

Humbercrest United Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2025 commenced at 7.00pm via Zoom

Attendance: Rev. Diane Mugambi, Linda Steggles, Barb Pattison, Brian Packham, Charlie Evans, Dorothy Lothian, Howard Gaskin, Marg Garrie, Aileen McGregor

Apologies: Dianna Seth

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – Rev. Diane

Inclusivity Checklist – Linda

Prayer – Brian

Administrative Ministry of the Church –

Approval of the minutes of January 28, 2025 meeting:

Moved: Howard Seconded: Barb CARRIED

Approval of the Agenda:

Moved: Aileen Seconded: Dorothy CARRIED

No Correspondence

Chair's Report – Linda – none

Follow-Up and New Business –

Gospel Extravaganza Proposal –

Mzuki Wa Injili (An Afternoon of East African Music and Food):

Overview:

Mzuki Wa Injili (An Afternoon of East African Music and Food), set to be held in Spring 2025 pending council approval, is an all-around celebration of East African culture with a particular focus on Kenyan Gospel music and food. Along with a social hour with Kenyan food, coffee, and snacks, the event will feature Kenyan gospel artist, Ruth Matete and her band as musical guests.

Date:

April 6, 2025 Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pm / Back-up date March 30, 2025

Location:

Humbercrest United Church (Sanctuary or Heritage Hall)

Impetus and Outcomes:

Through the ministry of Rev. Diane, we, as the congregation of Humbercrest United Church, have the opportunity to offer new and unique experiences to the community around us. Rev. Diane's intimate connection to and knowledge of the East African community in Toronto is a particular asset in this regard. Thus, we feel that an authentic, respectful, and joyful celebration of Kenyan culture at Humbercrest United would be a genuine opportunity to touch and engage with various communities around us, in a meaningful and intentional way. The primary goal of the event is to establish a meaningful and working relationship between Humbercrest, the East African Community of Toronto, and the Indigenous community Na Ma Res.

The event will be ticketed (Eventbrite) in order to raise funds to cover the costs of hosting the event. All proceeds beyond this threshold will be donated to Na Ma Res.

Tickets:

\$20

Breakdown of Costs:

Artists: \$1050

- Ruth: \$350
- Moses: \$300
- 4 Singers: \$400 (\$100x4)

Equipment rental: \$500

Food and other expenses: \$500

Total: \$2050

Moved: Brian Seconded: Dorothy CARRIED

Discussion around whether Eventbrite was the way to go for ticket sales because they take a commission or perhaps \$20 at the door may be preferable. Chris will be asked to research this component.

Discussion about food to be served, Barb will talk to Rev. Diane and make necessary arrangements.

Outreach Walk – Mission proposes that funds raised go to the Sharing Place – suggested date is Saturday April 5, 2025

Moved: Barb Seconded: Brian CARRIED

Discussion around the timing of this event. If the Gospel Extravaganza is held on Sunday, April 6, 2025 then perhaps the Outreach Walk should be held later in April.

Cleaning Proposal – Recommendation to contract NorthStar Cleaning Services, at a cost of \$2000/month, replacing the existing cleaning service provider, pending reference check and 30 days notice.

Moved: Aileen Seconded: Marg CARRIED

Cheryl from M&P joined the meeting to lead the discussion around this proposal. The usage of halls has expanded considerably and the current cleaning service is no longer able to meet the needs of the church.

How to Identify Hearing Loss Information Session – free Zoom workshop offered by the audiologist Amanda works with.

Moved: Barb Seconded: Howard CARRIED

It was suggested that this should be advertised to neighbours, Chris to make a poster to advertise on social media and church website when date organized.

UCC Anniversary Update – Rev. Diane and Kento in discussion with neighbouring churches about collaboration of activities. Rev. Diane to report back at next meeting.

Shrove Tuesday Potluck and beginning of Lent Reflection /Ash Wednesday – to be combined on March 4, 2025 between 5.30 – 7.00pm in the East Hall.

Stewardship of our Resources – Treasurer – Charlie

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2025

Moved: Charlie Seconded: Brian CARRIED

Music Fund currently has \$1860. Kento has asked to have a monthly update, Charlie will send that along.

Our Shared Ministries

Community Team – Barb

Care and Welcoming are going to send a card or make a phone call to congregants who haven't been to church recently just to say hello, we are thinking of you.

Devotions Team – Brian

No further report other than the Gospel Extravaganza proposal

Facilities team – Howard

KEY PROJECTS

- 1) Centre/Office door lock - broken
- 2) Library – refurbish to put into rental pool
- 3) Boiler 1 – heat exchange broken
- 4) Snow Removal
- 5) Room 15 plaster repairs have begun

1) Centre/Office door lock – keeps breaking

- Until now, expert guidance has counselled repair over replacement because of cost, integration with panic bars and the alarm system etc

- We have reached a point where replacement is the best option

Recommendation: Replace the lock at a cost of \$2000-\$3000

Actions:

- 6 Jan 25 lock replacement quote from Complete Home & Business Solutions

- 6 Feb 25 Thomas provided a materials quote and will provide labour for free if significant woodworking is not required. Lead time is up to 8 weeks

Next Steps:

- Thomas has not been able to find the time to assess labour component of proposed work. Marg has done her best to prod him along.

2) Library Refurbishment for Rental Opportunity

- Painting complete except for book shelf area

Key Issue: Asbestos wrapping of exposed heating pipes needs to be protected from puncture

Next Steps: Marg and Keith to explore vinyl pipe covering w/o Feb 24

3) Replace Heat Exchanger on Boiler 1 and Prevent Future Damage from Iron Particulate

Current State: The heat exchanger of Boiler 1 is completely blocked by old pipe induced iron particulate. The water in our system looks like charcoal black sludge. Replacement will not be covered under warranty.

Proposed Actions:

1. Replace the heat exchanger. (About \$5000.). This has been ordered as of 27 Jan 25.
2. Complete an iron flush of Boilers 2 and 3 to protect them. ~ \$800 per Boiler. Arrangement to do this flush asap are underway.
3. Attach an ionizer (\$5,500 approx. TBD) to our system at the end of the heating season to positively charge the iron particulate so that it returns back to the negatively charged spaces in the pipes. BISS working with ionizer company. BISS providing labour for free for #2 & #3.
- 4) **Snow Removal** from last storm

Current State: Despite a number of snow removal visits from Richview in response to mid February's significant winter snowfall, a two inch layer of hard pack snow built up on most HUC pathways

Action: Facilities to check what the contractual obligation is for ensuring complete snow removal

Mission Team – Dianna – Outreach Walk - tentatively scheduled for April 5, 2025, see earlier discussion

Resources – Marg

Use of Halls

Feb. 3 -4 Recording

Feb. 9 Recital Dianne Edwards piano students

Feb. 9 Sing Out Choir rehearsal

Feb.10 Rehearsal Sanctuary opera singer 9-3 p.m. Tanya Kasahara

Feb. 12 Rehearsal opera singer Antonina Ermolenko

Feb. 15 Concert Antonina E. 5 – 10 pm

Long Term Rentals

Westside Church (formerly The Meeting House) has changed its name to West Toronto B.I.C. (Be In Christ).

The library is almost finished painting thanks to Howard and Cheryl in anticipation of a rental on Sunday afternoons by The Unitarian Church. The radiators are too hot to paint in this cold weather and the concrete around the windows is too cold to paint. Keith and I will be investigating a vinyl covering for the heating pipes this coming Thursday.

Trustees – Howard – No report

M&P – Aileen

Minister: Rev. Diane has taken a week of study leave February 11 – 18, 2025. Rev. Diane is taking an online course with Montreal University on the History & Theology of the United Church. This is one of three courses that are part of her preparation for ordination into the United Church of Canada.

Rev. Diane will be off March 10 – 17, 2025 for study leave. Then she will be on vacation May 1 – 23, 2025. Brian is arranging pulpit supply.

9. Minister's Report

Rev. Diane has been networking with ministers in the neighbourhood, discussing ideas around celebrations for the 100 year anniversary of the United Church of Canada. She will share her 40 Day Lent Meditation Program with the congregation via email.

10. Motion to Adjourn at 8.47pm

Council Chair: Linda Steggles

Acting Secretary: Aileen McGregor

Next regular council meeting: March 25, 2025 at 7pm by Zoom

Annual General Meeting: March 23, 2025 in person in the Friendship Room.

Coffee, tea and a cookie will be provided in Heritage Hall. Bring your own lunch if desired.

Meeting will begin between 12 noon and 12.15pm. The Annual Report will be projected onto the TV screen in the Friendship Room.