



MINUTES of Council Meeting
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Held in the Zoom Platform at 4:00 p.m.

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Members Present: Charles MacDonald (Chair), Mary McFadden (Council Secretary), Janice Sinker (Affirming), Virginia Scott (Christian Development), Lynne Desjardine and Lois Gill – Co-chairs (Fellowship & Outreach), Bryan Beattie – (Finance/Treasurer), Rosalind MacDonald (Lay Pastoral Minister/WOW), Steve Northey (Ministry and Personnel), Deb Gill (Property Management), Bob Illman (Trustees/WOW), Wilma Harris (Worship), Ruth Ann Eagleson (Worship/WOW)

Absent: The Rev Dr. Kate Crawford (Minister), Vacant (Accessibility)

Guest: The Rev. Laurie O’Leary (Supervising Minister)

1. CALL TO ORDER – at approximately 4:00 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY (READ ALOUD BY COUNCIL)

3. OPENING PRAYER – **Charles welcomed** Rev Laurie O’Leary. Rev Laurie shared a reading from *Anchors for the Soul: Daily Wisdom for Inspiration and Guidance* by Joyce Rupp.

4. A MOTION was made to approve the agenda as circulated. Moved, seconded and carried.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail from Leslie Schenko requesting the use of our kitchen (ovens and sink). Will discuss in “New Business”.
- E-mail from Rev. Jacob Shaw from Villages United Rural Ministries. Last year, they organized worship services at the Starlight Drive-in theatre. They are organizing to start up again this June. Rev. Shaw is asking if our church would be interested in participating in any of the services. All are welcome to attend. Services will be at 10:30 and venue will open at 9:00 a.m.
- E-mail from Linda Obermaier stating that she has stepped down as chair of Accessibility chair. The Nomination W.G. has been made aware to fill this position.
- E-mail from Rev. James Ravenscroft, minister at Richmond Hill United Church. He is inquiring as to our process in the development of Grand Bend Place and restructuring our church as a space for the community. Bob Illman has been in contact with him.
- E-mail from Rev Kate – Charles read all the good news. The E-mail will be shared in Shorelines. At this time, Wilma asked that the Christ Candle be lit. This item will be added to future Council agendas.
- Announcement – the “Re-Opening” Group has renamed themselves to the “Re-Gathering” Group.
- General comment was shared that, other churches are in admiration of what we’ve done and are asking us for guidance.

6. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **A MOTION was made to approve the April 22, 2021 Council Meeting as amended. Moved, Seconded and carried.**

Correction in “Business Arising” Security – in the last sentence. Should read one quote not two.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING** – Comment was made in regard to the status of the conversation about acquiring an individual(s) to help with grant applications. This will be discussed at another time.
8. **COVID-19 UP-DATE – Charles MacDonald:**
- Reviewed recent provincial restrictions and ensured that the “Re-gathering” Group will respond accordingly. Discussed configuring the Green Cathedral to comply with two meters apart protocol. Hoping for worship at some point this summer in the Green Cathedral.
 - Hybrid services were discussed. Comment was made that Zoom did a worldwide survey with an outcome of 60-70% responding in favour of the Hybrid platform. Zoom is looking into developing and providing this technology.
 - Rev. Laurie commented that Exeter United Church provides a brief worship service over the phone at a very low cost. She will provide the information.

9. **LEADERSHIP – Charles MacDonald:** On hold until August.

10. TEAM REPORTS

- **Wow – Ruth Ann Eagleson/Bob Illman/Rosalind MacDonald:**
 - Rev. Laurie commented on how impressed she was with how well run the Regional Council Zoom meeting was.
 - Rosalind commented that she attended the Right Relations meeting this morning and expressed to them references made at the Regional Council meeting toward the indigenous community.
 - Ruth Ann emphasized the quality of the worship services.
- **Property – Deb Gill:** Community Living Room plans coming along. The general public are noticing and commenting very positively.
- **Fellowship and Outreach – Lynn Desjardine and Lois Gill co-chairs:** Nothing further to report
- **Finance – Bryan Beattie:** In addition to the commentary on page 4 of the Operations Summary, Bryan commented that:
 - The Grocery Cards program is doing very well.
 - The COVID-19 subsidy is becoming less and less and that the COVID-19 loan of \$40,000 will be repaid this year.
 - Emphasized comment #4 in regard to donating shares and setting up an account with the Sun Set Community Foundation.
 - Working on producing a more concrete 2021 budget. Asked for team chairs to let Bryan know of any possible expenses. Will present the draft 2021 budget at the June Council meeting for approval and then to the Community of Faith at a special Congregational Meeting.
- **Worship – Ruth Ann Eagleson and Wilma Harris:** No further report.

10. TEAM REPORTS (cont'd)

- **Sabbatical – Charles MacDonald:** No further report
- **Affirming – Janice Sinker:**
 - Congratulated Wilma on the two interviews about the Rainbow Sidewalk. Among the many positive comments from the community, a letter of concern has been forwarded to the Affirm Team. The Team will respond in an appropriate manner.
 - Window clings – produced by Track 21. Will commence to distribute in and around the Village and then in the surrounding area. The clings are small, easy to adhere and are non sticky on windows. May ask for help to distribute the clings.
 - A recommendation to promote our Affirming journey was made – especially with June being PRIDE month. Will follow up in Shorelines.
- **Trustees – Bob Illman:** Security – brief discussion on its viability. Council agrees that it will be a benefit, not just to us but to the community. Asked for two more quotes. Once there are three quotes, the funds to pay will be discussed. Costs include the hardware and a monthly fee (estimated cost - \$600/year).
- **LAY PASTORAL MINISTER – Rosalind MacDonald:** No further report.
- **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL – Steve Northey:** Sunday is Rev. Kate's birthday. At the end of the service, during the HS Café, a screenshot will be taken and sent to Rev. Kate via E-mail.
- **GENERAL COMMENT: Charles MacDonald:** emphasized the importance of submitting reports to show what we're doing. Also encouraged to share any information that any team has to put it in Shorelines.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- **Ruth Ann and Wilma:** shared an idea to ask our guest worship leaders to submit a short explanation with this question: "What drew you to become a worship leader? This will be in Shorelines with the title: "Getting to know your worship leader".
- **Request for kitchen use:** the request is from a local resident Leslie Schenko. She's requesting to use the two ovens and sink. Her product is called "Seeded Teff Crackers". Arrangements are being looked after by the booking coordinator.
 - **A MOTION was made to approve the use of the Kitchen for Leslie Schenko following COVID-19 Protocols. Moved, seconded and carried.**

12. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 24 on ZOOM at 4:00 p.m.

13. A MOTION was made to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.