

Approved by HUC Council

Humbercrest United Church
Daft Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 27th 2020
Via Video Conference
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Beverley Burke, Aileen McGregor, Linda Steggles, Charlie Evans, Howard Gaskin, Brian Packham
Rev. Don Gibson, Rev. Mary Jo Patterson.
Guest Dorothy Lothian

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement,

1. Welcome by Linda

Linda acknowledged the land. On behalf of Humbercrest she offered condolences to Rev. Patterson on the death of her husband's brother in law.

Prayer : Rev. Don Gibson

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of Minutes of the September 22nd 2020 Council meeting.

Motion: Beverley/Marg

CARRIED

That council approve the revised minutes of the September 22nd 2020 council meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the 13th October 2020 special meeting

Motion: Brian/Howard

CARRIED

that Council approve the Minutes of the October 13th special meeting

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dianna/Aileen

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for the October 27 2020 meeting.

Chair's Report - September 2020

Thank you to Rev. Mary Jo and Rev. Don for settling in so well. We are grateful that you are with us on our journey forward.

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Special thanks to Brian for supporting the tech learning curve, and for hosting services this month. Brian is looking to expand the roster of Zoom hosts. Please contact him with suggestions.

As recommended by our techie tenor Andrew Haji, an HP lap top has been purchased (\$750 + tax) with good video-conferencing capacity, for on-line worship services and is being used by Rev. Don in the sanctuary.

David D. is minding it during the week.

Thanks to Council for their considered decision on Oct. 13 to delay re-opening in-person Worship. Please see minutes of that special meeting for details.

Correspondence – Susan Murphy has written that she wishes to bring her formal relationship with HUC to a close. She reflected on her own faith journey and on her affinity to Rev. Jessica. She is very involved in the “The Academy for Lifelong Learning”. If she were to stay, she feels she should work hard to “save the church”. On the other hand, she wonders if we are just postponing the inevitable conclusion of closing or amalgamation?

She says that she will always be grateful for the warm welcome she received when she arrived. Susan included a final donation to the Furnace Fund in her letter and would like to stay on the email distribution list. I thanked her for her wonderful newsletters and her donation, and told her that we’re glad that she will stay connected, even if indirectly.

Follow-up / New Business

Transition team report

Isaac Anderson has resigned from the Transition Team due to time constraints and Fred Atkinson has agreed to replace him. I have consulted with Paul Stott and he does not feel that he needs to give Fred a training session. I have shared the United Church of Canada Resource for Transition Teams with Fred and he will learn as we go along.

Recommendation: that Council accept the resignation of Isaac Anderson and approve Fred Atkinson as his replacement on the Transition Team.

We have met twice in October and have worked on behavioral guidelines for our team and started exploring how to deal with conflict, which is the substance of the second goal, but which needs to be addressed before we work on the others.

We have discussed some ideas for a Covenanting Service which should take place soon, with our IIM, Mary Jo and our two Region Representatives, Paul Stott and Lydia Pedersen. This will be finalized by the Worship Committee at their meeting on Sunday October 25th

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Motion: Howard/Fern

CARRIED

To approve two changes to members of the Transition team:

Accept Isaac Anderson's resignation and approve Fred Atkinson as a new member and Also accept Linda Steggles' resignation and approve Dorothy Lothian as Chair (effective mid-July).

3. Rental Committee Report

Our thanks to Natalie for her co-ordination efforts toward the successful wedding rental last week. The church was slightly cool with just the underfloor heating however the violinist used a small hand heater which she shared with Mel.

There is a movie crew luncheon on Oct.29th using both the East and West Hall for COVID spacing and staggered eating times. \$1500. for twelve hours. We will need all the boilers on by Wednesday to heat these areas.

After much deliberation and cost analysis we decided against the rental of room 15 & 16 and subsequently the rest of the rooms in the balcony to Flick the Switch. We felt they were not the optimal choice of renter since the rent was low and they wanted exclusive 24 hr access.

We have almost finished renovating room 15 & 16 (top of the balcony stairs) thanks to David Gilmour and Keith McColl and will continue with the renovation of the rest of the balcony in stages. To start we need to bring a new electrical line to the balcony. The wiring is original, over 100 years old and has other areas on these same circuits. The total cost of all the electrical work needed is \$5600. which includes three emergency lights, three exit signs, a light switch in the mezzanine area, one remote three-way switch at the entrance door and two grounded plugs per room, three in the larger room 20, all doable in stages. Floor repair is needed in front of rooms 17,18,19 and plastering/painting in rooms 17 to 20. The repair of the external water leaks is a necessity for us to continue. The contents of these rooms (Costume room, Christmas decorations, Scouts, sale racks etc.) need to be culled as our only other storage is in the West Hall side rooms which will need to be shared.

The Rental Committee requests that the Council approve a line of credit from the Heritage Fund of \$10,000. for the renovation of the balcony area including rooms 15 and 16 and other items necessary for future rentals. This loan does not include any external repair of the water leaks.

Possible New Rental - Elections Canada

This would be an exclusive space rental for all three large halls, stage, Friendship room, and room 9. for training purposes. They expect a call for election early March or April. We have received a contract which must be signed within 48 hours of a declared election.

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At least two other spaces have been given this same contract so we must plan on having these areas ready in case we are the space selected. It will mean some reorganization of renters as the total renting time is 2 ½ months. Although this will be somewhat disruptive the rent offered is \$100,000.

The Rental Committee totally supports this opportunity.

Motion Marg/Dianna

CARRIED

That Council approve a request to Trustees that up to \$10,000 be made available for expenses related to the refurbishing of the Balcony Area rooms

Children's Breakfast Clubs Coat Store Update 2020

Linda reported that unfortunately, owing to challenges with the Corona virus, the Coat Store volunteers (Aileen, Catherine, Donna, John, Linda and Natalie) decided that we could not support it this year. All items were picked up this week and have been taken to a new location in Thorncliffe Park. Much appreciation to John Mutton for rolling/carrying the bags and boxes down to the East door entry for pick up. This update and a link to their home page for donations will be provided in the B of H this week.

Stewardship of our Resources

Charlie presented the financial reports for September 30th 2020. These reports were previously circulated.

Motion Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

That the financial reports for September 30th and the cheque register be approved as circulated.

Charlie noted that a letter requesting pledges for 2021 was emailed or mailed by Canada post recently.

It is hoped that people would respond to help the upcoming budget process.

He mentioned that our usual givings during the Christmas period would not likely materialize this year due to the services not being at the church. He mentioned that at the current time we are close to our 2020 budget but it is hopeful that people will ensure their givings are up to date.

Facilities

Roof – Linda reported that she was in the middle of contacting roofing companies with experience with slate roofs to get quotes on repair to the East side of this in particular. Nothing concrete to report as yet.

Heat – The radiant heating under the sanctuary was turned on ahead of the wedding Oct. 17. BISS' work continues.

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Maintenance – Toilet seat replaced and leaky sink fixed in 2 washrooms (F and D) and rooms 15 and 16 painted. Many thanks to Keith, David G. and Marg G. for all their hard work.

Cleaning - Sam and S-6 continue to be very accommodating of our requests for regarding cleaning. David D. works closely with Aileen regarding the coordination of these needs. Many thanks to Aileen for her support and for being our main contact with Sam.

Resources No report

Community

There was a small wedding Oct. 17. Natalie Cakebread, Wedding Coordinator, reports that it went well and has no recommendation for procedural change.

It has come to our attention that the Pastoral Fund has a severe shortage of undesignated money. Most of the money currently in the fund has been designated for "Dining with Dignity" as congregants are keen to continue support of this programme out of Roncesvalles UC, especially at this time of the Pandemic.

Since the fund is the minister's discretionary fund, it means that they would have difficulty responding to a call for help by individuals and families, or to an emergency in support of our Community Ministries. For example, two years ago, money was sent to help families who were displaced owing to a large apartment fire in the Jane Finch area.

It is our practice to donate to the Fund on Communion Sundays. However, since our communions have been at home this year, we must have forgotten the routine.

We recommend that Council organize a simple plan to re-educate our congregation regarding the Pastoral Fund.

Devotions

Sunday Service:

Brian caught everyone up to date about what happened to the Sunday worship services since Covid-19 began. We are using Zoom as everyone can participate even if they don't have a computer. They are able to phone in. Services have been combined with PowerPoint Presentations to keep the worship services close to what we were offering in the church. Brian and Howard have been hosting the services on Zoom, which lets the minister preach, pray and lead the service. We are looking for a few others to become Zoom Hosts. Several names were put forward as possible individuals to help with this.

Worship Schedule:

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See the worship schedule attached for October to December. A Covenanting Service will probably be held December 13 for Rev. Mary Jo. Dorothy is working with the region and Mary Jo about this service. Our traditional Christmas Eve services will go ahead on Zoom at 5pm and 9pm. A Longest Night service will be held on December 21 at 7 pm.

Music:

Mel noted that trumpeter Steve Woortman from the TSO will record special music for Remembrance Service on November 8. Mel wondered if we could use monies from the Music Fund to help support the soloist during this Covid time. Some discussion was held.

Christian Education:

- Sunday School: Meredith has sent out a survey to church families about how they want the children to be engaged during these times. More information to come and Meredith will speak to Rev. Mary Jo about this matter also.
- Youth Group: Meredith suggested that they look at the church membership and see if there is anyone who is of age for the youth group and possible try something virtual.
- Advent & Lenten Study Group: Rev. Mary Jo suggested that a notice be put into The Beacon to see when people would be interested in a study group.

Flowers:

Jenny noted that an amount of \$270 was donated to getting flowers for Easter, but Covid came and no flowers were purchased. Tax receipts were sent to donors for these funds, but the monies were not used. She wondered if the monies should be directed to the Pastoral Care committee for their use.

Other Business:

- Donna wanted to thank Rev. Mary Jo and Rev. Don for their services during these Covid times. They are much appreciated by all.
- Transition Updating: Rev. Mary Jo suggested that we use The Beacon to update the congregation on what is happening and to get feed back from them. This will happen.
- Recording of Services: Brian is to speak to Andrew Haji about recording our services and putting them on our website. We need to know about what type of security is needed for recording.

MOTION: Brian/Dianna This motion was **defeated**. Six for and four against, after a member of Council changed his vote.

that an amount of up to \$900 be used from the Music Fund to cover the second calls for soloist from now up to the end of December during these special Covid times

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After much discussion the motion was put back on table for the next Council Meeting. Council requested the Chair to bring more clarification and information regarding this matter.

Ministry and Personnel

No report

Reopening Team

No report

Resources

No report

Trustees

Howard reported that there is a positive return on our investments. We started getting out of equities last November and so were well positioned to weather the "covid" market fluctuations.

A time of reflection and discernment Mary Jo

Thank you so very much for trusting me with your present and your future, I am honoured to be a part of God's work here at Humbercrest. My work with you has included two Transition Team meetings where we have discussed conflict management styles, our goals as well as spending time in getting to know each other. I am thankful for this great team of people who are dedicated to this challenging yet rewarding (I hope) work. My time has also included meetings with council, the devotion committee and talking with some folk regarding membership, and others concerning their experiences at Humbercrest.

I have been privileged to prepare two worship services and I am grateful to Brian, Mel and Meredith for their participation in these worship services as well as the outstanding leads and their ministries with us.

I am excited about facilitating a study time together during Advent with more news about that later!

In conclusion, I look forward to our ongoing work together as the congregation continues to discern God's will and plans for Humbercrest. May peace be within you all,

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Adjournment: Dianna 9.10 pm

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Next regular council meeting is **November 24th 2020.**

L. Steggle – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*