



Riverside United Church
Council Meeting October 19, 2016

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

Present: Susan Anderson, Marilyn Arthur, Bob Estey, David Exley, Stella Finkbeiner, Julie Gray, Roland Haines, Mark Hunter, Sharanne MacDonald, Ann McEwan-Castellan, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara, Gary Alan Price, David Sawyer, Jan Shamrock,
Guests: Brenda Benson, Myrna Schneider

1.0

Welcome

John Mitchell welcomed the group.

Devotions:

David Exley led devotions focussing on the various ways people see the events and life of a faith community and the need as a Council to be aware of differing perspectives including its own.

This was followed by prayer.

2.0

Regrets: Kim MacGowan

3.0

Agenda:

Motion 1: Moved/seconded: that the Agenda, with a change in the order be approved as circulated.

Carried

4.0

Minutes from September 16, 2016

Motion 2: Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the September 16, 2016 meeting be accepted as circulated.

Carried

5.0

Focus Items

5.1 Affirm: Brenda Benson, Myrna Schneider

As a prelude to discussion, Council members were sent a copy of the history of the Affirm story at Riverside and the proposed Vision Statement.

Proposed timelines and activities were discussed at length.

Motion 3: Moved/seconded: In preparation for a May 2017 vote, Council requests the Affirm Committee to develop a series of questions for discussion that reflect the essence of the Affirm Mission Statement, prepare a proposed timeline of activities for education and dialogue and present these to Council at its November meeting.

Carried

5.2 Remits: David Exley

David Exley gave an overview of the Remits currently under study by the United Church of Canada focussing particularly on:

Category 3: pastoral charges and presbyteries

Remit 1: Three Council Model

Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

Remit 3: Office of Vocation

Remit 4: Funding a New Model

Remit 6: One Order of Ministry

Council members are to review the information on Remits 1,2 and 4 for the November meeting: Ref: gc42.ca/remits

Remits 3,6 will be handled at a later date.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 A letter from Don Dittmer announcing the return of Christmas Tree sales.

6.2 A letter from Willeta Biddle re Talent Sheets being distributed.

7.0 Ministerial Reports

7.1 Youth Minister: Marilyn Arthur

1. Please refer to the bulletin and Facebook for the number of children, youth, young adults, family and congregational events planned in the next three months. Together with the youth ministry and congregational life team, we have great activities planned

2. We are pleased that we have implemented a second class for young people during the 844. Originally, programming was offered to young people up to Grade 5. We now have a Gr. 6-8 class. At 10:30, we have three classes, JK-Gr. 3, Gr. 4-7 and Gr. 8-High school.

3. At the present time we have three young people who will be going through the confirmation program.

4. Plans for the bee garden are stalled due to the upcoming season (not a good time to plant) and waiting for a reply on the grant proposal that Linda Thompson submitted to the Middlesex United Church Council. Thanks to Linda Thompson for submitting the proposal to the council back in the Spring.

5. Thanks to Betsy Exley and Marque Smith for their leadership with the Christmas pageant. For seven weeks the children will be engaged each Sunday afternoon eating lunch, playing drama games and practicing for the pageant. The turkey dinner and pageant is planned for Sunday December 4th beginning at 4:30pm

7.2 Minister: Rev. David Exley

1. **Tuesday mornings at Starbucks** in Byron have been well attended these past few weeks with sixteen visitors over the past three weeks. Feel free to join me at 1291 Commissioners Road West (9:00 to 11:30 a.m.) on a Tuesday in the future.

2. I attended the **Celebration of Biblical Preaching Conference** at Luther Seminary on October 3-5 in St. Paul Minnesota. Over 200 people from the United States and Canada attended this event and had a chance to hear some of the best preachers on the planet (eg. Tom Long, Anna Carter Florence, Karoline Lewis). I look forward to applying this information in the coming weeks and months. Feel free to fill out a sermon “scorecard” after worship.
3. Based on conversations with worship leaders and other church committees we have decided to do a short **worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day** (which is on a Sunday this year). The service will give participants the opportunity to bring gifts (likely to share with one of the local food banks) and offer them up in the context of worship. I anticipate that the service will be approximately 30 minutes with lots of singing and time for fellowship at the end. My hope is to attract families with young children who want to teach their kids about the importance of giving back during the holiday season.
4. Clergy and lay leaders from London Conference gathered for a **Remit Party on October 1**. As a delegate from the last meeting of General Council, I was asked to be part of the leadership team for this event. Our goal was to educate church leaders on the process for voting on the upcoming congregational remits connected to our denomination’s Comprehensive Review process. Now that presbytery representatives have been educated on the process, we can now start the process of passing the information on to the congregational leaders. As a congregation, we will be voting on five of the eight remits. The due date for ballots to be received is June 30, 2017. For more information, you can visit this website: <http://gc42.ca/remits>
5. Now that I have had the chance to meet most of the committees at the church, I am going to begin the process of limiting the number of **evening meetings** that I attend. As much as I would like to attend every meeting, my participation means that time with my family is limited. As an example, in September, I attended nine evening meetings. My hope is to limit my evening commitments to six evenings per month.

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Property: Mark Hunter

1. Repair of South Choir loft AC unit: In process. Attempts to have electrical contractor have proven fruitless. Plan to recover a board from our used unit and re-install board in Choir loft unit.
2. Elevator Service Contracts: In process. Contract in place with Skyline for old lift. Communication from Savaria is conflictual. One communication indicates that contract is in place until 2017. Other communication from them is that we need a new contract: to follow up regarding original contract with Savaria, clarify issues and ensure contract is in place.
3. Lower South West storage room re-organization: In process. Paint cabinets are emptied: to sell cabinets on Kijiji. Jan and Marilyn to select storage box size. Mark to design and install shelving, floor to ceiling

4. Protection of main gas service: In process: met with Union gas and they are not concerned sufficiently to re-locate or protect the service. Despite the response from Union Gas, the new gas service meter and main is in danger of being damaged by falling ice - to devise a solution.
5. Organize outside storage closet. Installation of light in outside storage closet: In process.
6. Upper South storage room racking for Estey poster signs: complete - thank Bob and Muriel for all that you do!
7. SW water valve: In process. To have been completed during re-new. to follow up.
8. Paint Front Rails and posts at Narthex entrance. complete
9. Removal of old garbage shed: complete
10. Bug issue around London Conference entrance and main entrance: In process. Entrances have been sprayed but bugs returned in a few days. to contact pest control company to devise a plan. Lobby lights to be programmed to turn off at night
11. Décor in new space: in process. Council approved creation of an interior design group to report through property.
12. Rusty bike rack: scrape, sand the unit and re-paint over the winter
13. Window Well Clean out: in process
- 13b. Fill gap around hydro service entrance: in process - to top fill gap with mortar or caulking
14. Sound issues in Multi-purpose room: in process - have contacted Peter Case regarding possibility of UWO wind tunnel students assisting with issue. Awaiting response.
15. Colour fading from Hyde Park Chapel plaque: in process
16. Caulk holes in Nursery East wall: In process
17. Paint benches at Narthex entrance: In process to paint over the winter
18. Narthex door replacement: in process - Council approved project to a max cost of \$4500 and contract has been awarded to Provincial Glass. Installation to be completed in six weeks
19. Assess and repair any gaps in screening at base of SW Narthex cladding: In process.
20. Sanctuary entrance repair: On hold until determination is made on status of Dunedin curb cut
21. Runoff extensions on South wall: in process. Aluminum extensions installed; to dig in an extension to run under the SW garden and onto lawn
22. South AC unit deflector repair: in process
23. Repair gaps in SW wall around HVAC vents: in process
24. Remove cut wood from South lawn: complete.
25. Grass seed over repaired Erosion area NE corner parking lot: In process
26. Emergency sign in Narthex: complete.
27. Repair lower level water fountain: in process
28. Repair faucet in lower level washroom: complete. Drain was also cleaned out

29. Replace two ceiling tiles in Choir room: in Process
 30. Concrete board installation in garbage shed: in Process Concrete board installed; to seal concrete floor and walls
 31. Snow clearing Lawn Maintenance: complete. Contract discussed and reviewed at Council. Contract awarded to All Terrain
 32. Sea Crate contents: In Process Council approved retention, disposal and sale as per last meeting minutes: to post items on Kijiji; to take motion to council to have funds raised from sale donated to Nicaragua Outreach
 33. Site plan deficiencies: in process: Update on deficiencies discussed; to be managed
 34. Setups: With the custodian having resigned, we are facing an exceptional number of setup and take down requests. Discussed sending out a call to create a group to assist with the setups. Doodle calendar being used to organize the requests; re-Assess situation once custodian hired. Proceed to create group if volume remains unchanged.
 35. Assistance with Christmas Decorations: to send out note to Ann Marie Richardson confirming time on Nov 26th and also send out note to Property to volunteer
 36. Fall weeding of gardens: complete.
 37. Trimming of bushes / plants and trees: in Process
- Motion 4:** Moved/seconded: to support the sale process of Sea Crate items with funds going to Outreach in Nicaragua **Carried**

8.2 Youth Report:

No Report.

8.3 Board of Trustees: Gary Alan Price

1. As per policy Rev. David Exley is a member of the Board of trustees
2. At a Congregational Meeting on October 16, 2016 the congregation accepted with regret the resignation of Roderick Allan MacDonald from the Board of Trustees.

8.4 Exploring Possibilities: Julie Gray

1. *Writing Through Grief and Loss*, Sunday, October 23, 12:00 - 2:30pm, workshop led by Ray McGinnis.
2. *Creative Hands* - Drop in for knitters and stitchers, first Thursday of each month, starting November 3, 1:00 - 2:30pm.
3. *Islam 101*, November 14 and 21, 7:00pm with Shahin Pardham

8.5 Finance and Stewardship: Ann McEwan-Castellan

Finance Update as of September 25, 2016

	Actual	Budget Surplus	
Regular Offering	\$295,376	\$269,049	\$ 26,327
reNEW Revenue	\$148,318	\$ 94,814	\$ 53,504
Other Revenue	\$ 80,891	\$ 58,187	\$ 22,701
Total Operating Revenue	\$524,584	\$422,050	\$102,534
Expenses	\$397,365	\$419,223	\$ 21,858
Net Income	\$127,220	\$ 2,827	\$124,393

Revenue surplus mainly due to:

- Transfers from Trustees
- reNEW pledges paid ahead, higher than pledged, and additional givings

Expenses savings due to:

- Website development savings
- mortgage interest savings
- M&P salary and benefits savings

Three members of Finance and Stewardship attending a workshop on November 5 9:30 - 4:30 “Inspire, Ask and Thank - is your Stewardship Toolbox Feeling Empty?”

8.6 Membership: Roland Haines

No Report

8.8 Outreach and Social Action: Connie Zolotar

1. Resignation from Outreach. We received a letter of resignation from June Levy. Joan Young and Pat Mack will also not be able to attend meetings on Thursday nights due to other commitments. The committee decided that it would try to find another night for our meetings to accommodate Joan and Pat.
2. Teen Challenge Clothing Drive. We received a letter from Teen Challenge who are launching a thrift store in London in 2017. They are asking for our help in collecting clothing and other items for this new store. The committee decided that we would not get involved at this time. Possibly in the future, when the store is up and running, we could consider promoting this venture within the church.
3. Mission Sunday. Sunday October 16th, 2016. We were not able to have one service for our Mission Sunday. John Langford will give his presentation at both the 8:44 and 10:30 services.
4. No change in the status of our refugee family.
5. Salvation Army Christmas Kettle. Signup sheet for volunteers to look after the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle will be available shortly. Our date is Saturday December 3rd from 11:00 to 5:00.
6. Christmas Catalogue. Brigitte will make some changes to the Christmas Catalogue. This should be available for the congregation in early December.

7. Pails of household items given to new families moving into the Limberlost Community. We are short of funds and/or items for this project. The items for each pail costs approximately \$20.00. For the month of November we are planning to have a drive to collect items and/or cash in order to continue this project. Connie Zolotar will be a minute person in late October to explain the project to the congregation and request donations.

8. United Church Calendars The committee decided that it would not sell United Church Calendars this year.

9. White Gift Sunday (December 4th). We started discussions about our annual partnership with Holy Family Parish and St. Pauls Christmas programs. We would like to continue with these partnerships and we will have more information prior to our next meeting.

8.9 Presbytery: Jan Shamrock

I attended the Boundaries workshop for lay congregational leaders on Saturday October 15th led by Michelle Owens from London Conference. During the discussion we talked about boundaries, power and vulnerability, professional vs. personal relationships, Duty of Care, volunteer screening, harassment and policy. The United Church has resources to help churches develop their own policy which includes risk assessment and management.

8.10 UCW: Stella Finkbeiner

No Report

8.11 8:44 Worship: Kim MacGowan

No Report

8.12 10:30 Worship: Sharanne MacDonald

Willeta Biddle has sent a Time and Talent survey to Council. I would like to address this so no time gets taken at the meeting on this item

9.00 Other Business

No other business

10.00 Benediction

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer