

*Humbercrest United Church*

Approved Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
September 24 2024  
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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Attendance: Dianna Seth, Marg Garrie, Linda Steggles, Rev. Diane Mugambi, Howard Gaskin, Brian Packham, Charlie Evans, Dorothy Lothian, Barbara Pattison.

Regrets : Fern, Aileen

**Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome**

1. Welcome by Linda

Prayer : Dorothy

2. *Administrative Ministry of the Church*

**Motion: Dorothy/Howard**

That Council Approve the Minutes of \June 2024 meeting Council Meeting **CARRIED**

**Motion : Brian/Dianna**

That the Agenda for the meeting be approved as circulated **CARRIED**

Correspondence None

**Chair Report – Linda**

**Motion : Brian/Aileen on July 10<sup>th</sup>.** **Carried**

That Council approved by email vote on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 to cover the cost of installing a heat pump AC unit by BISS for \$8,917.50 to replaces the older unit cooling the office and vestry as it used freon and was not able to be repaired. It can also be used to warm those spaces as needed.

**Chair's Report**

It has been a great pleasure getting to know Rev. Diane and her daughter Blessing. I have spent some time with Rev. Diane to orient her to our context and background especially in terms of how our governing structure and communications work or are supposed to work. ;)

I know that many of you have been doing the same and I am grateful.

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Many thanks to Rev. Diane for her hard work in discerning where we are at and how and where to guide us to as we journey forward. We appreciate how accommodating you have been of our foibles and thank you for your patience. It is very exciting to see the new team of Rev. Diane and Kento in action. Thank you Brian very much for your continued leadership as Worship Chair and in leading worship.

The following was approved in the summer:

Moved by Brian, seconded by Aileen, Council approved by email vote July 10, to cover the cost of installing a heat pump AC unit by BISS for \$8,917.50 to replace the older unit cooling the Office and Vestry as it used freon and was not able to be repaired. It can also be used to warm those spaces as needed.

### **Follow up and New Business**

#### **1. Search Team/Settlement Group Update – Howard**

Covenanting Service with support from Region will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

A Reception will follow

#### **Motion: Howard/Dorothy**

**Carried**

That a one-time amount of \$500 be given to Rev. Mugambi towards the purchase of a laptop

#### **2. Community Potluck October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brian and Rev Diane**

Date to be rescheduled.

#### **3. Centennial Granting Fund – Linda**

Linda referred Council to the website Centennial Grant Funding Application.

After discussion this was deferred to next meeting

#### **4. Roof Committee Update Marg**

Roof is progressing well with a September 12 start. The East side of the sanctuary is complete including the roof above the office doorway. The work on the northwest corner of the roof has begun and the first gable is complete. So far there have been no complications.

#### **5. Sale Update Marg**

The date has been changed to October 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 12 noon as this gives us more time after Thanksgiving when cottagers return. Donations will be received two weeks before the Sale.

The Heritage Hall will have books and CD's, gifts. Christmas decorations and a Quilters table.

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West Hall /Stage Clothing for Women, Men and children including children's toys. There will be an area for better clothing for Men and women.

Use of the lawn depends on the weather. It will have a mixture of items. However, in past years we have not used the lawn at all for the Fall Sale. In case we have to move inside we will use the East Hall.

Set up will take place possibly after the Covenanting service or Tuesday evening after Scouts. We will be contacting them for some help. This leaves us three days to sort but will allow Monday and Tuesday renters to continue. Keys will not be affected. Stage Coach has been informed.

Pamphlets/ posters documents from previous years are on the church computer and will be distributed to the neighbourhood and stores.

Islington U.C has asked to borrow all our clothing racks for their sale Nov.3 to 9th. We have suggested they pick them up after our sale on the 26th so we

#### **6. They walked the streets – We will Remember them**

Discussion took place about a request for a banner to be installed on the church lawn from November 1 – November 11. Linda would seek further information and clarification

#### **Stewardship of our Resources Charlie**

**Motion : Charlie/Dianna**

**CARRIED**

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

#### **Our Shared Ministries**

#### **Community Team Fern and Barb**

#### **Congregational Life**

Following a meaningful Welcome Service for Rev. Diane and for Kento, we had an enjoyable BBQ lunch together on the lawn including veggies, chips and cupcakes. About 25 people attended. Congregational Life thanks those who helped with food, set up and clean up.

After the Covenanting Service on Oct. 20, there will be a reception. We expect some persons from Region to attend. Since we will need some help, we suggest going back to requesting Committees or groups help out. So A for Archives and B for Board of Trustees etc.

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We'll ask Fred and the Trustees to organize some items for the reception for about 50 (likely fruit, veggies and cookies) and to help with set up and clean up.

In November, there will likely be an Anniversary Service, date as yet unknown. Buildings and Grounds will be asked to provide goodies and the help for a "regular" Tea Time.

We kindly ask any individual wishing to provide food at an event to please speak to Congregational Life first before discussing this with your committee as we have had communications problems this month.

### **Devotions Team Brian**

Welcome, Introductions, Prayer & Additions

Brian welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Brian led the group in prayer to open the meeting.

A few items were added to the agenda.

Understanding of Devotions Team:

Brian shared an understanding of the Devotions Team and its makeup including the following:

- Worship Committee
- Faith Formation
- Affirming Committee

Budget & Spending:

Brian shared with everyone the budget and expenses for 2024 up to June 2024. This report will be shared at all future meetings so we know where we are financially.

Worship:

Past Worship

Summer Services – received well and intimate in the chapel area.

New People to the Church – it was suggested that the Greeters be the ones to collect contact information from those who are new to the church. Diane noted that part of the September bulletin would be used for new people also.

Present Worship (Sept – Nov 2024)

Regular Service & Live Streaming

- Moving back to the sanctuary in front of the stairs (Sept 8)
- Diane to ask for everyone to move closer to the front of the church

Welcoming Service for Rev. Diane & Kento (Sept 22)

- Brian leading worship
- BBQ with drinks and cake following the service
- Gospel Sing Along was scheduled for this afternoon; will be moved

Communion Services for 2024-25 will be celebrated six times:

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- Worldwide Communion (Oct 6)

- Advent 1 (Dec 1)

- Epiphany (Jan 5)

- Lent 1 (Mar 5)

- Easter (Apr 20)

- Pentecost (Jun 8)

Thanksgiving Sunday (Oct 13)

Indigenous Sunday (Oct 27)

- Brian to speak to Madelaine to see about Caroline King

- Chris in the office also knows someone who might be able to speak

112th Anniversary Sunday (Nov 3)

- Brian and Donna to see about the Past Moderator

- Any other ideas for speaker are welcome.

Remembrance Sunday (Nov 10)

Mission Sunday (Nov 17)

- We should check with Diana and Barb about this

- Diane knows someone who might speak

Prayer Breakfast or Dinner

- Rev. Diane to check with Chris in the office when it would be good to have a Prayer Breakfast or dinner.

- Rev. Diane already knows some volunteers to make the food.

Bass Soloist

- Brian to speak to Kento about a Bass soloist.

Words for Anthems

- Kento to make sure the words for anthems are placed in the bulletin for reference.

Screens for the Sanctuary

- Donna noted that Howard, Sean and Charlie were doing some planning for these.

- More to come.

Public Address System

- Diane noted that no technician had been into the church yet.

- Brian to check with Chris in the office.

Future Worship (Dec – future)

Advent Carol Sing (Dec 1)

- Brian & Kento to see if it is possible

Winter Solstice Worship (Dec 21)

- Brian to see what can be maybe done

Christmas (Wed Dec 25)

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- Brian needs to check about the details about Rev. Diane's vacation so pulpit supply will be ready
- 100th Anniversary of UCC
- Tabled to the next meeting for any ideas that Humbercrest wants to do for the centennial of the United Church of Canada
- Afternoon Worship in September
- Rev. Diane would like to try a relaxed afternoon service in September
  - More details to come
- Affirming:
- Donna, Brian and Rev. Diane to meet soon to have their first Affirm Committee meeting.
  - More details about affirming to come.
- Faith Formation:
- Advised about the Video Bible Study with "The Chosen" that Brian did last Lent season.
  - More to come.
- Team Meetings & Frequency:
- Next meeting : Sunday Oct 6 12:00 – 1:00
  - It was decided that we would meet following the church service for 1 hour monthly until. Rev. Diane and Kento have things in place and feel more comfortable.
- Closing Prayer:
- Rev. Diane closed the meeting with prayer

## **Facilities Team Howard**

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Gardening help came through student volunteer hours. You can see the plants now in the front garden. Besnik took to overlooking the new Eastern Redbud in front of the main doors.

Mid-July we were happy to have the AC replaced with a heat pump so that the Office and Vestry are more comfortable in summer and in the shoulder seasons. Keys is interested in sharing the cost of cooling the East Hall for about the same price. Rentals may have more information.

### **Mission Dianna**

A cheque will be sent to Roncesvalles for Dinner with Dignity for the food programme.

### **Resources Marg**

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## **Rental Committee Report Marg**

### **Motion: Marg/Howard**

**Carried**

That up to \$5000 be budgeted for 50 per cent of the purchase cost of Air Conditioning Units for the cooling of the East Hall. KEYS may contribute 50% of the cost if their Board of Directors approve this expenditure.

July/Aug: Toronto Kidz Summer Camp started for 8 weeks.

KEYS continued all summer except for two weeks staff vacation.

Birthday Party East Hall

September

Recording

Opera on the Lawn

Recording Sinfonia Sept 24, 25.

Ballet Etobicoke, Tai Chi, Young Voices Choir, Scottish Country Dancers, Rainbow Songs, BCOT, Scouting & Guiding groups, Embers, Cubs have all returned. Stage Coach will start this Saturday and Chair Yoga will start in October.

Leases: Westside Church (TMH) has returned.

KEYS continues.

Our Gallery renters continue.

### **Trustees Howard**

No report

## **Ministry and Personnel Aileen**

### **Welcoming New Staff**

On Sunday, September 22, 2024 we had much to celebrate as we officially welcomed our new Minister and Music Director to Humbercrest.

Rev. Diane Mugambi arrived in Canada in July. She has quickly settled into her new church home at Humbercrest, sharing elements of her Kenyan culture and her beautiful, engaging, spiritual energy with us in her thoughtful message each week.

Kento Stratford, our new music director, started in September and is off to a great start.

Kento spent his early years in Japan, then moved to Kingston, Ontario, he now calls Toronto his home. We are delighted to have him and his many musical talents on board at Humbercrest.

Weather cooperated for us as we gathered for a BBQ on the front lawn after service. It was great to share fellowship with our new staff, old friends and visitors. Much

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appreciation to the Congregational Life, Worship and Settlement teams for all their hard work in making this such a successful event.

**Summer Music Accompanist**

We would like to acknowledge with much gratitude the wonderful work of Marg Parsons over the summer. Her musical addition to our gatherings in the side chapel was excellent.

**Cleaning Needs at Humbercrest**

M&P are in discussion with our cleaning staff to ensure that our cleaning needs are met in the church. We are in the process of scheduling some deep cleaning of certain high use areas of the church.

**Music Director Emeritus**

As per council decision in March 2023, Mel Hurst continues to have teaching and practice privileges using the organ at Humbercrest. This is reviewed annually after discussion with the current Music Director. These teaching privileges are extended to Mel during office hours and when other renters are in the church building. Time slots are arranged around Kento's schedule and any sanctuary rentals. This has been discussed with Mel and he has made plans accordingly.

**Minister's Report**

Rev Diane asked us to reflect and write some of our thoughts about God's priorities for Humbercrest currently and in the future and to also write a prayer. Some thoughts were shared, Rev. Diane would use others in her own planning

The meeting adjourned at 9.06 pm

The next meeting of Council will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7 pm

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L. Steggles – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*