Aileen to share the draft of the rental contract with Katja Brittain.

19. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

(Adjournment: 9:10 pm.)

Next regular council meeting is March 24, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

B. Burke – *Council Chair*

D. Gilmour – *Secretary*