

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 26 2021
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. Mary Jo Patterson
Invited guest Dorothy Lothian,

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement,

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Rev. Mary Jo Patterson

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of Minutes of the November 24th 2020 Council meeting.

Motion: Beverley/Brian **CARRIED**
That council approve the minutes of the November 24 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the special meeting January 12 2021

Motion: Marg/Howard **CARRIED**
that Council approve the Minutes of the January 12 2021 special meeting

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dianna/Beverley **CARRIED**
That council approved the agenda for the January 26th 2021 meeting.

Chair Report - January 26, 2021

Thanks to Rev. Mary Jo and Rev. Dr. Nancy for their recent encouragement to “answer the call”, especially as this is Nominations time. A big need is a Facilities Lead, (Buildings and Grounds Chair). I’m helping out in the interim because I’m responsible for doing that as Chair, but would like to fill this vacancy in particular. I’ll be contacting you all this week, regarding you and your team’s intentions.

Approved by HUC Council

Mary Jo and Nancy communicate with each other weekly which in turn is providing a smooth flow to services and consistency in messages. We are very grateful.

Continued thanks to Brian and Howard, for their expertise in hosting our services.

It's a big commitment, and we appreciate this service. Mary Jo and Nancy create their own slide presentations, then send them to Brian who adds the music files and they're ready to go. All these steps take time, and we appreciate everyone's efforts.

Thanks also to Dorothy and the Transition Team for their planning and for putting us to work. We'll do our best on Feb. 7's "Leadership" session. Just a reminder that areas of responsibility for each Team is in our Constitution which can be found on the HUC website.

Go to Who We Are > Our Resources or copy and paste the following URL into your browser:

<https://humbercrest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HUC-Constitution-Approved-October-20-2019pdf>

Also, we look forward to Dorothy joining Council officially after the AGM as Transition Team/Member-at-large.

Reports for the AGM (Mar. 7) are due Feb. 15 to David please. Owing to the anticipated number of attendees, I should be able to see everyone by going back and forth between two screens (25 at once) and so can hold votes the usual way, by a show of hands but with the addition of an ask to the phone participants, rather than using the formal voting buttons available on Zoom.

Thanks to everyone's input to the proposed budget through submissions and discussion and to Charlie for putting it together. It's a sound plan.

Correspondence A note was received from Graham Garrie, following, regarding concerns regarding the boilers. It was recommended by the Chair that, in her capacity as B and G Acting Lead she work with the trustees to develop a plan. Then the chair would reply to Graham about the concerns.

I have read the Council minutes for the November 24th meeting with particular interest in the Facilities section about the boilers. I was the person who looked after the steam, hot water boilers, balancing heat distribution, and programing the

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thermostats to keep gas cost down, etc. in what was normally considered the custodian job from 2000 to 2016 when I turned this over to Mike. I reported any problems like leaks to B&G for action.

There is a 1995 boiler replacement study report to install hot water boilers instead of steam boilers written by heating engineer Doug Hubbert to Don Glover, Project Prime. A steam boiler was installed along with a hot water boiler for in-floor Sanctuary heating instead. Two Blue Print drawings were included and **all radiators** (east & west buildings) were to be replaced along with pipes. The interesting thing is that in the new building drawing the steam finned convectors were to be replaced by hot water finned convectors that were longer in the length. (The eight Sanctuary convectors were an exception because they have blower fans to distribute heat faster). The reason being that steam would be plus 212F while hot water would be only maximum 180F. Doug Hubbert's company is still listed as being on Evans Ave. We received six quotes with the medium quote being \$144,000. Don Glover stated that none were accepted mainly due to "*Hot Water Heating System costs are beyond our capability*".

From the above mentioned Council report. Quote "*The total cost . . . \$141,702 of which \$86,671 was paid directly to the supplier of the boilers. The rad in room nine can be fixed*" implies to me that this is the only problem but I know this is not so. Regarding the rooms off the West Hall: the finned convectors in rooms 1 and 3 are not connected, probably due to leaks, the finned convectors in rooms 2 and 7 are turned off so I suspect a leak, therefore of these six rooms (# 1 to 3 and # 6 to 8) only two convectors are in operation. These rooms are at present used only for storage. The West Hall is heated by these convectors thru removed glass plus in-ceiling coils (i.e. in-floor Sanctuary) radiant waves. Room 9 is a nice rentable room so perhaps the convector should be replaced by the specified convector on the drawing i.e. 72 inch rather than current extra wide 30 inch. Room 10, Mel's office, at the time was quite cool with very little heat so perhaps this convector should also be replaced with specified 48 inch rather than 30 Inch. The convector in room 12 (Ladies Choir Room and also used as the rental Green Room) has a bucket with water in it so perhaps it also leaks. On the main floor the first convector on east wall of Nave leaks and the convector on the west wall of Narthex had no heat so is probably turned off because of leaks. The middle radiator in Friendship room is turned off, maybe leaks. I did not check all radiators/finned convectors.

Quote "*There is a large shut off valve for under the floor heating in the Sanctuary which is obsolete and has a slow leak onto the floor of the Mechanical sic Boiler Room.*" This valve is not for under floor heating but is the for main Sanctuary, Narthex, Stairway and Balcony level finned convector heating. These convectors are, in length, obsolete as are all the iron radiators in the old building but that

doesn't mean that they don't work. By the look of dampness in the asbestos the leak is near but not necessarily at the large shut off valve. It is one of a set of the three valves for west building that are close together so they would be expensive to replace.

Quote "*The most vulnerable pipes remaining are those running under the stage. They should be replaced.could be done incrementally or all at once*". There was a leak repaired there about 2001 and another around 2015 that included the steam trap valve. This vulnerable pipe comment may also probably include the asbestos covered pipes running from the boiler room (above shut off valves) to under the stage through the tunnel. This tunnel is 38" wide and 48" high but with the numerous pipes running near the ceiling the working height in the tunnel would only be about 24" and would be a devil to work in. Remember the West Building has two separate heating systems, finned convectors and in-floor heating coils.

Quote "*The pump for under the floor heating quit*" but this has now been replaced. With the cold weather coming now is the time to balance the heat throughout the buildings and change the various thermostats to programmable thermostats for night time setback.

Here's the problems I really wanted to talk about and have corrected. Except for two radiators, the other four hanging iron radiators in the East Hall are supported by two by four framing which doesn't look very nice. I don't know if this was because the added weight of water in the radiators caused pipe leaks or if it was just a precaution against possible pipe leaks. This doesn't look good for possible renting to Elections Canada and/or renting to The Meeting Place which possibility is not completely dead. If required then hanging straps should be installed. The other bigger problem in the East Building is the loud noise of defective boiler pump motor number three which must have a warranty. Motor number two also seems to have a lesser noise. Who would want to rent in the winter with that background noise? As I understand it, the boiler manufacturer made a mistake and under charged us on the invoice. They discovered the mistake later. Legally we paid only the invoice amount but I think morally we should have settled for the proper correct price. This of course caused bad feeling so they are not inclined to fix the motors. Why is it taking two years to get the heating system to work properly. The building is a trust of the Trustees. The Trustees should head up an investigation into, and communication with, the manufacturer and installer about noisy motors and leaky convectors.

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Follow-up / New Business

1. Staff correspondence shared on November 24th 2020.

The motion to undergo a live stream trial of on-line worship services directly from Zoom to U tube and to continue live streaming, if successful. Removing postings would be at the discretion of the Devotions Chair was **amended** to the following:

Amended Motion Brian/Marg

CARRIED

That Humbercrest undergo a trial of on-line worship from zoom to U tube. Removing postings would be at the discretion of the Chair of Devotions.

2. Transition team report

The Transition Team has been meeting regularly every 2 weeks in December and January with a break over the holidays. We participated in the Covenanting Service on December 13th with the Region's members of our team, Lydia Pedersen and Paul Stott. The members of the team have committed to participating in one service per month with Mary Jo.

Our Project of the Bicycle for a Minister garnered more than \$300.00. We are planning another project along similar lines for Lent. We feel it is important to engage the congregation in these community projects that are possible during Covid.

We have spent the last two meetings planning our Leadership workshop for Sunday, February 7th. The workshop outline is in a separate document. We are hoping to show how HUC is managed organizationally and what dedicated people we have at the helm, as well as the need for more members of the congregation to step up. We will be planning more workshops for the spring: April 25 on Heritage and May 16 on Mission.

Church Chat on Leadership

Sunday February 7, 2021

Why Leadership?

Leadership of a church is a complicated amalgam of staff and volunteers. We have been blessed with strong, dedicated leadership from both groups in the past and currently. The Transition Team believes that an examination of our leadership will benefit us all. We have heard that people are not really aware of

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how our volunteer structure works. How do we accomplish the tasks of our church community? Is our organizational structure working? Are we all on the same page in our understanding? A shared understanding will help us in our discernment of what it is that God is calling us to do at HUC.

Format and timing

The Sunday Worship service will be 45 minutes

Break for a snack/lunch of 15 minutes

Workshop for approximately 60 minutes

Agenda

Introduction by Dorothy Lothian

Presentations by Council Members (maximum 3 minutes each)

Questions from the congregation

Closing Prayer by Mary Jo

Logistics

Questions for staff and Council will be circulated in advance and written responses will be requested. The written staff responses will be circulated in advance of the workshop, the Council responses will be read at the workshop.

Those who do not get The Beacon and who are not able to participate on Zoom will get a printed package and will be invited to respond directly to the Transition Team.

Dorothy will invite participation via the Transition team report in the Beacon.

Question Template

For Staff: a written response will be requested and shared in the Beacon

1. What are your main tasks, in three sentences?
2. How much time do you spend per week, roughly?
3. What satisfaction do you derive from this position?
4. What is one challenge you face?

For Council: for presentation at the workshop, a written response will also be requested

1. What are your main tasks, in three sentences (what committees are you responsible for?)
2. How much time do you spend per week, roughly?
3. Why did you commit to do this?
4. What satisfaction do you derive from this position?
5. What is one challenge you face?
6. How many committees do you sit on?

3. Proposed budget for 2021 to present to AGM, March 7 2021

Motion Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

To approve the proposed budget for 2021 to present to the AGM on 7th March 2021

Approved by HUC Council

Mission and Service

Motion Charlie/Beverley

CARRIED

4. to approve that the budget surplus in 2020 be shared between our Community Ministries, Jane-Finch and Davenport-Perth.

5. Motion Marg/Mary Jo

CARRIED

to approve renter Eric Grice.

6. Motion Brian/Howard

To approve a new draft mission statement

After discussion the motion was tabled to the next meeting

Humbercrest United Church Current Mission Statement is

A welcoming and inclusive church; we walk with Christ through changing times with faith and hope.

The Affirming Committee would like to suggest the following New DRAFT Mission Statement for Humbercrest United Church:

We are an affirming and inclusive church that values diversity as it enriches our congregation and opens our hearts. Regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicities, skin colour, socio-economic/family status, differing physical or mental abilities, each person is a beloved child of God.

We invite you to journey with us through these changing times with hope, spiritual sustenance and faith in Jesus Christ, as we engage in social justice actions and environmental stewardship and work towards realizing God's vision for a peaceful, more equitable, loving and compassionate world

Stewardship of our Resources

Charlie presented the financial reports for December 2020. These reports were previously circulated.

Motion Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

That the financial reports for December 31st 2020 and the cheque register be approved as circulated

Our Shared Ministries

Community

The Care and Welcoming Committee sent out 27 Christmas cards this year. Looking ahead, we will be encouraging everyone to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 16, so that we'll be "apart together".

Devotions

Affirming Report to Council

January 2021

TASK HOW? COMPLETED

Education & Discernment

Hearing Personal Stories Wendy Cranston October 2018

Pink Sunday February 2019

Film "Boy Erased" Conversion April 2019

Orange Shirt Day September 2019

Indigenous Sacrifices November 2019

Dedicated Pride Flags June 2019

Bullying Bulletin December 2019

Equality Bulletin January 2020

Seniors Abilities Lunch January 2020

Noted Days of Significance Continuing

More Speakers to Come Continuing

Understanding of Scriptures February 2021

Hearing from Affirmed Ministries Applewood United October 2018

Panel Discussion March 2021

Why is Affirming Important

Making Public Commitments

Write Vision Statement Send current /other January 2021

What We Will Do After Continuing Education, Affirming Sunday, Honour Significant Days

Write Equal Marriage Policy Send to Mary Jo February 2021

Making Decision

Vote by Congregation Annual General Meeting March 2021

Make Commitment to Affirm United April 2021

Celebration June 2021

Other: Affirming on Website; Mary Jo's daughter as a resource; Advent Candle Pictures in Beacon

Facilities

Thanks to Keith, David and Marg for ongoing work in preparing and painting rm. 20 and to John Mutton for repairing sections of the wooden floor that had to be cut out for replacement of pipes connected to the boilers last year. As requested, John has submitted his invoice for materials to Marg, but has provided me with one that also includes the cost of labour in addition, not to request payment, but so we can accurately keep track of our true costs.

This Thursday morning, the batteries in all the emergency lights will be replaced by Herbert Williams, Fire Sprinkler Systems. (\$200 for 8 batteries and 3 hours labour approx) a budgeted expense.

Regarding the heating system, Biss has been in three times for the venting of Boiler 3 alone and agrees that a permanent solution needs to be found.

Unfortunately, we lost about a half year last year. (March to August 2020 owing to Covid and also owing to the loss of some members of the Committee.) I'll collaborate with Trustees on a plan to address remaining issues and will continue to advise.

I've asked Patrick and Bryden not to come to put out the garbage and recycling for now as we're not generating anything. Likewise, Sam will not be in for two weeks, but he knows that there will be new cleaning needs related to the renter starting Mar. 1. (TBC by Aileen, with many thanks for her ongoing communications support with S-6 and Besnik on behalf of Facilities.)

Resources No report

Ministry & Personnel

As an update from November 2020's council meeting, we are pleased to announce that Sandra McKinnon has joined James Matthews and myself on the M&P committee. She is a welcome addition to the team. As follow up to the discussion at the January 2021 budget meeting regarding Mel's compensation, M&P have reviewed the situation and recommend that his compensation be returned to 100% starting January 2021. This does not need a vote of approval because of the way the contract is written.

Update from the Re-Opening Team

The message from the Province continues to be to stay home except for medical appointments, work you cannot do from home, exercise or food shopping. Where it is possible, staff are working from home. Staff can be reached by phone or email. We continue to monitor the situation and will report back to you when there is substantial change in public health and government guidelines.

Rental Committee

We had one wedding Jan. 19 at the Church in keeping with COVID protocols. The Church has a Bridal Booklet from 2014 it refers to our church weddings however it is not applicable to rentals. We will be working on a new Rental Wedding booklet in the near future. It will have valuable information as to what we have to offer and hopefully avoid many phone calls to the office.

The renovation work in the gallery is continuing as COVID restrictions both of work space and buying materials slow us down. David G and Keith have been plastering and painting and I have been staining and varnishing doors and door frames. We had to change the lease start date from Feb. 1st to Feb.15th. John Mutton has repaired all the holes in the floor from the boiler installation

Our new renter for room 15 is Erik Grice from Edmonton Alberta (amiskwaci-y-waskahikan.) located on Treaty 6 territory. He graduated from Grant MacEwen College in Graphic Design and has worked the last ten years as a freelance designer while traveling the world as a musician. Some of his clients have been U of A Dept of Indigenous Studies and the Music Therapy Assoc. ,Alberta.

Erik writes folk music and will bring with him his electric keyboard (with headphones) and an acoustic guitar. Eric has a writing partner who will share the space. Both prospective renters have received leases but no yet signed. Eric Frisch is currently out of town until mid February so he has requested a March 1st start.

Trustees No report

A time of reflection and discernment

Since my last report, my work with you has included two Transition Team meetings where we have discussed leadership and a proposal to council, a Transition Team Lent initiative to support people in our community, spirituality

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types as well as ongoing conversations regarding Humbercrest's ministry. Personally, I have been conducting more phone calls with parishioners, as well as facilitating staff meetings, speaking weekly with the administrator and the minister of music. I have prepared two worship services as well as facilitating the Prayer Laboratory and the Theological Reflection gathering. These all contribute to our faith formation at Humbercrest. It is my hope that more members of the congregation will take advantage of these opportunities to grow their faith. During Advent I did a 10-minute online Advent daily reflection and posted it on our Facebook page. Unfortunately, there were not many views but it was a pleasure to do it.

A large portion of my time has been compiling the information I need to write my assessment of Humbercrest and the system it presently moves under. I have detected some behaviours and actions that are no longer serving the congregants and the ministry at Humbercrest. It is my hope that I will have the assessment ready to read to the Transition Team on February 16 and then to the council on February 23rd. At that time, we as a council under consideration from the Transition Team will decide how it will be presented to the congregation. It is my prayer that everyone will find the assessment beneficial on how we can move forward discerning God's will and plan for Humbercrest

May peace be within you all,

Rev. Mary Jo

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Adjournment: Dianna 8.51 pm

**Next regular Council meeting is February 23RD 2021
Annual General Meeting March 7th 2021 at approximately 11.45 a.m.**

L. Steggles – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*