



Riverside United Church
Council Meeting March 16, 2016

Seven thirty p.m. March sixteenth, two thousand sixteen
The Gratitude Boardroom, Riverside United Church

Present: Marilyn Arthur, Brenda Allen (for Stella Finkbeiner), Pam, Cottingham, Rev. Harry Disher, Julie Gray, Sharanne MacDonald, Kim MacGowan, Ann McEwan-Castellan, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara, Gary Alan Price, Jan Shamrock

1.0 Welcome

John Mitchell welcomed the group.

Devotions: Rev. Harry Disher

Rev. Harry Disher led in the devotion focused on the theme: "The Journey we are on", followed by discussion.

2.0 Regrets: Bob Estey, Gordon Geiger, Mark Hunter, Cheryl Mitchell

3.0 Agenda

Additions:

6.2 Correspondence from Linda Britton and Pat Mack

9.1 Ordinand Celebration

9.2 Manual Update

9.3 Fund Raising Committee

Motion 1: Moved/seconded: that the agenda with additions be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4.0 Minutes from February 17, 2016

Motion 2: Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the February meeting of February 17, 2016 be accepted as circulated.

Carried

5.0 Focus Items

There were no focus items.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Norma Clare

A letter from Norma Clare with changes/updates to the Nominating Report. The additions she suggested have not been noted in the Report for several years. No action will be taken to include them now. The letter was passed to the 10:30 Worship Committee.

6.2 Linda Britton and Pat Mack

The letter requested that the church pay for their registration fee to attend the John Pentland workshop on Thursday, May 26, as they are two of our Presbytery Representatives. As this is an open workshop and is not specifically part of the Conference weekend where attendance is required for Presbytery Representatives, it was decided not to pay their registration fee. Council does not pay the costs of Presbytery Representatives to attend Conference, and John Pentland will be speaking during the Conference. It was noted that others from the congregation are also planning to attend the workshop.

7.0

Ministerial Reports: Marilyn Arthur

1. We had another wonderful after school group (Faithweavers) for Gr. 4-8's. We focused on the theme 'Journey through Lent'
2. Thank you to Robin Misener and Jacob Shaw for sharing their gifts and talents as they taught people about art and faith. They had fun creating different art projects for the three-week session. They will be offering more art sessions after Easter.
3. We led our first Gr. 6-8 dance. The children who attended had a fabulous time. Their parents were very appreciative that the church offered such a wonderful event. The dance was small in numbers, but we hope that our next one will have an increase in attendance.
3. Thank you so much for the week of continuing education. I spent part of the week in Vancouver at a conference for people who are in ministry with children, youth, young adults and their families. I then spent time in West Vancouver with Phil and Kim and had time with some of the staff at West Vancouver United Church.
4. Thank you to the youth ministry team for leading the RUC Cup-road hockey game on March 6th for all ages.
5. The theme for March Break camp this week is 'Fun Fair-Where God's World comes together'. Throughout the week the children are learning about different countries/cultures. They are learning what it means to be 'neighbourly'. They are also learning different Bible stories that help illustrate this theme. Thank you to Andrew Case for overseeing this camp and all the young people who have helped in leadership.
6. The confirmands and mentors are leading the Maundy Thursday and Sunrise Easter services. I ask you to continue to pray for these people.

8.2 Transitional Minister Report: Rev. Harry Disher

1. I continue to keep pace with worship planning and delivery and administrative tasks. I am endeavouring to catch up on pastoral visits. Time away, extra administrative responsibilities, a bit of illness have caused reduced hours spent attending to them. Lenten devotional services have been offered on Wednesdays.

Attendance has been low or non-existent, but they will continue nonetheless.

2. I will continue to support and assist with ongoing and current initiatives such as rebuilding the church website (Membership Committee); Thursday morning Prayer Group; reNEW Two group (once they are selected); Affirm Riverside; and plan to participate in the discussions of John Pentland's book on "fishing".

3. My Continuing Education plans (14 days) will be spent as follows:

March 8: Educational Supervisors Refresher (done)

April 13: Boundaries Workshop (focus on finances)

April 20-22: Holy Currencies Event at Five Oaks with Eric Law.

April 30-May 1: Westminster Weekend (Stoneridge Inn, London)

June 6-12: Interim Ministers International Conference (Las Vegas); and personal retreat time.

4. I hope to take my last week of vacation April 23-29

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

The Planned Givings Committee of Susan Dittmer, Brenda Benson and John Ford is working on new initiatives and will be bringing recommendations to the next Trustee meeting. Gary anticipates that he will be bringing those recommendations to Council at our next meeting.

8.3 Exploring Possibilities: Julie Gray

1. The Knitting Classes have gone well. They are looking at offering something more in the Fall.

2. The study of John Pentland's book will be held five Mondays in April.

3. The next Speaker Series will feature a speaker on gardening.

8.4 Finance and Stewardship: Ann McEwan-Castellan

Givings are up and expenses are down. There are no concerns at this time.

8.5 Membership: Roland Haines

Website development meetings are taking place.

8.6 Ministry and Personnel: David Sawyer

No Report

8.7 Outreach and Social Action:

1. **Chili Lunch.** The Chili lunch on February 14th raised \$646.00 for the Refugee Fund. This amount was almost exactly the same as was raised in 2014.
2. **Fair Trade Coffee.** The next day for the sale of Fair Trade coffee will be March 20th.
3. **Limberlost After School Meals.** The next date for the Limberlost After School Meal is April 13th. Joan, Pam and Grace volunteered to help with this.
4. **Refugee Status** Birgit Sharpe and Pat Mack have been involved with LIRSA and the settling in process of our newly arrived Syrian Refugee Family. The family consists of Mom, Dad and four daughters aged 8, 6, 5, and 18 months. The family seems to be settling in and pretty happy with their new surroundings.
5. **Welcome Pails** 2 new families have moved in to the Limberlost Community recently. Connie Zolotar will deliver a Welcome Pail to each of these new families.
6. **Food Grains Envelope Appeal.** Our annual campaign will be April 17th and 24th. More at next month's meeting.

8.8 Presbytery: Jan Shamrock

1. Each congregation needs to vote on 5 remits. Forms have been received in the church office for remit 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. The deadline for remits 1-4 is June 30, 2017 and remit 6 by Feb. 28, 2018.
2. GC42.ca/remits has information and guide books. More resources, videos and webinars will become available in the next few months.
3. London Conference is offering 2 workshops: Board of Trustees Workshop by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa on Sat. Apr. 23 from 9:30 – noon at Siloam United Church and Ministry & Personnel Workshop by Michelle Owens on Sat. Apr. 30 from 9:30 – noon at Siloam United Church.
4. Presbytery voted to declare a full-time vacancy at Riverside United Church effective May 1, 2016.
5. A history of the struggles for funding the full time United Church chaplain at Western was detailed and a motion was passed to end Western Chaplaincy ministry on June 30, 2016.
6. There have been many positive, exciting developments in the area of refugee sponsorship in London and Middlesex over the past 4 months. Here are some of them. Byron United is planning to sponsor its sixth family. Three of the families have already arrived in London. Calvary United is expecting the imminent arrival of a Syrian family of four and has applied for another sponsorship of a family of nine. Wesley-Knox is sponsoring a family. Belmont-Harrietsville is sponsoring a Syrian family. Lambeth United is sponsoring a young Iraqi man who has family in London. Siloam United is working with a family from Ethiopia. London Interfaith Refugee Support Alliance (LIRSA) of which Colborne St., Riverside, Siloam and several other churches are members, is expecting a Syrian family next week. The United Church Council has received applications for financial support for sponsorship and have approved four \$5,000 grants.

8.9 Property: Mark Hunter

No Report

8.10 UCW: Stella Finkbeiner

1. February and early March were very busy for UCW. We supply refreshments to the PROBUS group that is renting our facility monthly, we hosted the Annual Meeting for Middlesex Presbyterial U.C.W. on February 24th. We looked after the funeral reception for Norma Roman and the reception for the memorial service for Duncan Fidler. It was noted that the tear down of tables is being done too quickly after receptions as it appears that we are rushing people to leave and would like that changed at future events.

2. Orders are being taken for turkey pies.

3. We have filled our slate of officers. Cheryl Partington is our first vice, Angela Stewart is second vice and Linda Britton is our secretary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday March 16 th	Probus
Sunday March 20 th	Afternoon Unit coffee service
Monday April 11 th	UCW Executive meeting
Tuesday April 19 th	Glencoe UCW Visit
Wednesday April 20 th	Probus
April 29 th - May 1 st	Westminster Weekend
Saturday April 30 th , 2016	Ruth Poulton Fashion Show
Monday May 9 th	UCW Presbyterial Executive lunch
Friday May 13 th	UCW Card Party

8.11 8:44 Worship: Kim MacGowan

Kim thanked Sharanne MacDonald for all her work on behalf of both Worship Committees regarding obtaining supply and special Sunday speakers.

8.12 10:30 Worship: Sharanne MacDonald

There are boxes of older hymn books that are no longer used during our services. The Committee asked permission to find new homes for these books.

Motion 3: Moved/seconded: to allow the Worship Committee to find new homes for the older hymn books (blue 1930s. red 1969). **Carried**

Motion 4: Moved/seconded: to allow the Worship Committee to remove "Songs for a Gospel People" and find a new home for them. **Carried**

9.00**Other Business****9.1 Celebration of Ordination David Exley**

David's Ordination will take place May 28th. The suggested date for our celebration is Sunday, June 26th. Sharanne will coordinate the celebration. Kim will contact Betsy for a gift suggestion.

9.2 Manual Update

The update should be done every three years; it should happen this Fall. Sharanne MacDonald is willing to be on the committee again this time. John Mitchell will contact Peter Case and Greg Schneider, who worked with Sharanne last time, to see if they are willing too do it again this year.

9.3 Fund Raising Group

As was suggested by the reNEW Riverside Committee last meeting, a Fund Raising Group needs to be established to coordinate events to raise funds to enable the church to pay the mortgage and carry out its work. John Mitchell and Susan O'Hara will seek members for the group when the mandate is ready.

9.4 Devotion Followup

Discussion on the Devotion theme continued. John Mitchell will once again try to set up a meeting between the Council, Search Committee and Interview Team.

9.5 Installation of the Riverside Council

The Council installation will take place during both services on March 20.

11.00

Benediction

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.

John Mitchell, Chair

Bob Estey, Secretary

