

Riverside United Church
Council Meeting September 21, 2016

Seven thirty p.m. September twenty-first, 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, Kim MacGowan, Ann McEwan-Castellan, John Mitchell, Susan O'Hara, Gary Alan Price, David Sawyer, Jan Shamrock, Connie Zolotar,
Guest: Ann Marie Richardson

1.0

Welcome

John Mitchell welcomed the group, especially Rev. David Exley, our new Lead Minister.

Devotions:

David Exley led devotions with a reading about lobsters: their growth, vulnerability and change from a book *The New Parish*. Members were invited to share thoughts about change and Riverside.

This was followed by prayer.

2.0

Regrets: no regrets

3.0

Agenda:

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

Note, however, that in 7.2 Rev. David Exley is not a Transition Minister!

Carried

4.0

Minutes from June 15, 2016 and August 05, 2016

Motion 2: Moved/seconded: that the minutes of the June 15, 2016 and August 05, 2016 meetings be accepted as circulated.

Carried

5.0

Focus Items

5.1 The Library: Ann Marie Richardson

As Ann Marie Richardson plans to retire as Chair of the Library Committee at the end of the year, she sought direction/approval for a decision regarding the future of the Library.

Council asked Ann Marie Richardson with her Committee to develop a proposal to be presented to Council at the October meeting.

5.2 Fundraising: Susan O'Hara

1. With reference to Motion 4 (June 15, 2016) establishing a Fundraising Committee with Guidelines given out at the May 18, 2016 meeting, Susan O'Hara indicated two people have volunteered to head up the Committee.
2. A local pianist has offered to present a concert at Riverside under a 50/50 split of profits arrangement. With approval of the concept Council referred the matter to the Fundraising Committee.

5.3 Rev. Harry Disher Photograph

The photograph is ready for framing.

5.4 Ratification of the motion approved electronically in August:

Motion 3: Moved/seconded: that Council direct Property to proceed with relamping the lower kitchen and auditorium.

Carried

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 A letter from Linda Britton inviting Council members to volunteer as Presiders and/or Scripture Readers.

6.2 A letter from Willeta Biddle expressing concern about the congestion as worshippers move to the Multi-purpose Room following worship.

Council recommended that care be taken regarding setup for any event in the Multi-Purpose Room to avoid activity close to the doorway.

7.0 Ministerial Reports**7.1 Youth Minister:** Marilyn Arthur

1. I give great thanks for another successful summer with our SALT program. We hired Katie Hunter as our team leader and Noah Battaglia as the assistant team leader. We also hired 9 counsellors and 1 arts and crafts coordinator. This was made possible by federal grants, RUC special offerings and fees from the congregations that hired the SALT team to lead their VBC. The team led 11 day camps. A new leadership camp was held for Gr. 7-9's at RUC during the same week as our July VBC. RUC led two VBC's this summer and the leadership camp. The SALT team was in ministry with close to 500 children this summer.
2. Thank you for the two weeks of vacation this summer. It is always wonderful to take some time to be with family.
3. The Congregational Life Team prepared Sundae Sunday on September 11th. following both worship services. People enjoyed conversation and ice cream. The Congregational Life Team and our young people are planning and preparing for the Fun Fair on September 25th. All are welcome to join in the fun.
4. The annual fall youth retreat held at Camp Kee Mo Kee was September 16-18th. I give great thanks to the young people who attended and the amazing youth leadership team who provided supervision and care for the weekend.

7.2 **Minister:** Rev. David Exley

1. Thank you to all for the warm welcome I have received over the past few months. It is a joy to start my time as Lead Minister here at Riverside United Church!
2. Summer Worship Attendance increased significantly this year. Over the course of the summer, we had roughly a 20% increase in attendance. Thanks to all who spread the good word this Summer!
3. Staff Meetings are now happening weekly on Wednesdays from Noon until 1:00 p.m.
4. After some discussion with M&P representatives (and looking at recommendations from the Alban Institute), I have recruited a **ministry transition team** to work with me during this time of pastoral change at the church. Ken Fraser, Angela Stewart, Teri Levack, and Scott Hunter will be beginning that work with me this Fall.
5. Following the success that I experienced with the Ivan Pastoral Charge last year, I have decided to experiment with office hours outside of the church. Starting next week I will spend **Tuesday mornings at Starbucks** in Byron, 1291 Commissioners Rd W (9:00 - 11:30 am). This will be an opportunity to engage our community of faith in the midst of the wider neighbourhood. Come join me for coffee and conversation!
6. I will be attending the **Celebration of Biblical Preaching Conference** at Luther Seminary from Oct. 3-5 in St. Paul, MN
7. United Church author, **Ray McGinnis** has agreed to preach at both services on October 23. Immediately following the 10:30 worship service he will lead a creative writing workshop entitled, "Writing Through Grief and Loss."

8.0 **Committee Reports**

8.1 **Property:** Mark Hunter

Action Items

1. Auditorium Painting complete thanks to John Langford
2. Programming Thermostats complete
3. Repair of the South Choir Loft AC - to recover a board from our used unit and re-install board in Choir Loft Unit
4. Trolleys for Green and Blue Chairs built - complete and colour coded
5. Install Phone Cable to Narthex phone - complete
6. Upper South Storage Room Floor Repair, Cabinet and Shelf Installation - complete
7. Elevator Service Contracts old loft contract in place; new elevator contract in progress
8. Choir Storage Room Reorganization complete - to investigate what items from the choir room storage can be moved to the attic

9. Protection of Main Gas Service - a solution being sought to ensure the new gas service meter and main not in danger of being damaged by falling ice
10. Installation of Light in Outside Storage Closet - initial thought to use existing feed in closet will not work as line is not powered
11. Garbage Shed - complete, thanks to John Welbourn and others - coolest garbage shed anywhere
12. Sea Crate - emptied and sold; new owner arranging for removal
13. Bus Sign - complete
14. Sound Issues in Multi-purpose Room - Peter Case contacted regarding the possibility of UWO wind tunnel students assisting with issue
15. Stainless Steel Backsplash in Servedy - complete
16. Shelf in Servedy- complete
17. Content Update for Insurance - complete, Trustees will be completing photo inventory of existing and new space equipment
18. New Signs for Emergency Services - complete
19. Storage Needs for Musical Equipment - complete
20. SW Water Valve- follow up as it was to have been completed during reNEW
21. Paint Front Rails - in process
22. Replace David Service Memorial Tree - complete
23. Install Lights in Garbage Shed - complete
24. Erosion Control NE Corner Parking Lot - complete
25. Relamping of Auditorium, Lower Hallway, Lower Kitchen, Exterior Narthex Entrance - new high efficient LED lights installed
26. Setups - to be managed by Ray Mantle
27. Old Garbage Shed - cleaned out - to be offered to the Exleys or taken to the dump
28. Auditorium Floor strip and wax - complete

Walk About Assessment

1. Proliferation of bugs around the Main Office and Conference Entrance
2. Plain decor in new space unappealing - approach Council to develop a plan
3. Rusty Bike Rack - requires sanding and painting
4. Window Wells require cleanout
5. Space where Hydro Main Service enters foundation requires mortar or caulking
6. Colour fading out of Hyde Park Chapel Plaque - look at warranty
7. Caulk Holes in East Nursery Wall and Remove Unused Conduit
8. Benches at Narthex Entrance in need of refinishing/painting
9. Narthex Main Doors fading and not closing properly; right hand door not usable due to security issue (bent door frame) - request quote for new door system without centre post
10. Gap at Base of SW Narthex Upper Cladding (exterior) allowing space for critters to enter - requires installation of screening
11. Entrance doors at South End of Narthex deteriorating and unsightly; frame unstable and has been reinforced - request quote for new door system without centre post.

12. Step at SW Narthex Entrance creating barrier for mobility impaired and for moving caskets; concrete on existing step deteriorating - plan to replace step with swept up concrete entrance
13. Runoff from SW Downspouts is eroding garden - needs installation of Big "O" drain
14. Ice deflectors over South AC Units have pulled away from wall - requires re-installation
15. Gaps noted around South Wall Vents require caulking and/or mortar repair
16. Cut Wood on Lawn requires pickup
17. Grass Seed/Sod required NE Corner Parking Lot where additional level of stone added
18. Emergency Sign required at Narthex Phone; old shelf material requires removal
19. Lower Water Fountain not functional
20. Left Hand faucet in Women's Washroom - running
21. Ceiling Tiles (2) in Choir Room require replacing
22. Lower Storage Room cluttered - requires cleanout, reorganization and shelf construction

Concrete Board Installation in Garbage Shed - to be installed to prevent moisture penetrating wood walls and to facilitate cleanup

West Garden Update - re-designed, stripped, irrigation installed and replanted - thanks to Donna, Sheila and Julie

Snow Clearing and Lawn Maintenance contract reviewed - recommend continuing with All Terrain

Contents of Sea Crate - removed and stored temporarily off site

Large 22 foot step ladder - SELL
 36 foot step ladder – KEEP
 10 foot step ladder – KEEP
 3 salty storage containers – check with All Terrain, sell rest
 2 garbage storage bins – SELL
 GAS BBQ Grill. Repair required – Mark to repair – KEEP
 10.5 HP Snowblower – SELL
 STHIL gas Trimmer – KEEP
 STHIL gas blower – KEEP
 DISCO light ball – ask Marilyn

XMAS Tree signs – KEEP
 Large steel desk – SELL
 Wooden storage box / bench – ask Paper Rollers
 Multiple winter rubber mats – KEEP
 Old fax machine – recycle/dispose
 Old printer – recycle/dispose
 Old phones - recycle/dispose
 Garbage can – KEEP
 2 large portable sun shelters (shelter logic) – KEEP
 Old ugly plastic plant – garbage

Property Priorities

Project	Estimated Cost
Garbage Shed	\$2,500
Move Sea Crate	\$500
Repair Erosion	\$3,000

Move Shed	\$500
Security System	\$10,000
Replant Gardens	
Re-lamp Lower Kitchen	\$2,000
Paint Auditorium	\$1,000
Replace Sign	\$10,000
Re-lamp Auditorium	\$4,000
Replace Sanctuary Doors	\$10,000
Replace Electric Heat	\$10,000
Presentation System Auditorium	\$3,000
Irrigation Extension	\$7,500
Washroom Update	\$50,000
Lower Kitchen Update	\$50,000
Auditorium Floor	\$10,000

Additional

Motion 5: Moved/seconded: to authorize an expenditure of up to \$4500 to change the Narthex Door System. **Carried**

Proposal: develop a Landscaping Plan and Interior Spaces Plan

8.2 Youth Report: Cheryl Mitchell

No Report.

8.3 Board of Trustees: Gary Alan Price

Roderick Allan MacDonald has issued a letter of resignation from the Trustees Committee.

Motion 3: Moved/seconded: that with verbal and Bulletin announcements on Sundays October 2 and 9, a Congregational Meeting be held on Sunday, October 16 following the 10:30 Worship Service to accept the resignation.

Carried

8.4 Exploring Possibilities: Julie Gray

1. Next Speaker Series presentation on Monday, October 3 at 7:00pm: *Tides of Change*, a presentation by Alastair Henry and Candas Whitlock about their experience living with First Nations people. Share their journey and increase your understanding and awareness about Canada's history and the First Nations people: their culture, their rights, and their challenges.
2. Sunday, October 23, Spiritual Nurture as we explore *Writing the Sacred* with author Ray McGinnis and Rev. Dave Exley
3. Monday, November 14 and 21, *Islam 101* with Shahin Pardhan.

8.5 Finance and Stewardship: Ann McEwan-Castellan

August YTD	Budget YTD	
250,906	240,758	Givings
140,858	90,454	reNEW Pledges, Memorial and additions gifts
43,795	44,187	Rental Income, Solar Panels and Interest Income
351,963	362,183	Expenses

Notes

Givings ahead of budget \$10K

reNEW ahead by \$50K due to new gifts not pledged, pledged gifts advanced and memorial gifts

\$100K prepayment on mortgage in June, YTD resulting in \$6,791 savings in interest expense

Thanksgiving mailout September 30.

8.6 Membership: Roland Haines**1. Update on Web Site Study**

As Council is aware, the Membership Committee has been studying our current web site and has sought input from external firms regarding what might be done. After considerable evaluation, it has been concluded that a complete revamping of our web site is not really required at this time. It has been decided that through the use of some simple adjustments, along with the addition of a few additional features, the web site can be made to serve Riverside's needs very well. A number of changes and adjustments were made at the end of June, and more will be forthcoming.

During the study, it also became very apparent, that one of the major concerns that needs to be addressed is to ensure that all material that is presented on the web site is kept up to date. That includes pictures, news items, sermons, scheduled events and special appeals. This cannot be done on an ad hoc basis, and a proper team needs to be established to look after the web site and its needs.

Action: Council authorized the Membership and Personnel Committee to develop a job description and obtain an individual to maintain the web site.

2. New Photo Directory

During the summer, an ad hoc group consisting of members of the Membership Committee, along with members of the staff, interviewed two firms which produce photo directories for churches. It was decided that the preferred vendor for Riverside should be Lifetouch Photos, which is the same firm that produced the last directory. This decision was taken to a meeting of the Membership Committee in August, where it was discussed and approved.

Bob Estey has agreed to head the working group for this initiative, and this project is already well underway.

8.7 Ministry and Personnel: David Sawyer

1. An individual has been selected to be the Nursery Coordinator.
2. The Ministry and Personnel Committee is looking for someone to be the day custodian.

8.8 Outreach and Social Action: Connie Zolotar

1. Appointment of Representative from Outreach to Council. A motion was made to appoint Connie Zolotar as the representative from the Outreach and Social Action Committee to Council effective immediately. This motion was seconded and approved.
2. Mission Sunday. Sunday October 16th, 2016 has been confirmed as the date for our Mission Sunday. John Langford has agreed to be our speaker that day. He will speak of his experiences working with the people living in the impoverished barrios of Managua, Nicaragua. We have had discussions with Rev. Dave about combining the two services for this day and having one service at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Dave is in the process of discussing this change with the 8:44 Service committee.
3. Fair Trade Coffee Sales. Fair Trade Coffee sales will resume on September 18th after both services.
4. Refugee Status. Birgit reported that our Syrian Refugee Family is doing really well. The children are enjoying school, and their English language skills are really improving. The one concern at the moment is the mother, who is unable to attend English classes due to lack of care for her infant. Birgit is going to make some phone calls to see if there are daycare facilities at any of the locations where English classes are offered.
5. Salvation Army Christmas Kettle. We received a request from the Salvation Army to assist them with their Christmas Kettle Campaign at the Canadian Tire Store on Hyde Park Road. The committee agreed that we will do this again this year. Brigitte will prepare a sign-up sheet for volunteers toward the end of November.
6. Christmas Catalogue. We will continue with Riverside's Christmas Catalogue this year; however, some changes are required. Each member of the Committee was given a copy of last year's catalogue to review and make recommendations for deletions and additions. These changes will be reviewed at October's meeting.
7. Soles for Souls. Brenda Benson volunteers at the Mission Store. She approached Outreach with a suggestion for a new initiative. The Mission Store is in serious need of men's shoes (except sandals) with winter approaching. The Committee agreed to proceed with this idea and set the date for donations at September 25th. Brenda will be a minute person on September 18th to announce this project to the congregation.
8. \$1,000.00 donation from CN for Refugee Fund. Connie Zolotar has been able to obtain a grant of \$1,000.00 which was being offered by CN to its employees and former employees for the purpose of assisting refugees. The Committee discussed how to use this money. It was suggested that the money be held until

such time the family which has been allocated to Lambeth United Church arrives in Canada. Riverside has partnered with Lambeth United in bringing this family to Canada. Council has previously approved this partnership

The Community Development Resource Team

1. Observer Discussion Group - continuing third Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 in the McKenzie Room.
2. Fall Programs – working with Third Age Outreach to create fall programming – perhaps a Creative Café or Mind Matters. Details to follow.
3. Ageless Grace Drop-in Exercise Classes continue every Monday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room. The majority of participants are from outside the congregation.
4. Sunday Lunch Bunch is a successful new initiative. At the first two restaurant outings there were 21 and 19 participants. Next gathering is Sunday, Oct. 30th immediately following 10:30 service, at the Hillside Restaurant.
5. Fundraising Idea - Presentation of a play, The Downs, written and acted by Londoner, Sheryl Scott. Need to discuss this with appropriate committee.

8.9 Presbytery: Jan Shamrock

Lay Congregational Leaders Boundaries Workshop

Please join London Conference Personnel Minister Dea. Michelle Owens for a Boundaries Workshop for Lay Congregational Leaders on Saturday October 15th, 9:30am - 12pm at Dundas St Centre United Church (DSCUC), located at 482 Dundas St (at Maitland).

A congregational complement to the Boundaries Training that is mandatory for clergy under the Sexual Abuse and Awareness policy of the United Church, this workshop will explore from a lay leader's perspective issues of power, relationships, harassment and healthy boundaries.

The workshop will be open to the Presbytery. Please register for this workshop by contacting Laura at DSCUC via phone or email (519-434-9173, outofthecold@golden.net) by Friday, October 7.

The workshop will be free to attend. Refreshments will be provided. Free parking is available east of the church in that Marvel/Pebec parking lot. Enter via the ramp entrance (which is accessible).

8.10 UCW: Stella Finkbeiner

1. The June Beef Dinner was a sold out event.
2. UCW was very busy in the early summer with several funeral receptions.
3. Over the summer, thanks to John Langford, the Friendship Room was painted. After VBC was finished, the carpets and furniture were cleaned and a new sofa purchased. The Paper Rollers kindly helped financially support this makeover.
4. We are involved in several events this fall. We are providing refreshments for the Probus meetings again this year. We have been asked to provide sandwiches and cake for the Riverside Men's Club 40th Anniversary in September. Apple pies

will be for sale again later in the Fall, and we will continue to provide lunch for the Middlesdex UCW Presbyterial until their regular meeting place at Vanneck is available.

5. We will be discussing the future of the library at RUC at the council meeting on September 21st.

8.11 8:44 Worship: Kim MacGowan

No Report

8.12 10:30 Worship: Sharanne MacDonald

1. A Hymn Sing was held Sunday evening, September 18.

9.00 Other Business

No other business

10.00 Benediction

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.

John Mitchell, Chair

Bob Estey, Secretary