

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
March 26, 2019
(commenced 7:05 pm.)

Attendance: J. McCrae, F. Steggles, C. Evans, B. Packham, D. Gilmour, M. Garrie, M. Grayhurst, M. Steggles, B. Burke, H. Gaskin, D. Seth, A. McGregor, M. McBride

Gathering

1. Welcome to everyone by Beverley.
2. Worship: Jessica provided a moment of prayer.

Administrative Ministry of the Church

3. Approval of Minutes of the February 26, 2019 Council meeting.

Motion: Marg/Howard

CARRIED

That council approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 council meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Brian/Melanie

CARRIED

That council approve the agenda for the March 26, 2019 meeting.

5. Chair Report/Correspondence

Beverley advised that with Jessica away from April 22nd to April 30th, the April council is moved to Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

Follow-up / New Business

6. Daycare Update

Charlie advised that he had received an e-mail from Linda Cunningham officially confirming that Green Apple Daycare will not proceed with its project at Humbercrest. The City of Toronto's request for a traffic study and an indication that the daycare would be limited to a 5 year trial variance meant it would not be financially feasible for the daycare to operate.

7. Update on April 27th Concert

Brian advised that tickets and posters are now ready. A press release will be next week. 400 tickets have been printed. Brian is looking for places to put up the posters.

8. Sign

Mike explained that the scouting group membership has declined and needs to advertise to the neighbourhood that there is scouting at Humbercrest. An example of a church with a sign on its lawn is St. Olave's Anglican Church on Windermere Avenue. Mike is requesting that council give approval to 153rd Scouting to place a sign on the church lawn.

Motion: Mike/Melanie

CARRIED

That council approves 153rd Scouting placing a sign on the church lawn.

9. Boiler Update

Mike reported that the actual cost is much higher than was quoted but was to be expected given the shortness of time to deal with the emergency. Instead of there being 44 radiators to convert, over 70 radiators have been found. Mike is awaiting a report from Sean MacPherson at Biss to explain all the changes. The heat is on and the 3 boilers are installed but there still is some further work to be done at a quieter time of the year.

10. Two Coins

David explained that for many worshipping on Sundays and on the PAR program the offering plate passes by although for some they place an acknowledgement card on the plate. Humber Valley United Church, through the inspiration of one of its members, Catherine Ireland, invites people on PAR to share in the offering by placing their two largest coins in their pocket on the plate to make the ceremony more inclusive. David asked council if something like Two Coins could be followed at Humbercrest. The coinage would be kept separate since coinage is now rare for the regular donations and any of the money received could be given to Mission and Service Fund. Once the practice has been explained to the congregation, there would be only a footnote in the calendar inviting people to place two coins on the offering plate as it passes. The coinage would be counted periodically (every 5 or 6 weeks) and David offered to volunteer to do that counting. It was agreed that Jessica would work with David to introduce this idea.

Motion: David/Brian

CARRIED

That council approves of Two Coins for the offering plate and that money collected be a non-receipted donation to the M&S Fund.

11. Claim Settlement

Linda Steggles had advised by e-mail on March 12, 2019 that Claim #2 with Apollo Floor Cleaning had been settled for \$1,800.00. David, as Treasurer for the Trustees reported that the total amount estimated for our legal fees will be \$16,900.

12. Governance

Melanie reviewed steps needed to be completed based on the 2019 United Church manual.

- Congregational approval of the annual report and this has been done.
- Submission of our Condensed Church Council setup to Shining Waters Regional Council
- Approval by Regional Council 10 (Shining Waters) or its recommendations for adjustments before approval can be given

The Church Council Organizational Chart was discussed noting that vice-chair and member-at-large should be added.

13. Long Term Viability Plan

Marg reported that she had met with Susan Iriarte of Colliers International for a tour of our church. She was favourably impressed noting the church is well-maintained with much potential, having Wi-fi and excellent acoustics. She thinks it should be featured with more promotion. On the suggestion of renting to another worship group, the sanctuary would only be available in the afternoons if for Sundays. Susan discussed with Marg Colliers usual fee arrangements. She added that she also works with an architect and could be available to help re-purpose uses of the church.

Mike reported on his contacting of real estate developers. One group that he contacted indicated they are not interested describing the church's location as being in a very restricted zone for building. The church might be repurposed as a community centre or a group home. City approval would be required if there was interest in being a hospice. They also gave examples of variances such as playgrounds and parking which are the same variances Green Apple had been dealing with. Any developer that might be interested would be facing many years of dealing with the City to receive approval. In Mike's opinion, the City's approval process would be lengthy and with many delays. Another group that are actively involved with re-developing 260 High Park Avenue (the former High Park-Alhambra United Church) will meet with Humbercrest members in early April.

Charlie commented that speaking with different real estate groups is okay but council needs to have a plan in place identifying its financial needs.

Stewardship of Our Resources

14. Treasurer's Report

Charlie presented the financial results to the end of February. Donations are about \$1,100 behind but he will wait until March to see if this is a trend. He will plan to issue a quarterly report to the congregation. Use of halls is also behind and is due to the church being closed due to the furnace break-down. Expenses for payroll and contract services are in line with budget. Increases planned for 2019 were approved at the annual meeting and will be reflected on the future payments. The Presbytery expense is not showing yet but is budgeted to be higher than 2018. The utility billings are now cleared through automatic payments so the timing of the payments may be affecting the actual total which may be higher. The submissions for HST rebate credit has now been completed and \$2,500 should be for the Trustee funds.

Motion: Charlie/Marg

CARRIED

That council accept the Treasurer's report.

A Time of Reflection and Discernment

15. Minister's Report

Jessica described how she was worried before the Annual General Meeting how it would go but it went well and in some ways was quiet knowing how hard the rental committee had been working on the daycare project. There may be some who fear for the future of our church Jessica urged all to remain calm in dealing with uncertainty and look closely at the good things are church has to offer.

Our Shared Ministries

Committee Reports -

16. **Stewardship**

Charlie spoke for the Stewardship committee and the campaign to raise funds for the furnace. It was agreed that the campaign should be launched shortly. A draft of the letter has been prepared. The plan is for a mailing to the congregation and to the neighbourhood and to renters and users of the church. The letter will mention that donations are tax deductible. The letter will be distributed before Easter. There will be no time limit placed on the campaign.

Motion: Charlie/Marg

CARRIED

That council approves the Fund the Furnace stewardship campaign and the campaign letter shared with council.

17. **Trustees**

Howard – No report.

18. **Devotion**

Brian – No report.

19. **Facilities**

Mike – No report.

20. **Resources**

Marg reviewed the plans for the May 4th sale. The Friendship Room will be used during the sale but there is a question as to where the furniture can be kept. The Jewellery and Accessories section is in need of help. Advertising will include working with the Baby Point BIA if possible. Work on the stained glass windows is now completed. The outside elevator door has been looked at and the cost to refinish it is about \$3,500.

21. **Community**

Fern reported that the Seniors' luncheon on March 11th went well. There were 29 people in attendance plus the helpers. The Visitation Group have completed 3 visitations in the past month. Teatime sign-ups are still a problem for the last day of the month and Jessica will announce cancellations when there are no sign-ups. Dianna volunteered to do the March 31st teatime.

22. **Ministry and Personnel**

Aileen – Brian Packham was scheduled to be the guest preacher for January 20, 2019 but the service was cancelled due to the break-down of the heating system. M&P have recommended that Brian be paid half of the amount that was to be paid him, this being in recognition of the work done in preparing for the Sunday service.

Motion: Aileen/Howard

CARRIED

That council approves the payment of \$106 to Brian Packham.

23. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Beverley thanked all for coming
(Adjournment: 9:05 pm.)

Next regular council meeting is April 30, 2019 @ 7:00 pm.

B. Burke – *Council Chair*

D. Gilmour – *Secretary*