

STRATHROY UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Marjorie Harris (Chair), Elgin Austen, Patti Baratta (Recording Secretary), Diane Goodhand, Patti Krista, Barb MacKinnon, Tim McMillan (Treasurer), Rev. Brad Morrison, David Morton, Tina Zimmermann

REGRETS: Darlene Bourne, Tabitha Carey, Colleen Fletcher

1. Welcome & Call to Order Marjorie Harris
Opening Prayer Rev. Brad Morrison

2. Approval of Agenda
 - **New Business (c):** Item (c) under New Business should read Annual Congregational Meeting Date / Reports.Motion by David Morton / Elgin Austen to approve the Agenda with changes. **CARRIED**

3. Approval of November 10, 2021 Minutes
Motion by Tina Zimmermann / Barb MacKinnon to approve the September 8 Minutes as circulated. **CARRIED**

4. Correspondence Patti Baratta
 - Thank You card and letter from Women's Rural Resource Centre for \$5,000 donation from Compassionate Fund.

5. Business Arising from November 10, 2021 Minutes
 - a) SUC Constitution – Vision Statement, Region Rev. Brad Morrison
 - The draft was sent to the Region where it was requested that a line be added under Trustees that addressed conflict of interest. After the Congregation has passed its motion, the final draft will be forwarded to the Region.
 - The most recent changes and additions have been highlighted in yellow. Consensus was reached regarding the Investment Team section, where the list of seven items comes directly from the Investment Policy document.Motion by Diane Goodhand / Tina Zimmermann to recommend the draft to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. **CARRIED**
 - b) Reopen Team Report Marjorie Harris / Rev. Brad Morrison
 - Decision was made to move to online worship and limit mid-week building access. Third-party rental groups have been advised that building is closed. Church Council members were reminded to notify Patti Baratta if access to the building is required for meetings, etc.

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6. New Business

a) Nomination Report / Vacancies

Marjorie Harris / Barb MacKinnon

- The following people will be stepping down from their respective roles this year:
 - Gerry Adlington (Ministry & Personnel)
 - Darlene Bourne (Member at Large)
 - Diane Goodhand (Ministry & Personnel, Chair)
 - Arlene Johnson (Community Life)
 - Patti Krista (Finance, Chair)
 - Phil Pace (Board of Trustees)
 - Ida Traxler (Community Life)
 - Tina Zimmermann (Community Life, Chair)
- Patti Krista will serve on the Finance Team for one year to assist the new Chair. Diane Goodhand will also continue to serve on the Ministry & Personnel Team.
- Chairs are asked to provide Barb with a list of their team members as well as any suggestions for nominations.

b) Property Team Request

Elgin Austen / Marjorie Harris

- The Restricted and Unrestricted Bequest Requisition Form has been signed and is in the Chair of Council's mail slot in the Copy Room.

Motion by Elgin Austen / Patti Krista that the Property Team spend up to \$20,000 from the Bequest Fund (Property Improvement) with the approval of Congregation on January 16, 2022, to replace the flooring in the two rooms leading into the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary.

CARRIED

c) Annual Congregational Meeting Date / Reports

Marjorie Harris

- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6 immediately following worship.
- Ad-Hoc Team Leads can submit a separate report for the Annual Report at the discretion of the Chair of their associated team.

7. Reports/Decisions in Progress

a) Update from Minister

Rev. Brad Morrison

- See Minister's Report attached.
- **Congregational Care Ministries:** Brad has added the number of client hours he provides for pro-bono psychotherapy. He has also added the new member gathering.

b) Congregational Life Team

David Morton

- **Budget:** The Congregational Life Team met via Zoom on Thursday, January 6, where they settled on the 2022 budget.
- **Christ Candle Donation:** Bruce Lambert kindly donated a Christ Candle which previously belonged to St. Jude's Anglican Church in Mount Brydges. St. Jude's closed at the end of November 2021.

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c) Community Life Team

Tina Zimmermann

- **Advent Project:** The congregation was very generous in donating items for the Advent Project. All items were given to the Salvation Army.
- **Compassionate Fund:** Five thousand dollars was donated to the Women's Rural Resource Centre in December 2021.
- **Membership:** The New Member Gathering will be discussed at the next Community Life meeting.

d) Treasurer Report

Tim McMillan

- Tim is currently working on the December 2021 financial statements.
- **Balance Sheet:** The balance in the chequing account as of November 30 is \$183,691. This amount includes the last installment from the Estate of Margaret Goldthorp which is in the process of being invested. To date, no entries have been made to investments to account for unrealized gains. Tim will do so at the end of the year. The unrealized gains (approximately \$725,750) will be allocated to the unrestricted bequest fund and then applied to the deficit as previously discussed.
- **Statement of Receipts and Expenses:** The deficit is \$79,200.
- **Mission and Service Fund:** Mission & Service donations via envelopes are down.
- **Account Analysis:** There is only \$4,500 remaining to pay on the solar panels. This means the solar panels so will start generating revenue mid-2022.

e) Finance Team

Patti Krista

- **2022 Budget:** The Congregational Life and Property Teams have provided budgets. Patti Krista is awaiting budgets from the remaining teams as well as the financial actuals for 2021. Council will vote on the 2022 Budget via email.
- **Financial Reviewer:** Kevin O'Brien has offered to be the financial reviewer for 2021.
- **Investment Team:** The Investment Team is in the process of investing the final instalment from the Estate of Margaret Goldthorp into Frontier Capital. Overall, investments had a good year. Patti Krista to connect with David regarding gains and realized gains.

f) Property Team

Elgin Austen

- **Maintenance:** In the fall, parging was completed at the front of the church. Some maintenance work, such as painting and plastering, has been done in the Sanctuary in advance of the installation of the new floor. In the process of this maintenance work, some historically relevant articles have been found tucked away in cubby holes. Barb has volunteered to assist with the cleaning of the storage rooms and will contact Elgin to set up a date. Throughout the year, there has been some issues with the boilers, but, as we have a contract with Premier Heating & Cooling, this work has been done at a discount.

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- **Rentals:** See Rental Agreement Proposals 2022. Rental rates for Strathroy United Church are low compared to other churches such as Metropolitan United Church and Colborne United Church. An effort was made to compare with Strathroy based churches but was unsuccessful.

Motion by Elgin Austen / Diane Goodhand that the 2022 rental rates for the rooms are increased as per the document provided.

CARRIED

g) Board of Trustees

Rev. Brad Morrison

- No report.

h) Ministry & Personnel

Diane Goodhand

- No report.

i) Antler River Watershed Region

Tabitha Carey

- No report.

Motion by Tina Zimmermann / Barb MacKinnon that we receive all reports for information.

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

a) Date: Wednesday, May 11 7:00pm (Zoom)

9. Closing Prayer

Tabitha Carey

10. Parking Lot

- **Bequest Requisition Form:** Mark as approved and remove from Parking Lot.

Action Items:

All

- Chairs are asked to provide Barb with a list of their team members as well as any suggestions for nominations.

Board of Trustees (Rev. Brad Morrison)

- Provide Patti Krista with 2022 Budget.

Community Life (Tina Zimmermann)

- Provide Patti Krista with 2022 Budget.

Finance (Patti Krista)

- Patti Krista to connect with David regarding gains and realized gains.

Past Chair (Barb MacKinnon)

- Barb to contact Elgin to set up a date for the cleaning of the storage rooms

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Ministry & Personnel (Diane Goodhand)

- Provide Patti Krista with 2022 Budget.

Treasurer (Tim McMillan)

- Provide Patti Krista with 2021 Actuals.