

*Humbercrest United Church*  
Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
March 23rd 2021  
Via Video Conference  
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Aileen McGregor, Linda Steggles, Charlie Evans, Howard Gaskin, Brian Packham, Rev. Mary Jo Patterson, 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 February 23rd 2021 Council meeting.

**Motion: Mary Jo/Charlie**

**CARRIED**

That council approve the minutes of the February 23rd 2021 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

**Motion: Dianna/Howard**

**CARRIED**

That council approved the agenda for the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 meeting.

**Chair Report -**

Thanks to all for a successful AGM of the Congregation held March 7 via Zoom. Forty-four attended, about 6 more than in 2018.

Rev. Mary Jo's assessment and the Transition Team's next steps were well accepted. It was powerful to ask each person to share their assessment aloud using the rating scale, as it showed that we all recognize that our current situation isn't sustainable in a number of respects.

I remind Council members that we have loud voices and that this is a time when we must listen openly and respectfully to others, focus on facts, and be guided by Rev. Mary Jo and the Transition Team.

Approved by HUC Council

On March 2, 2021, the Executive approved HUC's overall YouTube policy and gave permission to continue to upload videos that comply with the policy, while details of a project plan are worked out. (What, how, measure of effectiveness etc.). Please see "Policy for creating and posting videos to Humbercrest's YouTube Channel.

**Correspondence** None

**Follow-up / New Business**

**1. Transition team report**

The Transition Team has continued their bi-weekly meeting. Here is an update:

- Not many evaluations (6) were received from our first Church Chat, but were generally quite positive.
- Our Lent Calendar project is underway and is being promoted in the Beacon.
- Rev Mary Jo and Dorothy attended some sessions of the Hopeful Economics Unconference which ran from March 3 – 5. There were some useful presentations and possible contacts noted.
- Rev Mary Jo's assessment presentation at the AGM and the question session the following Sunday went well. Transition Team members attended both sessions.
- We are still collecting participants for the Chat Groups and have 16 so far, not counting the team members. We set March 29 as the deadline for responses. We plan for these groups (possibly 3 or 4) to meet monthly with the leadership of Rev Mary Jo starting mid-April.
- Thanks to Lydia Pedersen, we are reviewing the book "Thriving Churches" for strategies that could help HUC. This will be a multi-week process.
- Linda and Dorothy jointly composed a letter to the congregation outlining what is happening at HUC and what are our options for the future. Members of the team and Peter stuffed and stamped the envelopes. Over 100 were mailed on March, 18 and 19.

Approved by HUC Council

**3. Motion: Brian/Margaret**

**CARRIED**

to approve that HUC host the World Day of Prayer Service, as part of the Ministry of the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, in accordance with public health regulations in effect at the time.

Outreach Coordinator Barb Gilmour is offering to lead the organizing committee. She anticipates about 50 participants.

**Stewardship of our Resources**

Charlie presented the financial reports for February 2021. These reports were previously circulated.

**Motion Charlie/Brian**

**CARRIED**

That the financial reports for February 2021 and the cheque register be approved as circulated

**Our Shared Ministries**

**Community**

Care and Welcoming will send Easter greeting cards to 30 people. Plants will not be delivered by the Visitation group this year.

**Devotions**

No Report

Other Business:

1. The Outreach team will be meeting separately under the coordination of Barb Gilmour
2. The Affirming team will also be meeting soon.

**Facilities**

Keith, Marg and David G. (borrowed from the Rental Committee) have continued to work on the balcony area and stairwell leading up to it from the East Hall doors on up. Looks great!

All three boilers have new igniters installed and updated software. This has resolved the combustion issue which caused Boiler 3's venting to dislodge. So,

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all 3 are in operation now. Two of our three thermostats are programmable. The settings will be reviewed.

I will be meeting with RTM (Roof Tile Management) within the next two weeks to assess repair work to:

- 1). The East side of the slate roof
- 2). The sanctuary roof (NW, W and NE there are areas of concern)
- 3). Troughing repairs

RTM was recommended to me by a recommended retired roofer (recommended by the Property head of Runnymede UC, who is a P Eng and prof at U of T), who looked at our roof problems, including hoisting up into the roof area above the balcony upper rooms, in the Fall. This person now does assessments for a small roofing company.

I was in communication with him this morning and while he declined HUC's work for his company, as they don't need it, for one, and second, our issues are potentially more involved, he strongly suggests that we deal with our problems as a whole, with a larger company that has the resources we may need, thinking especially of the East side issues.

He says that developing a relationship with such a company would be the preferred way to approach the work we're going to be needing.

RTM:

- has much experience with churches and historic restoration
- does good work, and are professional
- has masons on staff in case the East slate roof issue is related to deteriorated mortar under the slate and flashing at the parapets (this is RTM's advantage over Semple and Gooder who do not have masons on staff)
- will work with us to prioritize repairs based on severity of need

## Resources

### Rental Committee

- A movie crew luncheon was held in March for two days in the East and West Halls - \$3000. Less expenses.
- Work is continuing in the Heritage Hall balcony. Room 18 which was the storage area for Christmas decorations etc. is now ready for occupancy. A new tenant should be coming April 1st. Rent is \$375.00 / month.
- Repairs and paint touch ups are complete down to the basement East Hall doors. The washroom doors have a colour change and the brass hardware cleaned.
- The interior side of the east hall door has been repainted to match the colour of the East Hall.
- The Men's washroom needs some updating and repairs. The window film and the underneath frosted spray have been removed and new frosted window film purchased.

The metal partitions have some rusted areas. Since the Women's side does not we think it is because the exhaust fan was removed about five years ago and not replaced.

Due to the work done on the radiator a partition wall has been removed and a box covering pipes is partially off the wall. This needs to be fixed and a different solution found. It's been about at least 18 years since the terrazzo was professionally cleaned and sealed. Both washrooms would benefit from this but especially the Men's as it is discoloured. The toilets in both washrooms are 1950 models, are slow to fill and are not efficient. We would like to replace these. All our toilets are the same vintage and should be replaced.

When trying to rent space, updated and clean washrooms are essential.

- We have been investigating the feasibility of removing the pews and riser platforms in the balcony. This would give us a large level area suitable for rentals. There is no sub floor. Doing this professionally would be over budget and would not generate sufficient revenue to justify the cost. Currently David is calculating the materials cost. John Mutton and Graham have been looking at

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the way it was constructed as well, and what is needed for proper support for a new floor.

- A higher railing is needed for the balcony area to comply with current safety codes. This has to be done before renting this area.

## **Ministry & Personnel**

No report

## **Update from the Re-Opening Team**

Pandemic Response Team

- With Toronto having moved into the GREY zone of lockdown regulations, David Drake has moved back into the church building. Alongside his office duties, David continues to assist with security and building checks around the church.
- Please make arrangements with David before coming to the church for any volunteer work, and continue to self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to leaving home. Complete the sign in/out binder at the main entrance, this is for contact purposes should the need arise. Thank you for your cooperation.
- The GREY zone of lockdown regulations allows for 15% capacity for weddings, funerals and religious services.

## **Trustees**

Howard reported that the Trustees met on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Financial statements were approved. Beverley has retired from Trustees and John Mutton will take over her duties.

## **A time of reflection and discernment**

Since my last report, my work with you has included four Transition Team meetings where we have discussed my assessment and the way to move forward, our Transition Team Lent initiative to support people in our community, as well as ongoing conversations regarding Humbercrest's ministry. Personally, I have been meeting weekly, bi-monthly and monthly with our administrator David, the chair of council Linda, our regional rep Lydia, the chair of the transition team Dorothy, our emergency pastoral care provider and worship leader Nancy and our music director, Mel. As well as facilitating

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staff meetings. I have prepared four worship services as well as guiding the Prayer Laboratory and the Theological Reflection gathering. I have also met with my Intentional Interim Ministry colleagues twice, as well as having attended two zoom seminars to assist me with my work at Humbercrest.

A large portion of my time was consumed with the assessment and presentations to the Transition Team February 16th, the council February 23rd and the congregation at the AGM as well as a further meeting on March 14th. I am grateful for all the feedback you have given and all the conversations we have had together. I hope that people will feel comfortable joining the Chat and Care Circles and be willing to work on the Future Directions Ad Hoc Groups to help us discern what direction God is taking us in. Please continue to pray for our work together.

The butterfly reminds us that new life is all around us. I thought it was very early to be seeing a butterfly, perhaps it emerged from the dead leaves still on our flowerbeds. I don't know. I just know that when I saw it in my back yard, I felt a wonderful sense of hope. Signs of new life and hope may come early or late, but they always come at the right time. God's plans are never late or early, they are always right on time. May we be inspired and uplifted by this knowledge.

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and God's work and may peace be within you all

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

The next meeting of Council will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021. Future Meetings will be May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

Adjourned 8.22 pm

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L. Stegges – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*