

Humbercrest United Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
September 24, 2019
(commenced 7:05 pm.)

Attendance: J. McCrae, F. Steggles, D. Gilmour, M. Garrie, M. Grayhurst, M. Steggles, B. Burke, A. McGregor, H Gaskin, L Steggles

Regrets: B Packham, C Evans

Gathering

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

Administrative Ministry of the Church

3. Approval of Minutes of the June 25, 2019 Council meeting.

Motion: Melanie/Howard **CARRIED**
That council approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 council meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Melanie/Howard **CARRIED**
That council approve the agenda for the September 24, 2019 meeting.

5. Chair Report/Correspondence
Beverley advised of receiving Marlene's resignation from council. With regrets she found it necessary to resign due to long commute times from her home making it difficult to balance work and other commitments. With this resignation the positions of Privacy Officer and Wedding Co-ordinator will need to be filled. Possible candidates for these positions were discussed and Beverley will follow up. In addition it was noted that the wedding co-ordinator role is a paid position and was suggested that the fee should be \$90.
The Childrens' Breakfast Club is scheduled to start late in October and David Drake will oversee. Rooms 15, 16 and 20 will be made available.

Netflix has been filming in and around Beverley's property and a \$300 fee that they are paying for any inconvenience, Beverley is donating to the Furnace Fund. In addition the Netflix film crew is renting space in the church for its lunches.

6. Lost Pilgrims Concert
Council went in camera for discussion regarding the proceeds for the Lost Pilgrims concert.

Follow-up / New Business

7. Boiler and Roof Update

Mike reported that I Am Roofing installed a tarp on the roof as a temporary fix. The cost was \$5,980 plus tax. The repair comes with no guarantee and the length of time that the repair will last ranges from 6 months to 5 years depending upon how weather and the sun affect the aging of the tarp. David advised that our Treasurer, Charlie, personally covered the payment to I Am Roofing. The work was done at a time when regular cheque signers were not available and the supplier insisted on certified funds before doing the work.

For the furnace, Mike indicated that Sean MacPherson of Biss has not been good on communicating his progress. Mike has relied upon David Drake for updates. Feeder line pipes were replaced for rooms above the Friendship Room in the summer and only nine small radiator leaks remain to repair. Mike expressed disappointment over not being invited to inspect the major leak repair under the West Hall stage which would have helped to understand how a major return water pipe was repaired and to see where the leaked water exited into the ground. As previously reported there will be no further payments until all the work is completed. Howard asked that Sean be made aware of how the unfinished repair work including radiators with temporary wooden braces is negatively affecting the renting of space.

8. Web-site Update

Aileen presented the report. Council committee chairs and others are responsible for content on the HUC web-site relating to their areas. For the technical aspects of maintaining the web-site, the Church Administrator and a volunteer administrator will handle the day to day editing. With respect to privacy, the policy for personal identifiers and information such as names, telephone numbers and photo images shall not be reproduced on the web-site without the expressed knowledge and consent of the person(s) involved. And for information submitted, the length of time for the posting on the website is to be specified.

Motion: Aileen/Marg

CARRIED

That the web-site maintenance and editing policy as reported by Aileen be approved by council as part of the new web-site standard.

9. Visioning Group Update

Linda presented the report on the Visioning Group. With costs increasing, Marg Garrie, Howard Gaskin, Barb Gilmour, Dianna Seth, Linda Steggles, Melanie Stagglles and Rev Jessica met on July 8, 2019 establishing the objective of how Humbercrest can sustain and grow its mission in the future, faced with numbers decreasing while costs increasing. The group looked at what Humbercrest currently does as a faith community and considered what people might like to do. A variety of options related to costs were looked at and the question of how to involve the congregation was explored. It is proposed that the recommendations of the group be presented at the annual general meeting in 2020.

Linda explained an e-survey will be done of church members. The e-survey with an option for personal interviews will begin in early November. The results will be updated informally by December 8th and posted in the church for the congregation to see the results. The congregation will be presented with a plan from the visioning survey to vote on at the annual general meeting.

There are two workshops being held at Five Oaks on the theme of how we are using our churches. October 6-8, Linda and Jessica will attend. November 4-8, Jessica will attend.

10. Review of Constitution

Melanie reported on the work done to review of Church Constitution during the summer. This included comparing to the United Church Manual with the result that several changes or minor revisions have been made that are fully detailed in her report e-mailed to council members on September 15, 2019. Melanie recommended that the changes be approved by council and that a congregational meeting be held as soon as possible for its approval. Council members agreed to schedule that meeting for October 20, 2019 to follow the worship service. Jessica will announce the meeting in her regular Monday morning "Reflections" e-mail and hard copies will be made available.

Motion: Melanie/Howard

CARRIED

That council approve the amendments to the Church Constitution and that a congregational meeting be held on October 20, 2019 for presentation and congregational approval.

11. Concert Date and Trivia Night

Beverley reported that Mel Hurst had visited at her home to share his thoughts on holding a fund-raising concert and the scheduling of the choir's trivia night. Mel proposed as a furnace fund-raising event a music concert for Friday, October 18, 2019 with the choir soloists free of charge. Some council members expressed concern that the proposal should be presented to the Devotions Team and then presented to council by Brian. Devotions has a meeting scheduled for September 29, 2019. Everyone acknowledged that the timing was short but the Devotions decision could be presented to the council executive for approval on short notice. Beverley then reported that the proposed date for the Trivia Night is Saturday, February 8, 2020. Council members also agreed this event should be discussed and approved by Devotions and then Brian brings to council.

Subsequent to this discussion, during the presentation of the financial report highlighting challenges to manage the forecasted deficit, council members recommended that no fund-raising concert be organized in the short term and that all attention be on the church's current financial state of affairs. Any fund-raising in the future should be directed solely to the Fund the Furnace project.

12. Long Term Viability Plan Notes

Beverley used the example of the Netflix filming near her home and the use of the church for the film crews luncheon as an example of how recordings helps with Use of Halls revenue. Some recordings may develop as a source of referrals. The advertising of our church as a recording space in Whole Note magazine at a cost of \$300 is considered expensive with no new rental events reported to date. David Drake is working on testimonials for our website and the web-site is to be made "searchable".

Marg advised that the Rental Committee has a proposal from Katja Brittain of Toronto United Church Council and will review it in October.

Mike reminded council that any potential renting of space for Montessori schools or daycare would require fire code compliance and would be needed at the time of an occupancy permit being issued.

Stewardship of Our Resources

13. Treasurer's Report

In Charlie's absence, David presented the financial results for the eight months ended August 31, 2019. Revenues and expenses have remained within a predictable range. The total income is \$150,982 (2018 - \$138,700). For expenses the total is \$188,324 (2018 - \$176,397). Overall the deficit is \$37,342 (2018 - \$37,696). For the Mission Fund, donations for M&S are lower than the prior year by \$4,586 due to fewer donors. The reported excess of \$11,264 was remitted to national office in September. David noted that the summer time is always a challenge for the treasurer to ensure the bank account has sufficient funds to cover all expenses particularly the payroll. The summer of 2019 was no different. To meet this challenge on the revenue side, \$8,000 of the budgeted Provident Funds support was advanced. Normally this financial transfer is done in October. The expense total does not include the cost of the emergency roof repair as noted in item 7 above. The cheque register covers the period June 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019 with payments totalling \$96,388.78 and leaving an ending cash balance of \$9,882.28. Also discussed was the budgeted revenue item for donations – appeal of \$16,000. David explained that an end of year appeal would be required. David on Charlie's behalf requested that council agree to schedule a special finance meeting where Charlie would discuss the current finances and its implications, his end of year forecast and the need for a special appeal. Council members agreed upon Wednesday, October 9, 2019 as a tentative date and David agreed to confirm with Charlie

Motion: Charlie/Melanie

CARRIED

That council accept the Treasurer's report.

A Time of Reflection and Discernment

14. Minister's Report

Jessica referred to the workshops reported in the Visioning Group update. It is transitional ministry training for church leaders provided through a program originating in the USA. Jessica is paying \$5,000 for the cost of the two courses in addition to the regular study time and financial support per terms of call. The objective of this training is to be prepared for the future.

Our Shared Ministries

Committee Reports -

15. **Trustees**

No report.

16. **Devotions**

No report.

17. **Facilities**

No report.

18. **Resources**

Marg – There are some amounts from consignment sales resulting from the May sale. A fall sale planning meeting was held on September 22, 2019. The setup is to be done on Sunday, October 27, 2019. A brochure will be created to assist people as the walk around during the sale. To date five volunteers have cleaned and readied 64 items to place on consignment.

19. **Community**

Fern reported that there was one visitation to shut-ins during the summer. The barbecue on September 22, 2019 was good and fit in with the visit from Toronto Police Service and their two horses. There are two events in October - October 20, 2019 is World Food Sunday Potluck luncheon and October 21, 2019 is the Women's Potluck Dinner.

22. **Ministry and Personnel**

Aileen – Jessica has requested the week off following Easter (April 13 – 18, 2019) to which M&P have agreed. Jessica will be taking her study leave November 4 – 10, 2019 to attend the 2nd part of the Transition Ministry course she has enrolled in. Aileen also advised that Clara Drake is no longer available to tidy up pews following services. Aileen is volunteering to handle this duty.

23. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

(Adjournment: 9:45 pm.)

Next regular council meeting is October 22, 2019 @ 7:00 pm.

B. Burke – *Council Chair*

D. Gilmour – *Secretary*