

To be approved by HUC Council

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 26th 2021
Via Video Conference
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Linda Steggles, Charlie Evans, Howard Gaskin, Brian Packham, Rev. Mary Jo Patterson, Dorothy Lothian,

Regrets: Aileen McGregor

Invited guest: Sven Steindorff (Ad hoc committee)

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement,

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Dianna

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of Minutes of the September 28th Council meeting.

Motion: Brian/Rev Mary Jo

CARRIED

That council approve the minutes, as amended, of the September 28th 2021 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dianna/Dorothy

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for October 26th 2021 meeting.

Chair Report –

Transition team we are grateful for your work and look forward to this Saturday's workshop.

Thanks also for continuing to restart the chat groups. Participants find them enjoyable and community building.

Thanks also to all of your work at the committee level. Many have met in anticipation of a return to in-person or integrated worship, or are working hard to keep rentals running smoothly and the building looked after.

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I am sorry that Mary Gazel is giving up her membership at HUC, but respect her decision. I am grateful for her faithful work and wisdom over the years in the many capacities that she has served the church.

Correspondence Request to be removed from the membership roll and a card of gratitude from Lenore Strathy.

Follow-up / New Business

1. Transition team report

Our meetings since my last report have focused on planning and logistics for the Workshop on October 30th. The phoning has been completed save one to report, and we have a registration number of 33. I think this is really impressive. A sincere thanks to Sharon and her team of 6 phoners! Catherine and I each did a share. The team is doing some set-up in the church late on Friday afternoon.

We are looking ahead at possibilities for future initiatives. We have met with the Ad Hoc Groups again. Marlene McBride and I met with two representatives from Windermere United, Kristine Greenaway and Cec Mutton on October 20th. We have shared notes on where we are currently and have agreed to talk again re possible collaboration.

2. Motion: Howard/Brian

Carried

That we approve the costs of the summer concert series not covered by the Harold Durnan Bequest to HUC Music Ministry be covered through a personal donation.

3. Motion: Brian/Dianna

Carried

To approve that HUC open for integrated Worship Services beginning November 28th with all the appropriate health protocols.

4. Motion: Brian/Howard

Carried

To approve that Andrew Haji be paid \$180/week to record and upload music files to be used for Worship Services until November 21st 2021.

5. Motion: Brian/Charlie

Carried

To approve a live stream ministry as part of our integrated services beginning November 28th 2021.

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NEW LIVE-STREAM MINISTRY

Purpose:

- To provide an outreach ministry to all those seeking Christ outside of our church.
- To provide Humbercrest United Church services online and livestreaming to Youtube and Zoom

When:

- To start Sunday November 28, 2021 – Advent 1 and to be reviewed in early 2022 for possible continuation.

How:

- Robert Picard from Islington United Church, who started their livestreaming services has agreed to help us get things set up, use his equipment for a test run, train volunteers, and do so without any cost to us.
- Mel has arranged for him to start Friday November 12.
- Lots of practice runs will be done before November 28.
- We already have a Youtube account and a strong Wifi signal.
- We need to make announcements in church and through The Beacon to let everyone know that we are looking for volunteers to record and upstream the services. Training will be provided.

Budget:

- We need to reasonably budget \$10,000 initially for this ministry.
- We don't need to spend anything up front.

\$\$\$\$\$:

- A specific fundraiser for this ministry could be run for the month of November as a specifically focused event over people's regular givings
- Donations could be made "in memory of" or "in recognition of" somebody.

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**6. Motion: Brian/Rev. MaryJo
Carried**

To approve an updated Wedding Policy

Wedding Policy

Humbercrest United Church is an open, affirming and welcoming community of faith!

In the United Church, we see each person as a unique, loved creation of God and welcome those who wish to enter into the covenant of marriage.

The sanctuary in our church is considered sacred space in which couples can exchange vows in the presence of God/the Creator or The Divine. We believe God intends loving relationships to be faithful, responsible, just, healing, and sustain the couple as well as those around them, and that such relationships require preparation and nurture.

Humbercrest celebrates the marriages of:

- LGBTQ-2S couples
- Previously divorced people.
- Couples of different faiths, ethnicities and/or colour.
- Couples who wish to celebrate their marriage in a Christian ceremony.

We request that all couples contact the resident minister through the church office. We offer sufficient flexibility to allow each couple to express their preferences and to develop the liturgy and vows in a personal way within the context of United Church guidelines. Those with a desire for ecumenical or interfaith expressions are invited to discuss this with our minister.

Whether you wish to have a Christian ceremony or a more personalized or ecumenical version by renting the sanctuary and making your own plans for your wedding at Humbercrest, we are happy to assist you so you can celebrate your wedding day with love, joy and commitment, in a way that validates your exchange of life-changing vows in the covenant of marriage before family, friends and others.

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A wedding package is available in brochure form or on our website detailing information about music, service bulletins, flowers, possible receptions, photography, decorations, the rehearsal and more.

7. Motion: Fern/Howard

Carried

To approve, with regret, that Mary Gazel be removed from the membership roll of HUC as requested.

8. Motion: Brian/Dianna

Carried

To acknowledge the baptism of Albert Luciani, child of Camille Lees Luciani and Adrian Luciani of 40 rexford Road, Toronto, M6S 2M3 on August 22nd 2021.

Stewardship of our Resources

Motion Charlie/Dianna

Carried

That the Financial reports for September 2021 be approved as previously circulated.

Community team Fern

Congregational Life Report - October 2021

We met via Zoom on Oct. 17 (Marie Harris, Barb Pattison and Fern. Absent: Margot Davis and Bjorg Bednar). We agreed to the following:

Food Handlers' Protocol

When selling food prepared onsite it is best for those preparing the food to have a Food Handlers' Certificate and the City Public Health shall be informed of the event.

A notice will inform people of food prepared in an unsupervised or uninspected kitchen.

In the case of a potluck event, food and who prepared it will be listed in case tracing becomes necessary.

Anything that has had food on it should be washed in the dishwasher or by the 3-Step method.

Preparation: Use masks, gloves and tongs.

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May place cookies or squares in a muffin paper. May place parchment paper on platters beforehand, placing food on it.

Serving

-1 person helping with coffee and 1 with tea

-Use tongs to serve things on the platters except if the food is in paper cups

Washing Up

-the 3-Step Method is used for all except where paper is between the food and the platter

Step #1: Soap and Water

#2: Clear Rinse

#3: Sanitizer (drug store purchase or bleach solution). Using bleach, the formula is 2 Tablespoons bleach per 1 gallon water. Soak for 3 minutes.

Air dry or use clean tea towels.

Recommendations

Start Tea Time in January with Congregational Life hosting. Hold Tea Time only once a month. That Tea Time not be scheduled by Congregational Life as in the past, but be a monthly sign-up event.

Devotions Brian

Attending:

Brian Packham Rev. Mary Jo Patterson Rev. Nancy Hardy

Melvin Hurst Donna Magee Barb Gilmour

Meredith Gries Jenny Davies Marg Parsons

Madeleine McDowell

Regrets: Natalie Cakebread

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Welcome & Prayer:

Brian welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with prayer.

Draft Wedding Policy October 2021:

A new draft of Humbercrest United Church's Wedding Policy was presented to the team. Many thanks to Donna for putting this version together. A couple of phrases were edited. MOTION: On a motion by Barb and seconded by Marg the Draft Wedding Policy October 2021 was approved as edited. The motion was carried unanimously. This policy will now go to Church Council for final approval.

Moving Back Into Church Sub-Committee:

Brian explained that a small group including Rev. Mary Jo, Rev. Nancy, Mel, Linda, Aileen, Howard, Marlene and Fern met two weeks ago to consider moving back into the church for in-person services.

They brainstormed and expressed concerns and challenges and the following was set:

- i. Must register ahead of time to attend in person
- ii. Must answer standard Covid questions
- iii. Must wear a mask
- iv. Must be socially distanced and sit appropriately
- v. No singing hymn; you can hum
- vi. No choir at this time; soloists will sing

The Devotions team reviewed these conditions and thought that the following should also be considered:

- i. Must show double vaccination passport
- ii. A separate meeting to discuss Christmas Eve
- iii. Some type of electronic tracker for who is attending

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MOTION: On a motion by Madelaine and seconded by Donna that in-person worship would commence on Sunday November 28, 2021 – Advent 1 with all the appropriate health protocols. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recording & Uploading Music for Zoom:

Andrew Haji has been recording and uploading the service music for Zoom for the month of October. MOTION: On a motion by Dorothy and seconded by Barb that Andrew continue recording and uploading the service music up to Sunday November 21, 2021. The motion was carried unanimously.

Youtube Worship Ministry:

The Moving Back Into the Church Sub-Committee in their meeting also considered started a new Youtube worship ministry that would be live-streamed with Zoom to the outside world. Some of the members of the Moving Back Into the Church team did some research into information about starting this ministry. Those facts have been brought together in the document “Moving Back In Research”. Brian noted three vital parts to make this ministry viable:

- i. Volunteer Team or Pay Someone
- ii. Equipment Needed
- iii. Budget/Cost

Much discussion was made on this new ministry. Mel was asked to speak to Robert Picard at Islington United about whether he could lead our team and train the volunteers until we get started. Once Mel finds this information, he is to report back electronically and Brian will word a motion to go to the Devotions Team for their approval and then to the Church Council on Tuesday.

Facilities Linda (acting head)

Biss has completed repairs or replacements and maintenance and so Tuesday the 26th, the centre and western pipes will be filled with water and the pumps turned on. It'll take a bit of time for air pockets to work their way out of the system. The city water feed will be turned on for the time being. If you have a question about anything related to the heating system, please ask me. It's an interconnected system.

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Keith and Marg G., with assistance from David G. are working on a solution to the flooring at the main sanctuary door entrance. Work has started on rooms 17 and 19 which means that we're confident that the east end leaks have been solved.

Wednesday morning, we are going to work at preparing the grounds for winter. Anyone who is free, please join in. Contact me or Marg G.

We're going to ask Sam to clean the Stage, as it has been cleared out ready for TMH and also the sanctuary carpets after an event on Nov. 7.

Also, this week, I'll get some info about the eavestrough at the NW corner.

Resources Marg

October rentals

Rainbow Songs continues on Thursday mornings and Yoga Grove continues on Mondays early evenings both on the lawn, weather permitting.

Oct. 14th Antonina Ermolenko soprano recording.

Oct. 18, 19th Colin Eatock rehearsal and recording with Sinfonia. This was a large orchestra requiring the removal of several pews. Thank you to Colin and Charlie's families and David Gilmour.

Oct. 19 Chair Yoga began.

Oct. 26 Tai Chi begins

Oct. 28 Michael Arnowitz, a concert pianist - Free piano recital (No rental fee charged but Michael had our piano tuned.)

Oct. 29 Memorial service in the sanctuary.

Wedding Policy

Fees: \$775.00 rental for rehearsal and ceremony.

Additional fees:

Officiant: set their own fee.

Director of music: \$250.00

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Insurance: 3rd party insurance available through Hub International.

Policy Name Change

“ General Rules and Regulations” changed to “ Terms and Conditions”

Pandemic Response team Linda

The PRT will be adjusting the approved Re-opening Worship Guidelines, as well as Opener's and Greeter's responsibilities and sharing them in advance with Devotions and the Community team. These will be simplified to reflect current requirements such as the necessity to reserve in advance. This info will be kept for a month.

We anticipate the basic flow to be in the main doors, sanitize, attendance check, and down the centre to fan out to either side to sit. Exiting will be down the side aisles and straight out the back side doors. Those wishing to use the elevator may enter that way, sanitize and have their attendance checked and enter the side doors to the sanctuary.

HUC's washrooms will be the two downstairs at the back, in the Narthex. Only those needing a washroom for accessibility reasons will have the privilege of using it.

The above info will be shared with the congregation via the Beacon for at least two weeks before in-person worship restarts.

Thanks in advance to Fred Atkinson, who is helping to prepare a simple alphabetical list based on our PowerChurch info. This will be used as a master. Attendees will be required to phone, 416-767-6122, or email info@humbercrest.ca to reserve if they are coming that Sunday by Thursday night. That said, if our capacity hasn't been reached, we can accept unannounced arrivals.

We suggest that the numbers of attendees Sundays be noted on Zoom, (by the host), in-person by a Greeter, and the number of YouTube views. They'd relay this to the Office for our records.

Please note that as of today, Oct. 25, if churches bring in a policy "requiring proof of vaccination" they are not required to distance during services. Masks yes. We know that the vast majority of HUC is fully vaccinated, however, at present, in keeping with our desire to be inclusive, we're thinking not to make this a requirement. We are quite sure that we will not be in a position to turn anyone away. We will revisit this as we go along.

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Trustees Howard No report

A time of reflection and discernment

“NEXT STEPS”

Well as you can see, Gary has been busy constructing the walls of the studio, and Mike was here to help him erect them! The frame of the studio is coming along. It has taken some time for the walls to be built, lots of measuring and measuring and measuring and then cutting and drilling and hammering and screwing and some more measuring! It seems to take some time when you are constructing something according to code and according to your people power. However, it is coming along slowly but surely.

We have been moving along slowly but surely here at Humbercrest. We have been meeting with groups and individuals who want to use the building for their work and ministries. Phone calls have been made to inform and invite people to the workshop this weekend. Worship has been continuing with regularity, inspiration and efficiency. Lots of conversation has ensued concerning opening up the church to in-person worship with structuring a hybrid model that would enable people to be in their homes near and far if they choose to. So many other meetings have been held along with the chat groups and the new ad hoc group meeting and working with the Transition Team. I have been on zoom with many individuals talking and meeting about how we can continue to move God’s ministry forward through Humbercrest. We have been measuring and measuring, cutting and hammering together to rebuild the ministry that needs to be done through and in Humbercrest.

Our workshop this weekend will be a wonderful event with people actually being together! It will help us to continue to discern the way forward. I am also planning and will be facilitating a healing circle opportunity for people sometime before Christmas. This will be a place for people to find some reconciliation with their feelings concerning some past events, keeping in mind the principles of dignity, security and belonging.

When I first came to Humbercrest, I shared with you that I saw Humbercrest as a beautiful big ship that had grounded itself and was listing to one side or another. With all your prayers, hard work and the ongoing work and prayer of all of the congregation, I now see that ship righted but somewhat adrift. We just now are working on which way to go and that will be revealed to us as we continue to pray and wait for God’s direction.

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Who knows how the studio will look next month maybe there will be glass and walls and doors! I just have to wait and we just have to wait for next steps

Rev. Mary Jo

In Camera Meeting at 8.45 p.m. 5 Minutes.

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

The next meeting of Council will be held on November 23rd 2021 at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm

L. Steggles – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*