

To be approved by HUC Council

Humbercrest United Church
Draft Minutes of Church Council Meeting
April 23rd 2024
Via Video Conference
(commenced 7:00 pm.)

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

Gathering, Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, Inclusivity Checklist

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

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Brian/ Dianna

CARRIED

That council approved the agenda for the April 23rd meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Howard/Dorothy

CARRIED

That Council Approve the Minutes of March 26th meeting

Correspondence

None

Chair report Linda

Transitions, Diversity and Healthy Communication Training Part 1

with Rev. Rob Smith, Pastoral Relations Minister and Rev. Kellie McComb,
Vocational Minister, Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regions took place
in-person last Monday.

Seventeen Humbercresters joined together April 15th for a very helpful session
led by Rob and Kellie. The following is a summary of our discussion. Part 2
will be held Monday, June 10th, at 6:30 p.m.

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We began by reflecting on Acts 2: 1 - 21 asking what it meant regarding diversity and what it might mean for HUC.

Rev. Rob shared an acrostic poem containing very good reminders about healthy communication.

R: Take Responsibility for your words. Use "I" statements. "I feel..."

E: Empathetic Listening. Listen with your heart.

S: Be Sensitive to differences in communication styles.

P: Ponder what you hear before you speak.

E: Examine your own assumptions and perceptions. Hold them lightly.

C: Keep Confidentiality. Don't share a story that is not your own.

T: Trust in God.

One challenge is to let go of how we like things to be.

Safe spaces don't really exist. Create Brave Space together. The poem Invitation to Brave Space by Micky ScottBey Jones was shared.

Rev. Kellie urged a few of us (most likely the Settlement Group) to build relationships with Rev. Diane Mugambi before she arrives so that she feels that she knows a few of us.

Special food items have been scouted out by Sean, Settlement Group member, based on a shopping list Diane provided.

Part 2 is June 10th.

Scripture Readers and all others using the Lectern or Pulpit Microphones are going to be encouraged to come at 10:10 a.m. to rehearse using it and to project their voice as if they were speaking to the front row of pews. Speakers and listeners are both older now. Once Rev. Diane has arrived, we will invite our sound company to calibrate microphone levels and will also see what might be done to help the situation.

Follow up and new business

1. Search Team/Settlement Group Update

Howard reported that on Sundays the settlement committee will meet by zoom with Rev. Diane informally for thirty minutes and an invitation will be extended to Humbercrest congregants to join them for these meetings. This would be in rotation, so Rev Diane has an opportunity to meet and greet us. Two per meeting is intended.

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2. United Fresh Start Update

Linda reported that the second part of the diversity training will take place on June 10th at 6.30 pm.

3. Roof Committee update: Marg

We have received from RTM two quotes for the West wing roof using a recyclable material that resembles the slate on the east side and another using asphalt shingles. All three quotes were very high for our circumstances. They do not recommend metal (too industrial looking) and an ordinary type shingle was not recommended (not long lasting). We have received a quote for leak repair above the gallery rooms.

Bothwell Accurate has sent a quote for the same brand of asphalt shingle as our patch on the north west corner but a newer version. They have transferred our request for a metal shingle quote to their metal division. No report yet. Also, we have not had reply for a quote on the slate repair over the gallery rooms. As soon as it can be arranged, we will be having a roof committee meeting to discuss next steps.

4. Revised lease with TMH High Park Update

Dianna reported that the Rental Committee decided on a 5% increase effective July 1st 2024-June 30 2025 and a 2.5% increase for July 1 2025 – June 30th 2026 and July 1 2026 – June 30th 2027. This information has been sent to TMH High Park.

5. Motion to revise the “Policy for Creating and Posting videos to Humbercrest’s U Tube Channel”

Motion Brian/Aileen

CARRIED

Policy for Creating and Posting to Humbercrest United Church’s YouTube Channel

We recommend amending **Policy Statement 5.0** to read, “...except in exceptional circumstances to be determined in advance by the Worship Committee. For example, minors singing or playing instruments together. No individual voice or image would be recorded. A Humbercrest Media Release form signed by a parent or guardian is required if such a release has not been provided to the organization minors are representing.”

6. Motion Aileen/Fern

Carried

To approve Marg Parsons, Brian Packham, Linda Steggles and Aileen McGregor for the Director of Music Search Team

7. Stewardship of our Resources Charlie

Motion : Charlie/Dianna

Carried

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That the financial reports and cheque register for the month of March 2024 be approved as previously circulated.

Charlie reported that there is \$900 in the Music Fund

Our Shared Ministries

Community Team Fern

4Ts were cancelled for April due to an unexpected very low turnout. A Tea Time will be held this Sunday, April 28th.

Devotions Team Brian

Brian presented a worship planning schedule for 2024

Facilities Team Linda (Lead vacant)

As of Monday, May 6th, we will begin alarming the whole building. The main entrance for Openers will be the Centre/Office doors. Second, they will disarm the east doors. For exiting, it's the reverse. Groups should continue to use the entry doors they are now.

Only Heritage Hall Balcony renters will use the East doors only.

Instructions are being sent to all exterior key holders.

Resources Report - March 2024

Rentals for April - Children's birthday party

Gallery Rentals - We have negotiated a new rental agreement with our musicians. They are now using Room 20, Room 19 for studio space and Room 17 for storage. Their rent will increase from \$750. a month to \$1200.

KEYS has also agreed to a monthly raise of \$200. For a period of three years to \$3200. a month.

KEYS has asked permission to make a quiet corner in the south west corner of the East Hall. They would supply one or two chairs or loveseat, a small rug, bookcase and portable divider.

Since TMH also uses all of that space for chairs on Sunday morning we will have to be creative to satisfy both parties.

The Sales Committee met at their request to discuss the possibility of a limited sale. We decided it was too late to think of May as we could not ask Stage Coach to give us the Saturday. They have already been cancelled for a birthday

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party. We have booked Oct.5th as the date. Investigations will be done combining a smaller sale with an on- line sale.

Mission Dianna

Dianna reported that the walk to support “Dinner with Dignity” will take place on Saturday April 27th

Trustees Howard

No report

Ministry and Personnel Aileen

Livestream Operator

Isaac Anderson has completed his paperwork and is officially on board as our livestream operator. As livestream operator, he will work 3 hours each Sunday morning and will cover other services such as Easter and Christmas Eve. His hourly rate is \$25.00. Livestreaming takes a break for July and August then resumes after Labour Day.

Church Administrator

Chris Higgins has been working with us for almost 2 years as our Acting Church Administrator.

This month, news from the United Church of Canada Benefits office indicated that David Drake is not going to be returning to this role. We are now able to engage Chris as our Church Administrator. Chris has chosen to remain on contract, renewed annually. His hourly rate will be increased to \$26.58 to include the 2024 cost of living adjustment. His office hours will for the most part remain the same, Monday – Thursday, 8.45am – 3.00pm and Friday, 8.45am – 11.45am (28 hours per week). Summer hours will change slightly. In July and August, office hours will be Monday to Thursday, 8.00am – 3.00pm (28 hours per week). The office will be closed on Fridays.

Director of Music

Deborah Park joined us as Director of Music in September 2023. She has truly enlivened our choral singing with some new material and different genres of music over the past 7 months.

In early April, Deborah was offered a new job opportunity. It was with a heavy heart that she informed me of her intention to leave Humbercrest. This is an opportunity that she would not be able to turn down. She is planning to leave at the end of May 2024.

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Alternative arrangements are being considered for musical accompaniment and choir direction for June, then musical accompaniment for July and August.

It is proposed that we get a search team together immediately to look for a replacement for Deborah. We will use the job description from last year and begin our search by reviewing previous applications

Minister's Report

The next meeting of Council will be held on May 28th 2024

Adjourned 8.21 pm

L. Steggle – *Council Chair*

D Seth – *Secretary*