



Riverside United Church  
Council Meeting October 21, 2015  
Seven thirty p.m. October 21, two thousand and fifteen  
Conference Room, Riverside United Church

Present: Marilyn Arthur, Pam Cottingham, Rev. Harry Disher, Bob Estey, Stella Finkbeiner, Julie Gray, Roland Haines, Mark Hunter, Sharanne MacDonald, Kim MacGowan, Ann McEwan-Castellan, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara, Gary Alan Price, David Sawyer, Jan Shamrock

**1.0 Welcome**

John Mitchell welcomed the group.

**Devotions:** Rev. Harry Disher

Rev. Harry Disher led devotions.

**2.0 Regrets:** Gordon Geiger, Cheryl Mitchell

**3.0 Agenda**

**Additions to the agenda:**

1. Other business: 1) rental structure

2) Nominating Committee

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

**Carried**

**4.0 Minutes from September 23, 2015**

**Correction:** Susan O'Hara will be chairing the November not the October meeting.

**Motion 2:** Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the September 23 meeting be accepted as amended

**Carried**

**5.0 Updates**

**5.1** Gary Alan Price on behalf of the Trustees is to contact the Planned Giving Committee re the Gratitude Wall (September 23: 5:3:2)

**6.0 Correspondence**

1. From Affirm

a) Movie nights and Guest speakers will continue

b) Request to place a pamphlet answering questions about Affirm United newly created by Affirm United in the seat pockets.

The request was granted.

**7.0****Focus Items****7.1 Strategic Planning;** David Sawyer, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara

A strategic Planning Meeting for any interested is to be held November 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. The suggested planning committee: Susan O'Hara, Ann McEwan-Castellan, David Sawyer, Sharanne MacDonald, Marilyn Arthur, Halle Johnson, Cheryl Mitchell, Rev. Disher.

It will be part of an overall plan including a new minister search. Parts of the plan could operate simultaneously. See Appendix A

**Motion 3:** Moved/seconded: that Council move forward with the Strategic Planning Proposal as presented and discussed. **Carried**

**7.2 Needs and Concerns: Servery and Multi-purpose room:** Stella Finkbeiner

Need for sound baffles, car racks, door stops, cleaning

Baffles will be installed within two weeks. Coat racks to be in place. Cleaning will be done for upcoming events.

First St. Andrews has two upright freezers for sale and a third can be obtained - will replace the present freezers.

Action: proceed with the proposal.

**7.3 Youth Dances:** Marilyn Arthur

There is a support to start up the popular Youth Dances. People involved with earlier dances are supportive. There is a need in the community and interest from community families. Concern was expressed re the "Newness" of the facility.

**Motion 4:** Moved/seconded: to approve Youth Dances on a limed basis starting in the Spring 2016. **Carried**

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**7.4 Honorarium for the projectionists:** Sharanne MacDonald

Any honorarium is to be put in the Worship budget.

**7.5,6 ReNew Riverside and Gala Update:** Sharanne MacDonald

**The Gala** on Saturday, October 24 is sold out with 40 silent and 10 live auction items. Many thanks to Rod MacDonald (catering), Marque Smith (music), and Susan O'Hara (auction items).

**Security:** With the new addition complete there is a need to rekey the church.

**Motion 5:** Moved/seconded: to support Mark Hunter and Greg Schneider in moving forward to best meet the security needs. **Carried**

**7.7 Affirm Update**

See Correspondence

**8.0****Ministerial Reports****8.1 Youth Minister:** Marilyn Arthur

No Report

**8.2 Minister Report:**

Worship plans will be in place before he goes on holiday.

**8.3 Minister Emeritus:** Gordon Geiger

No Report

**9.0 Committee Reports**

**9.1 Youth Report:** Cheryl Mitchell

No Report

**9.2 Trustees:** Gary Alan Price

No Report

**9.3 Christian Development:**

No Report

**9.4 Exploring Possibilities:** Julie Gray

She

1. We welcomed Erin Harlton as our presenter for our Oct 5th Speaker series. spoke on "Mindful Eating." We had about 28 people who attended, and many were from the community. We raised \$42.20 for the Daily Bread Food Bank at St. Paul's Cathedral.
2. Our next date in the Speaker series is Nov 2nd and Dr. John Mitchell will be speaking on "Happiness 101".
3. We are also looking at renting 4 sheets of ice at the London Curling Club on Nov 14th between 6 - 8 pm. This is an initiative brought to Exploring Possibilities by Sue Lawrence. It is open to the congregation as well as the community. More details to come.

**9.5 Finance and Stewardship:** Ann McEwan-Castellan

**Dollars and Sense**

Below is the latest condensed operating statement for Riverside United Church for September 2015. We present this statement to keep you connected to the financial condition of our church.

Regular givings are below budget . Expenses are below budget

Sept YTD	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	Fav(Unfav)
Operating Income	\$297,245	\$314,976	(\$17,731)
Expenses	\$305,607	\$316,853	\$11,246
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,362)	(\$ 1,877)	(\$6,485)

**Finance Notes**

Chairs of committees are to report on expected expenses to the end of the year. A summary of expenses to date will be emailed. Please provide estimated spending for your committee to the end of 2015. These estimates are required so as to project cash flow to the end of the year.

**Budget preparation for 2016.** Committees will be asked for their 2016 spending estimates. Please include new projects and explanation of the project(s) and costs. The construction invoices for reNEW have all been paid, including the 10 % holdback. We have been able to keep the mortgage to \$1,500,000. This was possible mainly due to \$175,000 bequests transferred from Trustees, reNEW pledges in 2016, 2017 and 2018 being paid in 2015 and proceeds from the sale of the house (665).

**9.6 Membership:** Roland Haines

No Report

**9.7 Ministry and Personnel:** David Sawyer

1. The Nursery Coordinator position is still vacant, but Andrew Case is excellent as a temporary solution.
2. See Appendix A

**9.8 Outreach and Social Action:** Pam Cottingham

1. Kathy Haines was present at the meeting and advised the Committee that the Ronald McDonald Meals Program is now part of Outreach. The Committee welcomed Kathy and her team and agreed that it would assist Kathy in any way to ensure that this worthwhile project continued. The Meals account is currently running low and Kathy is planning to have a fund raising dinner at the church to raise funds for future dinners at the "House".
2. The sale of fair trade coffee will continue on the 3rd Sunday of each month. June Levy and Carol Atkinson will look after sales and will ask for assistance from the Committee if neither are available on a given Sunday.
3. At the meeting we finalized arrangements for Mission Sunday on October 18th. This will be the first luncheon in the multipurpose room, so it will be a bit of a learning curve for us all.
4. Connie brought us up to date as to the status of the families who lost everything in the devastating fire in the Limberlost area. She will place a notice in the bulletin as to how we can help out.
5. June Levy has volunteered to represent Outreach at the UCW Executive meetings.
6. Carol Atkinson continues to provide nutritious meals at the Limberlost After School Program one day each month. She will ask for volunteers from the Committee to assist as necessary.

**9.9 Presbytery:** Jan Shamrock, Rev. Harry Disher

1. Refugee Sponsorship Information Workshop - Siloam United Church 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 31.
2. Full Communion with the United Church of Christ (USA) was celebrated on Saturday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, Niagara Falls.
3. Metropolitan United Church Speakers: Thursday, November 26: the Rev. Cleophus La Rue, professor of Homiletics, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Morning lectures and afternoon workshop. Tickets available on-line or at the Metropolitan United Church office.

**9.10 Property:** Mark Hunter

Property has obtained quotes for snow removal and lawn cutting. It is suggesting All Terrain Property Maintenance with whole package (snow and Lawn) available for \$10,000 per year.

**Motion 6:** Moved/seconded: that Property seek other options and that Council approve expenditure up to \$12,000. **Carried**

**9.11 UCW:** Stella Finkbeiner

1. The kitchen committee and other volunteers continue with their cleaning. This month the freezers were defrosted and cleaned, the cupboards in the friendship room and the locked back cupboard were also cleaned. Much junk was discarded. We have discovered signs of mice in the cupboards so would like to remind everyone that is involved in food to make sure that everything is sealed in plastic and that no open packages of anything edible is left open. We have reported this to property.

2. The servery is not completed as we are waiting for equipment that is on order. We have spoken to Mark Hunter regarding a backsplash around the sinks and counters in order to preserve the drywall. We have also spoken to Greg Schneider about installing a shelf above the dishwashing sink.

3. Coming Events

Mission Services Lunch Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>

Fall Event @ White Oaks Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>

Presbytery Meeting and dinner Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>

Finding Hope at Christmas service Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>

Congregational Christmas dinner Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>

UCW Christmas luncheon Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>

UCW Presbyterial Annual Meeting at RUC Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> 201

**9.12 8:44 Worship:** Julie Gray

Encouraged Council members to look at Hillhurst United Church website. Their minister is speaking in Sarnia this weekend.

**9.13 10:30 Worship:** Sharanne MacDonald

1. Christmas season services:

Nov 29-Finding Hope at Christmas Service

December 6: Intergenerational Service- White Gift (and then Pageant and Christmas Dinner)

December 24<sup>th</sup>- Marilyn will lead the 4pm and 7pm service (and will help with others if needed)

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve- 9 PM & 11 PM

December 27<sup>th</sup>- One Service at 10 AM- one service

2. Wedding and Funeral Fees are being discussed. We have received rates from other London United Churches as a guide. London Conference- Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa confirms that two fee levels are illegal for a charity. Members and general public Church is a not for profit entity and we could lose our status. Members of church receive the benefits of being part of a family of God.

3. Worship recommends that an Honorarium be provided for the projectionists for Sunday Worship, There are presently only two volunteering for this. The sound person receives an honorarium

**10.00**

**Other Business**

1. **Nominating Committee:** Susan O'Hara

Lists to be updated for the Nominating Committee will soon be distributed.

2. **Fee Structure**

Some groups using the facilities are requesting a discount. Council requested that Property determine any criteria.

**11.00**

**Benediction**

Rev. Disher closed the meeting with prayer.

Appendix A

Riverside United Church  
STRATEGIC PLANNING PROPOSAL  
(including Lead Minister search)

1. Strategic Planning Session

- Saturday, December 5, 2015
- Opportunity for congregation members to come together and discuss our vision for Riverside related to ministry, programs, worship approaches/formats
- Last undertaken in May 2011 (at Byron UC)
- A committee would be responsible for defining the format of the session, creating a schedule (including lunch arrangements), advertising, consolidating/summarizing discussion, and reporting to Council
- Committee membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Needs Assessment Team

- Responsible for acting on priorities flowing from Strategic Planning Session
- Core membership named by Council; Team responsible for selecting balance of their group
- Mandated to consult widely with the Congregation (workshops, surveys, etc.)
- Responsible for creating *ministry profile* and *job description* for Lead Minister position
- Team membership: \_\_\_\_\_
- Timeline: *submitting materials for Congregation approval late Feb/early March*

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3. Minister Search (Research) Committee

- Find potential candidates through consultation with community contacts
- Research potential candidates (websites, worship visits, social media, phone calls/email, etc.)
- Contact potential candidates to "get the word out" and inquire about interest
- This is NOT the Interview Team
- Committee membership: \_\_\_\_\_
- Timeline: *beginning now and ending in March*

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