

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
June 22 2021
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

Regrets : Howard Gaskin

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement,

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Charlie Evans

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of Minutes of the May 25th Council meeting.

Motion: Dianna/Brian

CARRIED

That council approve the minutes of the May 25th 2021 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Dorothy/Aileen

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for the June 22nd 2021 meeting.

Chair Report –

A letter of solidarity against Islamophobia and some flowers were given to the Imam at the Albanian Muslim Society on June 11, following the killing of a family of 4 and the wounding of a young boy in London, Ont. We stand by our Muslim friends and neighbours.

Tonight, as we meet, Indspire is honouring a number of worthy recipients with awards. Donations help make education more accessible to Indigenous Peoples.

<https://indspire.ca/events/indspire-awards/>

If you scroll down, you'll learn more about "Indspire" and their programs. Their Board of Directors represent indigenous communities from all over

Canada. As yesterday (June 21) was Indigenous Peoples Day, I thought I'd share info about Indspire with you.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hardy's appointment from September 2021 to June 2022 has been approved by Region. We look forward to her return.

I'd like to thank all our staff for their continued hard work, commitment and flexibility and will let them know how grateful we are for them. We hope that they all may have some time to refresh and regenerate over the summer. Many thanks to Rev. Mary Jo, Rev. Dr. Nancy, Mel, David, Meredith, Besnik, and Sam and his staff. We also thank Sinead, Lindsay, Jason, River, Kieran and Alex, whose music we have enjoyed since January.

Thanks also to Brian and the Affirm Committee for all its work leading to the special congregational meeting on June 27 after the worship service, to vote on becoming an affirming ministry. This will mark a commitment to carry on the Affirm journey.

Many thanks also to Dorothy and the Transition Team for their work on our behalf. We're looking forward to "Don't Fight the Resurrection!" Sept. 18 wherever it may happen.

An announcement about the summer virtual concert series will appear in each of the Bloor West, High Park and Kingsway Village neighbourhood magazines for July/August.

Correspondence None

Follow-up / New Business

1. Transition team report

We have been planning a workshop to be held, hopefully, in person in the church, on September 18, 2021. Lydia Pedersen will present "DON'T FIGHT THE RESURRECTION!" for the whole congregation. It will run from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Lydia has designed this workshop for us and has based it on her research from the literature that encourages transformative thinking, modelled by thriving churches. We are very grateful to Lydia for doing this for us.

We are still working on plans for the rest of our mandate and will pick up the reins again in September after our summer break.

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2. Dining with Dignity

Dianna reported that a \$500 cheque has been sent to Roncessvalles United Church for Dining with Dignity. At the current time, due to Covid restrictions, money is the best way to support this food programme. We will continue to actively seek donations for needed supplies for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

3. East Roof Repairs update

Linda reported that scaffolding had been erected and the repairs to the east roof were in progress.

4. Pandemic Response Update

We are currently reviewing our guidelines for returning to in person worship. In conjunction with the Ministers, Music Director and Worship Committee, throughout the summer we will continue to plan for potentially opening up for an integrated (hybrid) model of worship service in the fall (in person along with online Zoom for those at home).

5. To Approve updated wedding policy

After further review this item was tabled until a later meeting and subsequently, the Congregational Meeting to formally commit to be an Affirming Church will be postponed.

6. Motion Aileen/Fern

CARRIED

To approve an additional week of vacation for Mary Jo, this year only, as recommended to all Communities of Faith, by Region's Pastoral Relations Ministers, owing to the unprecedented nature of this past year and a half.

Re. Mary Jo has requested to take an additional week of vacation combined with a week of Study Leave from Oct 11 to Oct 25. Re. Nancy Hardy has agreed to preach both weeks.

Stewardship of our Resources

Motion : Charlie/Dianna

CARRIED

That the financial reports and cheque register be approved as previously circulated.

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Our Shared Ministries

Community Team

The Annual Strawberry Social was held on June 13 at our homes. Congregational announcements (meetings or events) are being integrated into the greeting at the beginning of Worship Services.

The team wants to ensure that we stay connected to everyone who has begun attending Zoom Worship services or who has been happy to get a paper order of service delivered to them.

Devotions Team

Facilities Team

A contract has been signed by David Gilmour as Treasurer of Trustees on behalf of HUC with Blair Britton of RTM (Roof Tile Management) for the East roof work. Some scaffolding was erected on Friday the 18th.

Biss Heating is coming in this Wednesday, June 23 to drain the system and finish up some of the remaining work.

The lawn and gardens have been attended to, with work ongoing, to tame some areas which have gotten out of hand and to spruce things up. Many thanks to all who have helped out with this. Fern, Ken and Charlie Steggle, Aileen McGregor, Marg Garrie, Donna Magee, Dorothy and Peter Lothian and Margot Davis.

There has been much work on tidying and recycling of items to clear up the West Hall. Many thanks to David Gilmour, Keith McColl and Marg Garrie for their ongoing work in the church building.

The bulkhead across from the elevator will be painted before the Day Camp starts in July

Rental Committee Report

Evan Redsky will start his rental July 1st in Room 18. Visual Arts

Shining Region has approved the lease of Eric Frisch and Evan Redsky

The following rentals occurred since the last Council meeting.

June 4th recording

Yoga Classes on the lawn twice a week for the summer

Recording June 18 -20th

Workshop for leaders of day camp (Toronto Kidz) June 20th 9.30 to 5.30 pm.

Toronto Kidz summer day camp July/Aug.

Rainbow Songs one morning a week all summer

Wedding booked for Sept. 2nd

Possible wedding in August viewing took place June 21st

Other projects:

The West Hall is cleared of donations thanks to Keith and Aileen. They each made two trips to Value Village with their SUV's full.

The stage is gradually being cleared to make space for the summer camp. Since Mum Net is no longer functioning in Toronto we disposed of some of their leftover items to Value Village.

The Heritage Hall balcony Scout room has been emptied thanks to David, Keith , Dorothy and Peter. Their belongings are now in the West Hall. They will cull their other West Hall room which will be shared with HUC for table storage. The cubs and beavers still have 2 large cupboards in the East Hall to cull an hopefully share one.

Ministry and Personnel

Service agreements are being renewed with our contractors, Mel, our music director and also for Sam - S6 Cleaning, our cleaner.

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In discussion with Sam, he requested that his hourly rate be increased to \$25/hour (from \$20.85/hr) to better reflect the current rate for cleaning services in Toronto.

David D., church administrator - due to the malfunctioning air conditioning unit in his office, he will work from home during the remainder of June and for July, with the following agreement:

- he will work in person at the church on Wednesdays
- he will be available to respond to and investigate any problems that may arise with renters at the church property
- for potential renters, he will arrange times to show the church premises during his work week whenever possible

David will take his vacation in August, during which time, church phone calls and email will be covered by volunteers.

Pastoral Relations Ministers at Region have recommended to all Communities of Faith that owing to the unprecedented nature of the last year, we give our ministers an additional week of vacation for this year (2021). M&P has considered and supports offering Rev. Mary Jo, our IIM minister this extra vacation time owing to the unusual year.

Pandemic Response Team Report

See item 4 under Follow up and new business

Trustees No report

A time of reflection and discernment

“It Takes Time”

Since our last gathering I have been working on worship services, meeting with team leaders, the Director of Music, the staff, Dorothy, Linda, Nancy and Lydia, visiting on the phone with some people, working with the affirming committee, sermon preparation and attending webinars on leadership and Two Spirited Peoples. I have also met with the transition team and I am very appreciative of the skill and dedication they bring to our work. I have also

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enjoyed prayer and theological study time with congregants. The Care and Chat circles seem to be going along well and I hope that others might think of joining us. I am thankful for all the dedicated people out front and behind the scenes at Humbercrest. It is a joy to serve with you.

This is a picture of my art studio my husband is building me. It is a little unfinished! Four years ago, we started to plan where it would go and decided that it would be great joined to the office. Last March (2020) when got home from Nebraska having slid through the USA/Canada border (they closed it three days after we got home!), Gary decided it was time to get busy with the Studio. So, he ripped off the pergola, took down the siding and carted all the non useable pieces to the dump. Then the shutdown happened. In the summer (2020) he decided to start digging the hole for the foundation. So, he did. We took all the beautiful top soil and distributed it by wheel barrel to our lawns. The concrete company was phoned and plans were made to come. Then another shutdown happened. All this time the town was contacted and the building inspector had made their many visits. So, the studio sat with a hole and gravel all ready for the concrete. Then winter came. Finally, the concrete men came and finished what they needed to do before the big Concrete Mixer Truck arrived. Then another shutdown happened, Finally two weeks ago the concrete was poured! The inspector has been here again and has given the approval of the concrete so the next step is the construction. So now we wait for the contractor and the price of lumber to go down! Building something takes time from plans to completion! I am thankful that I have other places in our house for me to create in. As I reflect on how long it has taken us so far, I think that there were times we would be willing to just give up and turn it into another patio. However, that was not the original plan, the plan was to have a designated place to create. In the course of all this I have become very patient, waiting for the studio to unfold. I think that patience has served me well as I wait with you to let God's ministry at Humbercrest deconstruct, build and unfold in God's timing. I have learned to just wait for the studio process to unfold and I trust that it will because I trust the men who will be building it. I am also willing to wait to let God's process unfold at Humbercrest because I trust the One who us leading it. I pray that you might find some patience and some new trust that God has Humbercrest in God's hands and that God's plans are perfect and unfold at just the right time!

Patiently and Trustingly waiting with you,

Mary Jo

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Closing Remarks/Adjournment

The next meeting of Council will be held on September 28th 2021 at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8.35 pm

L. Steggle – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*