



Riverside United Church  
Council Meeting June 15, 2016

Seven thirty p.m. June fifteenth, two thousand and sixteen  
The Gratitude Boardroom, Riverside United Church

**Present:** Susan Anderson, Marilyn Arthur, Pam Cottingham, Bob Estey, Stella Finkbeiner, Julie Gray, Roland Haines, Sharanne MacDonald, Kim MacGowan, Ann McEwan-Castellan, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara, Gary Alan Price, David Sawyer, Jan Shamrock, Guest: Jacob Shaw

**1.0 Welcome**

John Mitchell welcomed the group.

**Devotions:**

Marilyn Arthur led devotions on the theme "Belonging" using the Biblical story of Zaccheus, followed by prayer.

**2.0 Regrets:** Rev. Harry Disher, Gordon Geiger, Mark Hunter, Cheryl Mitchell,

**3.0 Agenda:**

**Additions:**

5.2 June 26

5.3 Fundraising

5.4 Money for gardens

5.5 John Pentland

5.6 Security

**Motion 1:** Moved/seconded: that the Agenda with additions be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**4.0 Minutes from May 18, 2016**

**Motion 2:** Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting with correction be accepted as circulated.

**Carried**

**5.0 Focus Items**

**5.1 Jacob Shaw**

Jacob Shaw provided information re his education and background.

He requested Council to support his application to be a Licensed Lay Leader.

**Motion 3:** Moved/seconded: to support Jacob Shaw's application to be a Licensed Lay Leader

**Carried**

**5.2 June 26**

Everything is in order for Rev. David Exley's first Worship Service on June 26.

**5.4 Fundraising: Susan O'Hara**

The Draft of the Terms of Reference for Fundraising was handed out at the May 18, 2016 Council Meeting with a request for comments. No comments have been received.

**Motion 4:** Moved/seconded: to establish a Fundraising Committee to be guided by the Guidelines given out at the May 18, 2016 meeting, **Carried**

**5.5 Money for Gardens: Julie Gray**

The gardens to the South and West of the church are in poor shape. There is a need to remove shrubs and trees, replace soil with good topsoil and develop and implement a garden plan. A professional company is needed,

**Motion 5:** Moved/seconded: to direct the Board of Trustees to provide \$5,000 for the upgrading of the grounds and gardens. **Carried**

**Motion 6:** Moved/seconded: to direct the Property Committee to remove the Sea Crate by July 7. **Carried**

**5.6 John Pentland: Sharanne MacDonald**

The unfortunate ending (theft) to John Pentland's visit was discussed.

**Motion 7:** Moved/seconded: to send a donation of \$500 to Hillhurst United Church in John Pentland's name. **Carried**

**5.7 Security: Sharanne MacDonald**

The recent theft highlights the need for greater Security including a Security Camera, which was part of the reNEW plan for Riverside.

**Motion 8:** Moved/seconded: that Council direct the Property Committee to report to Council regarding their timeline for the implementation of the Security Plan including a Camera for the main entrance. **Carried**

**6.0****Correspondence****6.1 Lambeth United Church**

Confirmation that Riverside United Church has agreed to be a partner with Lambeth United Church in applying for a \$5000 grant from the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery for the purpose of a private sponsorship of the Ghazai family, a Syrian refugee family from Aleppo.

**6.2 Middlesex Presbytery use of Riverside United Church's Sanctuary**

A request from Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crittenden, Chair, Middlesex Presbytery to use the Riverside United Church Sanctuary on thirteen specified Wednesday mornings in 2016-17.

**6.3 Cooper lawsuit hearing**

The file is now closed.

## 7.0 Ministerial Reports

### 7.1 Youth Minister: Marilyn Arthur

1. I had great fun at the London Conference Annual Meeting. We had six youth in attendance who participated fully in the life of the meeting. Following the meeting each night, we went back to the Stoneridge Inn with all the London Conference Youth from the meeting and facilitated our own program, which consisted of play, debriefing of the day and worship. During this weekend, we heard from Rev. John Pentland, who was the theme speaker. I also attended his day workshop on the Thursday before the Annual meeting.
2. I was happy to spend 24 hours at Children at Conference, where 80 children from Gr. 3-8 gathered from June 9-12<sup>th</sup> at Camp Bimini. I offered a rotation of workshops and helped with chapel. We had approximately 20 children/youth from Riverside and its community at Children at Conference. Thank you to our youth and young adults who spent the weekend counselling.
3. Our two team leaders, Katie Hunter and Noah Battaglia have been busy planning for our 11 VBS camps this summer. We have a staff of 10 young people. RUC is hosting a camp on July 18-22 (for children in JK-Gr 6), a leadership camp during the same week for those in Gr. 7/8 and August 15-19<sup>th</sup>.
4. Confirmation was on June 5<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30am worship service. We confirmed six young people. Thank you all for the support and for the lovely reception that followed worship. Thank you to the mentors who shared in the confirmation program with our young people.
5. The children are painting inspirational rocks-‘Riverside Rocks’ and selling them at coffee hour on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The money collected will go toward ReNew Riverside. This initiative came from one of our Grade Four children who does this painting as a hobby. She wanted to do a fundraiser to help pay for the new church building.
6. Linda and the children are hoping to make a bee garden, in the spot where the Sea Crate sat. Below is a little bit about the garden (written by Linda Thompson)

*As you may know, there has recently been a lot of news about the mysterious global disappearance of honeybees – with some campaigns aimed directly at children (such as the Bring Back the Bees promotion by Honey Nut Cheerios). With widespread colony collapse, the plight of bees has become a significant environmental issue. However, it is not only the honeybee that has been affected, other native bee species are also declining, in many cases because of habitat loss.*

*In 2014 the Julia Hunter Memorial Fund started an initiative called Garden4Bees. Taking an environmental conservancy approach to the issue, the Gardens4Bees project came up with a simple idea: a church can be seen as an organized group of people who control land, and who place a high value on stewardship of the earth. With funding from the Julia Hunter Memorial Fund, 10 Anglican churches in Southwestern*

*Ontario planted pollination gardens at local parishes with the goal of feeding the bees in 2014.*

*What you may not know is that the honey bee (the one we think of when we think of bees – with black and yellow stripes) is imported from Europe. Bees native to Canada do not produce honey like honey bees, do not live in hives and do not sting. Using native plants encourages the presence of native bees within the garden. The garden also provides a habitat for native bees (who do not live in hives, but rather tend to burrow in the ground).*

Linda would like to start this initiative in the Fall of 2016 (once the Sea Crate has been moved). She will need some help from a person to rototill the space, and deliver a lot of topsoil. She and the children would plant and maintain the garden.

**Motion 9:** Moved/seconded: to support Linda Thompson’s initiative and encourage her to apply to Middlesex Presbytery for funding. **Carried**

**7.2 Transition Minister:** Rev. Harry Disher  
No Report

## 9.0 Committee Reports

**9.1 Youth Report:** Cheryl Mitchell  
No Report.

**9.2 Trustees:** Gary Alan Price

**Motion 10:** Moved/seconded: to endorse the decisions and actions taken by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Chair of Finance with respect to reworking the Libro Mortgage. **Carried**

**Motion 11:** Moved/seconded: to authorize an immediate prepayment to Libro of \$100,000.00. **Carried**

**9.4 Exploring Possibilities:** Julie Gray  
No Report

**9.5 Finance and Stewardship:** Ann McEwan-Castellan  
Finance Update as of May 31, 2016

	Actual	Budget	Surplus
Operating Revenue	189,336	188,571	765
Expenses	174,231	190,867	16,636
Net Income	15,105	-2,296	17,401

Operating Revenue does not include reNEW revenue

**reNEW Revenue to date:** \$137,124

May 31 Statements \$426,600 in cash.

Finance will be moving funds into the following

30 day term deposit	\$ 25,000	0.70%
1 Year GIC	\$ 100,000	1.40%
2 Year GIC	\$ 100,000	1.75%
3 Tear GIC	\$ 100,000	1.90%

We are negotiating for an outside Treasurer.

#### **9.6 Membership:** Roland Haines

No Report

#### **9.7 Ministry and Personnel:** David Sawyer

No Report

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

1. The Committee invited John Langford to our meeting to talk about his mission trip to Managua. John was extremely grateful to the Outreach Committee and others from Riverside who donated money to this trip. He outlined how the money was spent and just how much the work of his team was appreciated. John spoke passionately about his experiences and is truly thankful that he has been given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in the community where he worked.
2. Mission Sunday. Brigitte will check with Jan for a date for our Mission Sunday service in October. A speaker has yet to be confirmed. We had previously discussed the possibility of joining the 8:44 and 10:30 Service into one 10:00 service on that day so that the 8:44 congregation could join the lunch following the service. We will discuss this with our new Minister some time in July.
3. Food Grains Envelope Appeal. A cheque for \$900.00 was sent to the Good Neighbour Project.
4. Fair Trade Coffee Sales. June will be the last month for coffee sales (June 19th). We will resume again in September.

#### **9.9 Presbytery:** Jan Shamrock

1. London Conference Annual Meeting was held in London May 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Riverside United Church had 16 people attend including 6 youth.
2. London Conference is exploring the possibility of becoming an Affirming Ministry.
3. Rev. Dr. John Pentland was the guest speaker at the meeting, and we were able to have him join us at Riverside on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.
4. At the meeting we celebrated with many jubilands, especially Rev. Bruce Small – 55 years and Rev. Marjorie Smith – 50 years.

**9.10 Property:** Mark Hunter

No Report

**9.11 UCW:** Stella Finkbeiner

1. The Friendship Room has been painted.
2. The carpets will be cleaned and a new sofa purchased.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 16      Summer Event - Siloam

**9.12 8:44 Worship:** Kim MacGowan

No Report

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

1. Future Hymn Sings to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings this fall. (September 18th, October 16th & November 20th).

2. Pulpit Supply

July 31- Mark Richardson

August 7- Jacob Shaw

August 14 – Rev. Aisha Brooks Lytle – speaker from London

Conference– Reverend David Exley presides

3. Worship Committee is looking for idea persons for the committee who have vision and possibilities- no housekeeping duties required.

**10.00 Other Business**

No other business

**11.00 Benediction**

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.