

Humbercrest United Church
Approved Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 25th 2022
Via Video Conference
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Aileen McGregor,
Linda Steggles, Charlie Evans, Brian Packham, Rev. Mary Jo Patterson,
Dorothy Lothian, Howard Gaskin
Invited Guest: Sven Steindorff (Ad Hoc Committee)- Regrets

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Marg

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of Minutes of the November 23rd Council meeting.

Motion: Howard/Charlie

CARRIED

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

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dianna/Fern

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for the January 25th 2022 meeting.

Chair Report – Linda

It's with many mixed thoughts that I write this month's report. I am very grateful for those who have continued to support the church and its work, but I am increasingly concerned for the welfare of these few. Please show support and appreciation rather than finding us short. Our new model of worship service delivery considers our phone in people, thank you Howard, and our live-streaming is of very good quality and efficient (except for our 2 long-distance commuters, Rev. Mary Jo and Marlene). I'm wondering how we can engage those who do view services on YouTube? It's a more passive medium than Zoom. Aside from our core group of Humbercresters, I'm wondering whether people who "view" understand the reciprocal relationship expected of being involved in a faith community? On a positive note - Sean Anderson has agreed to be trained on how to operate the camera and live-stream when he

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comes in to open the church about once a month. This is very welcome news to Marlene especially who makes a round trip of 170 km every Sunday to do this. Thanks to the way Charlie presented the draft budget, we can see that our donations and transfers from Trustee funds leave us very short of covering our operating budget if we continue with the same expenses. The estimated LT Rental income is not extra in this case, but needed just to offset a large deficit. In addition, we're living on borrowed time with the sanctuary roof. Faithful stewardship is worth discerning in our case. I'd like to formally thank Christine Swearing for her "moonlighting" support of the Office work, as we navigate this time of uncertainty in the Office. It's been a pleasure to get to know and work with her. In short, I'm grateful for all you and your committee members do on behalf of the congregation and the extra that I know many of you have taken on. Needless to say, I am also very thankful of the work of Dorothy and the Transition Team and Ad Hoc Group together with Mary Jo and look forward to supporting their work further

Follow-up / New Business

1. Transition team report Dorothy

Since my last report we have had 5 meetings, 3 jointly with the Ad Hoc Group. One was, as you know, to hear from Diane Matheson on the topic of "Shared Ministries", which has generated much discussion and soul-searching.

We were so impressed with her presentation, that we invited her to present to the whole congregation and she graciously accepted. She presented at a session after Worship on Sunday January 23rd and we had 34 people in attendance.

We will continue our information sessions for the congregation next Sunday with Rev Mary Jo presenting on possible configurations for a minister's position. We will also discuss the most important characteristics we would like to see in this minister.

We will follow up with a questionnaire to all the members of Humbercrest to attempt to narrow down the frankly over-whelming number of choices facing us. Our plan is to come to the Feb meeting of Council with a proposal based on this input. Once approved by Council, it will be presented at the AGM for approval by the congregation.

As we need a new minister whatever the outcome, there is work that can be started right away in getting paperwork (Community of Faith profile) and administrative details prepared.

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Rev Mary Jo and I submitted our interim reports to the region.

2. Motion : Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

That Fred Atkinson, as Envelope Steward, be authorized to sign the 2021 Tax receipts

3.. Motion : Aileen/Rev. Mary Jo

CARRIED

To approve that Council recommend Brian Packham as Licensed Lay Worship Leader to Horseshoe Falls Region 1 Abstention

4.. Motion: Dorothy /Brian

CARRIED

That Council approve a date for the Annual General Meeting and set the due date for submissions

Council discussed and approved April 3rd 2022 for the AGM, with a due date for submission of reports by February 28th 2022.

Council also approved March 6th for a congregational meeting

5. Motion: Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

To approve the draft 2022 budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting.

Stewardship of our Resources Charlie

Motion : Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

That the financial reports and cheque register for the month of December be approved as previously circulated.

Our Shared Ministries

Community Team Fern

Care and Welcoming ordered 21 poinsettias for Christment, each was given with a greeting card. In addition 16 greeting cards were sent by mail.

No other reports from other groups.

Devotions Team Brian

Welcome & Opening Prayer:

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Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Rev Mary Jo to open the meeting with prayer.

Past Worship (Oct – Dec 2021):

Reviewed the worship services since October. Everyone likes how things have gone. We are all getting better at all the new things we are learning. Thanks to everyone for all the extras they have done leading up to and during Christmas. A suggest that we use the pre-packaged communion bread and juice for the next live communion service. Decorations have been moved away from the front of the church and these will all be put away, once we have access to the church again.

Future Worship (Jan – Apr 2022):

- Time of Worship: Due to confusion over worship time, it was decided to start all Sunday services to 10:30 am from now on.

- Worship Schedule: See the attached for more information from January – April

- Memorial Flowers for Easter: It was decided to stop this at this time. \$40 would be put into the budget for Palm for Palm Sunday. A reminder would go into the Beacon that anyone who wants to have flowers in the church in memory of anyone should speak to Donna or Jenny.

- Zoom Tea Time: It was decided that a short Zoom Tea Time would follow directly after the church service on Zoom form 11:15 am – 12:00 noon. Dorothy and Brian advised that they could host. Brian to check with Howard and Marlene.

- Scripture Readers: As a reminders to scripture readers, a 2 month list of readers would be sent out as soon as Marg has it ready.

- Lent Vespers: Mel advised that he is working on a vesper service for Lent 1 (March 6) at 3:00 pm themed around “Forgiveness”. More information to come.

- World Day of Prayer Service: This service will be held virtually. Anyone interested should give their email address to Barb, in order that they have access to the service on the day.

- Good Friday: Mary Jo and possibly Nancy will be leading this service. Mel would like to do Faure's "Requiem" if it is possible this year.

Long Range Worship (May – Aug 2022):

- Nancy will be finished her contract with us on June 26. Mary Jo will be taking the last Sunday in July and the first Sunday in August off so far.

Budget 2022:

- Devotions Budget: Brian asked anyone who wants to see changes in their budget to speak to him as soon as possible. Mel wondered about advertising for Easter and Christmas services in WholeNote and on sign at the corner. Brian to put into the budget.

- Live Streaming Budget: Brian circulated the quote from RP Dynamics. Everyone liked it. Mel asked if we could look into round based mic stands. A thank you card is to be sent to Robert Picard for his generosity in loaning his equipment until we get our own.

- Organ Repair: Brian also circulated a quote from Mel about repairing the organ. This was also okay with everyone.

Faith Formation & Sunday School:

- Evening Prayer Time: Some people have been using this time in the church. This will be continued when it is available again.

- Bible Study and Prayer Time: This will continue with Mary Jo leading starting Feb 13 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm on Sundays that Mary Jo is not preaching. "Looking at the Sacred Texts" will end with a short prayer time.

- Hymn Sings: Mel to do some thinking about this and get back to us.

Outreach:

- Barb noted that Missions & Service Minutes would continue during worship. Barb to advise Brian of the dates.

- Barb is looking into forming a HUC Team to help in a Foodbank fundraiser.

- A suggestion that we look at "food insecurity" as a focus for the Lenten season.

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Affirming:

- Brian advised that he will be checking with Affirm United to see about the final process. More information to come.
- Donna wants us to continue to respect the diversity of the Word in all that we do.

Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting will be Wednesday March 23 at 7:00 pm

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Nancy closed the meeting with prayer.

Facilities Team Linda

Keith has barricaded the Centre/Office doors while the lock is being replaced. Please continue to use the East doors or the elevator door. We considered applying for a Canada Summer Student Grant to help with painting and gardening etc. but don't have the capacity to provide supportive supervision unfortunately. Thanks Fred for attending a Zoom info session about it. This could be considered in the future.

Resources

Rental Committee Report Marg

Rentals -

December: Movie Crew lunch 2 days

January: Movie Crew Lunch Jan.25th

January 29 - June 18th Stage Coach

Unfortunately we are losing one of our balcony rentals. Eric Frisch has changed jobs and has not been using the space since summer. His last day is Feb. 18th. Eric was very complimentary about his room and if he should decide to continue his music he would definitely see if we could accommodate him.

We are negotiating with West Toronto Keys to Inclusion for use of the East Hall from possibly Feb (depending on Covid regulations) or March to June

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from 9 - 2 pm .Monday to Friday. This is a program for intellectually challenged adults. There would be 15 people which includes two instructors and one volunteer. They are interested in year round occupancy but we have Toronto Kidz summer camp booked..

Some children's groups are meeting on the lawn and have access to equipment and the washrooms until their headquarters allow indoor meetings.

Archives

The architectural drawings, both ones that were used and other suggested choices have been cataloged and are in a PDF file including storage location. Most are either in book cases or files cabinets. Boxes will be purchased for some oversized items.

Pandemic Response Team Aileen and Linda

There is no report but we should all continue to do our part by keeping apart to stay safe and healthy.

Trustees Howard

No report

Ministry and Personnel Aileen

M and P In Camera 20 minutes

Minister's Report and A Time of Reflection and Discernment Rev. Mary Jo

“We Are At a Standstill – Waiting....”

This picture was taken this week, on a snowy January day. As you can see we are at a standstill. The roof is almost done, the doors and windows are here ready to be installed, but we are at a full stop.

We seem to be at a standstill here at HUC. With staffing issues we are sort of stymied in many ways. However, many people have come forward to take on duties, but the consistency is somewhat halted. Like my studio, where the work is not getting done in a timely manner, the work at Humbercrest is also off schedule in many ways.

The Transition Team with the assistance of the Ad Hoc team are putting together a proposal for the council's approval which will then be put to the congregation. The Transition Team is trying to work around the staff concern just as Gary and Mike are trying to work around the weather.

It is hoped that at some point the weather will become mild and the roof will get finished and the doors and windows will be installed. Some small things are getting done like purchasing lights for the interior and exterior and planning where the art furniture and supplies will go. However, I wait and we wait here at HUC for some staffing wrinkles to be ironed out so that we can move forward in some fashion. I know that by June the studio will be finished and I know that before then, the Humbercrest will be on its course into the future.

We all just have to wait, working behind the scenes doing the best we can.

With continuing thanks all the 'builders' at Humbercrest.

For Discussion

Narrative Budget - Rev Mary Jo attached a sample of a narrative budget shown below.

Waterford United Church

Narrative Budget and Actual Expenditures

For 2018

As a result of the generous giving of many people we were able to accomplish so much for God's mission here at WUC and in the wider community!

THROUGH WORSHIP: \$44,062.16

In worship we gather as a community of faith to help us celebrate God's presence and discern God's call to mission and ministry in our world. For the year 2018 this area of ministry included: weekly worship and leadership, bulletins, sermon preparation, choir, music leadership, guest musicians, guest speakers like Eric Havercamp, Jocelyn Bell, Rev. Debra Leedham, Joyce Vince Stover, prayers, Prayground Time, Magic Nickel, Singing Hallelujah, puppets, Mr. Bones, prayer table, special worship services for Lent, Easter, Pentecost, World Wide Communion, Remembrance Day, Advent, and Christmas, baptisms, celebrations of life and our 200th Anniversary worship service.

THROUGH LEARNING: \$1,426.26

Through Christian nurture each one of us grows in our knowledge of God and what it means to be the people of God in our world. For the year 2018 this area of ministry included: Workshops- Bullies and Allies, Power and Privilege, all day workshop on Haudenosaunee Philosophies, Retreat day, Transition Workshops, Newsletters, UCW programs and speakers, JAM (Jesus And Me – Sunday School, Whole People of God curriculum), Walking Tour, archive displays, Messy Church, and Book Club.

THROUGH SERVICE: \$66,570.26

Waterford United Church supports the ministry and mission of God within the congregation and the needs of the wider church through pastoral care, outreach, providing space for various groups to meet at WUC, supporting the local food bank and our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund. For the year 2018 this area of ministry included: Prayer Circle, Pastoral care by the minister and congregants, Loaves of Bread, Messy Church, Living Nativity, Monthly Concerts, Out Reach Luncheons, special meals such as Pumpkinfest, Turkey Dinners, Spaghetti Supper, Murder Mystery Dinner, Family Day Roast Beef Dinner with complimentary tickets to dinners and other events given to the community, Quilters Guild and their ongoing generous gifts, Christmas Waterford United Church

Humbercrest Church Profile

Rev Mary Jo mentioned that our Church's profile needs to be written by a committee/group/council as soon as possible for the church Hub This is a collaborative piece that needs many voices. Rev. Mary Jo requested that Council think of people who might have the skills and to let her know so she could ask them for their help.

Closing Remarks/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m

The next meeting of Council will be held on February 22nd 2022 at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9.00 pm

L. Steggles – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*

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