

To be approved by HUC Council

*Humbercrest United Church*  
Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
September 26th 2023  
Via Video Conference  
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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Attendance: Fern Steggles, Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Aileen McGregor, Dorothy Lothian, Linda Steggles, Rev. Lena Medeiros, Howard Gaskin, Charlie Evans Brian Packham

### **Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome**

1. Welcome by Linda
2. Prayer: Dorothy
3. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

Approval of the Agenda

**Motion: Dianna/Aileen**

**CARRIED**

That council approved the agenda for the September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

**Motion: Howard/Marg**

**CARRIED**

That Council Approve the Minutes of June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Correspondence**

#### **Chair report Linda**

Met with 3 Members of the Minister Search team and Rev. Lena two weeks ago

- very heartened by their commitment and approaches (revisiting ChurchHub, looking at Int'l ministers -although discouraged at time, they felt energized by our plans)

- agreed that as they are into a second year, engaging the church community in the process would be supportive to them as a committee and helpful to congregants not to be discouraged

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- Lena proposed “Image-of-minister” survey followed by a Zoom to discuss results
- Community Profile would be added to, with the process/results to show the community is engaged, as well as adding Faith on Friday project and initiatives (5Ts) and Potluck and Meditations (Worship)
- Add Deborah Park, new Music Director
- Suggest 1 Search Comm. member and 1 other (Council) update after the “image-of-minister” exercise and Zoom conversation (do soon - Lena, Linda, Chris)
- Require vote of Council

Flyers - 100 half sheet flyers were distributed in the St. Mark’s valley by my nephew Christopher and me just before the first 5Ts -apologize for not sharing ahead of time with Council; ran out of time! Will forward separately.

Forwarded info about Islington’s youth group to Iain Gomme for his older child as Islington had shared the info with us.

I’m wondering...

-whether we might be better served by selling the live-stream equipment while it still is technologically viable?

-will the Roof Committee be ready to report in October?

#### **Follow up and new business**

#### **For The Record Council Approved the following three motions this summer**

That Deborah Park be offered the position of Director of Music for 12 hours per week at Level 7 effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**Linda/Charlie**

**Carried**

That Rev. Jeff Crittenden be our Anniversary Service guest preacher with a potluck lunch. Humbercrest will host his book launch after the service. We would receive \$10 from the sale of each book as host of the event.

Linda/Dianna Carried

That \$2100 be added to the section lead budget to allow for Deborah to hire 1 section lead from September to December 2023

Aileen/Linda Carried (email vote)

Linda, on behalf of Council, thanked the Director of Music search committee, Marg Garrie, Brian Packham, Shannon Matthews and Aileen McGregor for all their work.

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## **2. Minister Search Committee Update and Congregational involvement**

Howard, Linda, Lena.

Although at time discouraged they were currently looking at international Ministers, also looking at Church Hub where ministers wanting a placement are posted. All agreed to propose to Council to ask the congregation o help with an “image of Minister” exercise to be followed by a zoom meeting.

## **4. Live Stream Operator Search Update** Brian

Sean has offered to livestream when he is the opener, approximately once a month.

## **5. The Meeting House**

Dianna reported that TMH wishes to continue as a community of faith at Humbercrest, while their central structure devolves. They have asked, because of the financial uncertainty of this time, that the current rent remain at \$3500 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**Motion: Dianna/Dorothy**

**Carried**

That Humbercrest agrees to support TMH at the current rent level of \$3,500 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 or earlier should their financial situation make an increase more feasible.

Linda will respond to Pastor Rob re this request.

## **Pollinator Garden partnership with Keys – Linda**

Approved to explore this City of Toronto grant opportunity to enhance existing garden with KEYS doing the initial work and maintenance.

## **Working with other Churches**

Linda reported that she had reached out to Rev. Anne Hines at Roncesvalles to see what projects might be undertaken either enhancing our dinner with dignity contributions or something new.

## **Stewardship of our Resources Charlie**

**Motion : Charlie/Dianna**

**CARRIED**

That the financial reports and cheque register for the months of June, July and August 2023 be approved as previously circulated.

## **Our Shared Ministries**

## **Community Team Fern**

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5Ts

Rev. Lena, 6 adults and 2 children gathered on Thurs. Sept. 21st for tea, cookies, strawberries, grapes and interesting conversation on various topics. The comfortable seating and pleasant decor of the Friendship RM. was thoroughly enjoyed. The next gathering is Oct. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Please speak to Fern if you can help with transportation.

The next Tea Time will be Oct 15th.

Book Discussion has organized its Fall schedule.

Just for Men has changed its venue to the Grenadier to accommodate Merf David and will begin meeting when all are available.

There has been little demand for Prayer Shawls.

Care and Welcoming has had resignations from Greeters. It is attempting to ask persons who don't attend church services very often to help with greeting.

On Nov. 12th, Anniversary Sunday, Congregational Life plans to organize the Potluck lunch using the 5 teams and 2 committees.

### **Devotions Team Brian**

There will be Christmas Eve services at 10.30 am. and candlelight service at 7.30 p.m.

### **Facilities Team Linda (Lead vacant)**

Linda reported that we have some major expenditures coming up like the roof and eavestroughs She will report back in October.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Gas Costs - planning on reducing the sanctuary temp by 2 degrees F

- our system shares the same return, so heating the sanctuary can overheat the rest of the building

- will also find out from BISS whether a small reduction in the night temp would give savings, in spite of the fact that heating in the morning might create a surge

-the organ will be fine with this temp (see American Institute of Organ builders)

Snow Removal - Julian will not be able to continue this year

- have advertised in a Humber River FB group

- Chris will reach out to the property manager/administration group

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Sound System Battery Back-up Installation required - when its life is done, the sound system will not work as a protective measure - luckily RP Sound Dynamics was able to come that eve

- Paid From Worship budget

Trees - City to break up roots (to the E of the front sign - hopefully they'll do the old crab apple roots too)

- then plant Golden Locust to replace (City)

- Redbud to replace crab apple (memorial tree for Barbara Gory - family will reimburse costs)

Thanks to Fred and Marg for their garden work a couple of weeks ago. Looks much better!

A faulty extension cord burned in the West Hall scorching the floor. (With permission a renter plugged one of theirs in). Our breaker on the Stage panel tripped, doing its job. Confirmed by an electrician. Have tested the outlet with lamps - all is good.

The fire alarm did go off owing to smoke. Linda and Chris are putting together a procedures guide for all those responsible for the building at a given time.

Mirror broken in Washroom G (former Men's on E Hall Landing)

-discovered Sunday; it likely happened Saturday

-will research unbreakable replacements

Thank you David G. For cleaning up the worst of it - Felix will finish up

-Keys was notified

### **Mission Dianna**

Dianna reported that \$600 has been sent to Roncesvalles United to support the Thanksgiving Dinner with Dignity programme.

### **Resources Marg**

July Rentals

Toronto Kidz Camp for 8 weeks

KEYS continued through July and August three days/week + two weeks holidays

Rainbow Songs continued all summer

July 7th wedding

August Rentals

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Concert (Mexican group)

Recording Gallery Players of Niagara Region 5 days

September Rentals

Wedding Sept.7

Wedding Sept.16

All our usual groups have started except Chair yoga starting in October

We will be clearing out all Humbercrest's items from the kitchen cupboards beside the stairs to give KEYS more storage.

**Trustees Howard**

**No Report**

### **Ministry and Personnel Aileen**

Music Director – through June and early July 2023, the Music Director search committee spent time interviewing and auditioning candidates for the role of music director. We had several high calibre candidates. After discussion with references and careful consideration, it was decided to offer the position to Deborah Park. Deborah joined Humbercrest UC on September 1, 2023 and is currently on an 11 month contract, working 12 hours per week until July 31, 2024. We look forward to working together with Deborah as she shares her many musical talents and conducting expertise with us.

### **Minister's Report**

Round Table “How wolves changes Rivers” Rev Lena. A video of the wolves in Yellowstone National Park was shown.

Council was assigned homework :” what wolf needs to be introduced at Humbercrest”

The meeting adjourned at 9.25 pm

The next meeting of Council will be held on October 24th 2023 at 7 pm

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L. Steggle – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*