



Riverside United Church
Council Meeting April 20, 2016

Seven thirty p.m. April twentieth, two thousand sixteen
The Gratitude Boardroom, Riverside United Church

Present: Susan Anderson, Marilyn Arthur, Bob Estey, Stella Finkbeiner, Julie Gray,
Roland Haines, Mark Hunter, Sharanne MacDonald, Susan O'Hara,
David Sawyer, Jan Shamrock
Guests: Brenda Benson, Susan Dittmer, John Ford,

1.0 Welcome

Susan O'Hara welcomed the group.

Motion 1: Moved/seconded: that Brenda Benson, Susan Dittmer and John Ford
be made corresponding members for the meeting **Carried**

Devotions: Bob Estey

Bob led devotions based on recent events at Riverside.

2.0 Regrets: Rev. Harry Disher, Rev. Gordon Geiger, Kim MacGowan,
Ann McEwan-Castellan, Cheryl Mitchell, John Mitchell, Gary Alan Price

3.0 Agenda

Addition:

Discernment Committee: Jacob Shaw

Motion 2: Moved/seconded: that the agenda with addition be adopted as
circulated. **Carried**

4.0 Minutes from March 16, 2016

Correction: 6.2 should read "Council does pay the costs of Presbytery
Representatives to attend Conference"

Motion 3: Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the meeting
of March 15, 2016 be accepted as amended. **Carried**

5.0 Focus Items

5.1 Gift for Dave Exley: Kim MacGowan - Appendix A

Motion 4: to purchase a 1 sided stole in a white and purple combination **Carried**

5.2 Hilary MacDonald Graduation: Bob Estey

Our Riverside candidate, Hillary MacDonald, graduates from the Atlantic
School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 7, 2016.

To show our continuing support and best wishes, she will be given a cross and a
pen made from the Riverside pews with our Congratulations.

5.3 Reception of New members: Kim MacGowan

A request was made to have the Reception of New members occur before the Congregational Meeting on May 1 so that the new members might vote for the new lead minister . It was decided not to change the May 15 date for the reception of new members.

5.4 Naming the Multi-purpose Room: Susan O’Hara

A request was made to change the name of the Multi-purpose Room.

Motion 5: Moved/seconded: that the reNEW Chair, Sharanne MacDonald, contact the Gunns re the naming of the Multi-purpose Room **Carried**

5.5 Planned Giving, Trustees: Brenda Benson, Susan Dittmer, and John Ford presented “A Planned Approach to Planned Giving at Riverside’ and “Planned Giving Calendar Overview and Key Messages” (Appendix B and C).

Motion 6: to endorse the Planned Giving Strategy **Carried**

5.6: John and Helen Bowman Lay Worship Leaders Licence

Motion 7: to support John and Helen Bowman’s continued ministry as Licensed Lay Leaders **Carried**

6.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence

7.0 Ministerial Reports: Marilyn Arthur

1. March has been an incredibly busy month.
2. Pray for our Confirmands and Mentors.
3. Again, Riverside provided excellent leadership and involvement in Youth Forum.
4. A number of Riverside youth are attending Children at Conference.

8.2 Transitional Minister Report: Rev. Harry Disher

1. I am attending an event at Five Oaks with church consultant Eric Law, author of Holy Currencies. I am willing to offer a workshop (repeated once) sometime in May to share what I have gleaned. The idea would be to blend in some of Eric’s counsel with the in-process Riverside United Strategic Plan and endeavour to help participants put some more flesh on “Changing the Way You Think About Church”. It would be helpful if Council could suggest a couple of dates for such a workshop: one Saturday morning, and a second evening that might work.
2. I will also not be present for “Anniversary Sunday”, but I offer this hymn adaptation that you might choose to have sung. If Council thinks it’s do-able, I will forward the lyrics to Dave Exley and Marque Smith so they would have them ahead of time. Hey, maybe it will be a hymn of the month for all of May.

“Down By the Riverside” (Adapted for RUC Anniversary)

Gonna build faith community down by the riverside, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside.

Gonna widen God’s family down by the riverside.

Ain’t gonna be a stuffy church no more. Gonna be a church with an open door.

Ain’t gonna be a stuffy church no more.

Ain’t gonna be a stuffy church no more. Gonna be a church with an open door.

Ain’t gonna be a stuffy church no more.

Gonna live life with gratitude, down by the riverside, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside.

Gonna lose losing attitudes, down by riverside.

We’re gonna work and sing and pray, helping folks walk in Jesus’ way.

We’re gonna work and sing and pray.

We’re gonna work and sing and pray, helping folks walk in Jesus’ way.

We’re gonna work and sing and pray.

Gonna share hope and peace and grace, down by the riverside, down by the
riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna share hope and peace and grace down by the riverside.

We’re gonna find authentic life, free from stress and strain and strife,
gonna find authentic life.

We’re gonna find authentic life, free from stress and strain and strife,
gonna find authentic life.

Gonna follow the Spirit’s lead, down by the riverside, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside.

Gonna reach out to human need, down by the riverside.

Gonna let God’s love be our guide as we serve God side by side.

Gonna let God’s love be our guide.

Gonna let God’s love be our guide as we serve God side by side.

Gonna let God’s love be our guide.

God bless, enjoy one another, dare to be a changing church.

Note: It was decided to use these words on a Sunday when Rev. Harry Disher is
present.

8.3 Minister Emeritus: Gordon Geiger

No Report

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Youth Report: Cheryl Mitchell

No Report

8.2 Trustees: Gary Alan Price

A decision has been made to put \$50,000 prepayment on the mortgage in September.

8.3 Exploring Possibilities: Julie Gray

1. Twenty seven people are participating in the book study on *Fishing Tips*. Participants include Riversiders, outside United Church clergy and those wanting to know more about Riverside. We've had good discussion on how curiosity can transform a church. Our committee wonders where we go from here?
2. Next speaker series presentation on May 9, 7:00pm: *How does your garden grow?* A presentation by London Community Resource Centre and Master Gardeners of London. An opportunity to find out about 'community gardens' and what grows well locally.

8.4 Finance and Stewardship: Ann McEwan-Castellan

No report

8.5 Membership: Roland Haines

1. New Members will be received on May 15.
2. A website meeting will be held on May 3.

8.6 Ministry and Personnel: David Sawyer

No Report

8.7 Outreach and Social Action:

1. **Refugee Status** Birgit Sharpe reported that everything is going well with the refugee family. No particular needs at the moment.
2. **Food Grains Envelope Appeal.** Our annual campaign will be April 17th and 24th. Doug Allen will be a minute person on April 17th. The committee placed specially marked envelopes in the back of the seats after our meeting.
3. **John Langford's Mission Trip to Managua.** The Outreach Committee received a request from John Langford for the sum of \$300.00 to help cover some of the costs of materials for his upcoming mission trip to Managua. A motion was made to support John's mission in the amount of \$500.00 using funds from the Local and Global Fund. This motion was passed unanimously. Grace will request a cheque from Jan for this amount.

8.8 Presbytery: Jan Shamrock

No Report

8.9 Property: Mark Hunter

1. Mark outlined the many projects being undertaken by the Property Committee.

2. The number of times Property Committee is being asked to set up or take down tables and chairs is increasing. Perhaps a notice might go out for volunteers for this activity and teams set up to act on a rotating basis.
3. Property often has a need for immediate availability of funds for maintenance and repairs.

Motion 8: Moved/seconded: that the Property Committee continue with maintenance and repairs in consultation with the Finance Committee. **Carried**

8.10 UCW: Stella Finkbeiner

1. All the turkey pies were sold in March.
2. We hosted our sister UCW from Glencoe on April 19th.
3. We will be providing morning refreshments and lunch for the UCW Presbyterian Executive meeting on May 9th. They will be meeting at Riverside while Melville United is under renovations.
4. We will be having our Spring Card Party on May 13th.
5. It has been brought to our attention by Ann Marie Richardson, chair of Library, that we need to look at the future of the library at Riverside.
 - Library is not widely used by the congregation
 - Core group uses Children's section
 - Some other sections are used by some folks

Technology is the game changer. We need to discuss the direction the church would like to go with the library.

Ann Marie Richardson has some ideas on what direction we may wish to proceed. I am suggesting that we have this item put on a future agenda and ask Ann Marie to attend Council to give her ideas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19 th	Riverside Hosting Glencoe UCW Potluck & Speaker
April 30 th	Ruth Poulton Fashion Show
May 13 th	Spring Card Party

8.11 8:44 Worship: Kim MacGowan

1. Dave Exley has resigned as The 844 Director of Music effective May 8, 2016. Dave has commitments to the Ivan Pastoral charge on May 1 and May 8 so April 24 will be his last "official" day as director of music for The 844. Betsy Exley will act as Director of Music for The 844 in the 2 weeks following to May 8. Plans are underway to find a permanent replacement. Notice of this was given to The 844 congregation after April 17th service with a personal thank you to Dave for getting this important part of The 844 started in Sept 2011. The songs that have been chosen help to stretch our thinking, and the tunes resonate with our souls to help us "Colour Outside the Lines" while we "Breathe Deep the Breath of God" as we seek to find the "Common Vision Deep within our Souls". We also thanked the members of the band individually (Shannon, Christine, Garret and Betsy) for bringing the music alive.

2. May 1, Anniversary Sunday we will be celebrating with a breakfast served at tables in the Sanctuary during the service. All are welcome.
3. Activities for dates of other special upcoming events are being co-ordinated with the 10:30 worship committee.

8.12 10:30 Worship: Sharanne MacDonald

Sunday May 15 in the evening we will have a Hymn Sing.

This will be advertised and distributed to local churches and media

9.00

Other Business

9.1 Discernment Committee - Jacob Shaw

Members of the Jacob Shaw Discernment Committee will be Bob Estey, Angela Stewart and Scott Hunter.

11.00

Benediction

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.

John Mitchell, Chair

Bob Estey, Secretary

Appendix A

Council invited me to investigate a gift for Dave Exley's ordination celebration on June 19. Betsy has advised me that Dave would appreciate a stole and provided a link to the source of the ones he likes. The company can provide a reversible stole, which seems very practical to me.

Prices are as follows:

1 sided stole \$355.

Reversible \$575.

+ shipping and perhaps tax (not sure on the tax)

I ask Council's direction on which option to purchase.

The suggestion is for a White and Purple combination - Betsy is getting Dave the Green in time for his actual ordination on May 28.

The link, in case you can pull it up on the screen in the board room is <http://www.clergystoles.ca/faq-liturgical-stoles.htm>

Click any of the 5 clergy stole images to view enlargements with descriptions



A green stole for Ordinary Time - Waters of Creation

Ordinary time is an in-between time - a time to grow. All plants, animals and humans need water to survive. Oceans, lakes, rivers, pools, springs & wells are all mentioned in the Bible. Jan selected scriptures (NRSV) referring to water and has included them in the flowing lines of this composition. In them we remember how Jesus was baptized in water, turned water into wine, and walked on the water. Moses struck a rock to give water to the congregation and the livestock. Water is symbolic of being born anew in baptism. We drink the Living Water and are refreshed and sustained by the living God. It is an appropriate image to wear on a liturgical stole while leading people in worship and encouraging them to receive the water of life in their spiritual journey.

The white & silver lines through the centre depict the movement of the Spirit over the waters.

A white & gold stole for Christmas / Easter / Trinity Sunday / Weddings / Funerals / All Saints / Christ's Baptism

For Christmas and Easter we use white as the light from the star and as the light from the angel in the empty tomb. This white & gold stole is a festival of dancing stars, celebrating the gift of Jesus, the child born into the world at Christmas, and the risen Christ, triumphant over death at Easter. God's abundant and extravagant love is offered to a hurting world. Light reflects on sequins, braid, netting and metallic stars & threads creating a joyful interplay with the stamped and printed words "... Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

I was also thinking of a new guitar strap as a gift from The 844 to signify the music he led for us. It would be a strap that we could all sign. I have not been able to get a budget prepared for that.

Please let me know what council would like to do. Lead time for delivery is 3 - 4 weeks.

A Planned Approach to Planned Giving at Riverside

Current Status

- Previous Planned Giving (PG) Committee developed sound policies for donors describing types of gifts (restricted or unrestricted), internal processes and designations (intended use of gift)
- PG Pamphlet produced and available in hard copy
- Legacy Tree to honour realized gifts purchased and mounted in the foyer
- PG included as an option in communications around *reNEW Riverside's* capital campaign
- Congregational demographics and financial realities suggest that comfortable, regular discussion and promotion of legacy giving (another way of referring to Planned Giving) is important
- To-date 17 Planned Gifts have been received since 1998; also one gift is pending and we have been notified of two unrealized gifts; there is a mix of restricted and unrestricted gifts and gifts that are designated and undesignated

Challenges

- PG at Riverside is somewhat stagnant: that is, it is rarely discussed, scarcely visible, purpose of the related Legacy Tree is unclear, information sources are not obvious
- Seemingly, there is some donor fatigue following the *reNew Riverside* campaign
- Ongoing annual fundraising is likely needed to meet our new mortgage payments making imminent direct asks for PG unwise right now
- This portfolio needs the support of church leaders including the Minister. Developing an approach that leads with celebration and gratitude until a new minister is in place, and has had some time to acclimatize, seems prudent
- Communication of the existence of restricted gifts that generate modest funds annually for specific uses has been sporadic

Long Term Goal

- Steadily reinvigorate this portfolio, through a multi-year strategy, with the intent to maximize Planned Giving to Riverside

Objectives

- Create a grateful, celebratory context for PG through the celebration of donors and people-centred descriptions of the impact of realized PGs

Objectives continued...

- Develop a comfortable, ongoing discussion and review of planned giving for individuals and families at various stages of life using a variety of platforms and groups:
 - on the website
 - in hard copy (bulletin, newsletter, pamphlets, pew inserts)
 - from the pulpit (minister and/or guest speaker)
 - in selected financial communications ,
 - at relevant committees,
 - at occasional workshops,
 - in small groups, and

- possibly, personal home visits.

Short Term Tasks & Timetable

- a) make **information/education** products available on **multiple platforms** and remind the congregation that information is accessible
- b) **celebrate past donors** and the **impact** of their gifts on a selected regular timetable
- c) encourage and **celebrate** notification of **unrealized gifts** as a way of promoting Planned Giving and reminding the community of this legacy option
- d) move toward **integrating PG into regular financial vehicles** and discussions at Riverside
- e) ensure that **key people** (informal advisors) are in place to support potential PG donors; encourage donor contact with professionals (e.g . financial planners, lawyers) of their choice
- f) develop **effective thank you letters** and follow up letters to donors' families once gifts are realized
- g) **enhance** the current symbol of PG (**Legacy Tree**), by making it more legible, inclusive of unrealized PGs and including explanatory material on-site
- h) **explore with Trustees** effective mechanisms for notifying **selected committees** of funds that are available for use.

The attached **calendar overview** offers a multi-year series of actions and key messages that will gradually heighten awareness of Planned Gifts, their impact and their importance to the future of Riverside. Ideally, this plan will be reviewed in two years for progress and the possibility of reaching the point where Planned Giving interviews and asks can happen.

We recommend that an **Advisory Group** be established to give the PG committee

- a sounding board
- a “first review “group for draft communication pieces
- an informal assessment of congregational readiness for selected personal visits on PG.

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Trustees by the Planned Giving Committee, April 2016

Planned Giving Calendar Overview and Key Messages

Year 1: 2016 *Theme: Setting the Stage*

Take multi-year plan to Trustees and, hopefully, on to Council for approval: **April**
 Refresh basic information: pamphlet, thank you letter
 Contact with United Church of Canada leaders in PG
 Thanks to selected donors: their stories and impact of their gifts; **October** (near Thanksgiving)
 Update the Legacy Tree: physical changes and policy to include unrealized gifts

Year 2: 2017 *Themes: Increasing Awareness & Integration; Lifelong Giving*

Negotiate integration of PG information with Riverside life: for instance, finance mailings, envelopes, pew inserts
 Personal Legacy stories in **May** (Leave -a- Legacy Month in the Fundraising Calendar) & **October**
 Increasing message re: legacy impact and reward of deciding now
 Ensure PG information is available on multiple platforms

Year 3: 2018 *Themes: Other churches' PG success; PG Impact on Riverside*

Refresh PG information
 Workshop on Legacy Gifts
 Public promotion of PG giving to Riverside; Testimonials; link to Legacy Tree
 Maintain integration with finance vehicles
 Continue storytelling (Donor thanks) at key times of the year: **May and October**
 Speaker
 Dedicated mailing on PG; universal soft ask
 Assess congregational readiness for direct, personal campaign. Develop specific plan.

Year 4: 2019 *Theme: Time to Get Personal* (dependent on Year 3 assessment)

Refresh PG information; Impact of PG on Riverside a key message
 Maintain integration with finance vehicles
 Continue storytelling (Donor thanks) at key times of the year; **May & October**
 Assemble/train team for personal interviews & requests
 Personal meetings