

Council Meeting
First United Church
Tuesday March 26, 2019

Present

Burt Amiro, Chair, Susan Dixon Dyke, Lila MacLean, Janet White, Grant Langford, Reverend Valerie Kingsbury, Chris Bowman, Linda Bennett, Carolyn Dalrymple, Cathy Olsen, Alan MacLean, Eleanor Norrie, Karen MacCallum, Pat Roberts, Malcolm Macpherson and Lynn Macpherson.

Corresponding Members: Heather MacLeod and RV MacKay.

Regrets: Rob Dickson and John McElhiney.

Worship

Valerie spoke of cold water and hot coffee which was a metaphor for listening rather than talking. We can tell God's story more by listening than by talking. There is compassion and giving among other things in just listening. She asked us to be open to the spirit and in her closing prayer reminded us that we are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Welcome

The Chair, Burt Amiro in his debut as the Chair of Council, welcomed all present and advised that we had a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Janet White, seconded by Malcolm Macpherson that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

Corresponding Members

It was moved by Alan MacLean, seconded by Eleanor Norrie that corresponding members were welcome to participate in the discussions but could not vote on motions brought forth. Carried.

Minutes of January 29, 2019 Council Meeting

A question was raised by Cathy Olsen concerning the Pastoral Care Report. The item was removed from the minutes and on a motion by Lila MacLean, seconded by Alan MacLean the amended motion was approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

Correspondence

A letter from Brunswick Street United looking for support for one of their projects was presented. It was agreed to pass this on to the Outreach Committee.

Minister of Music

Chris Bowman advised that things were going well!

Reverend Valerie Kingsbury

She, too, indicated that things were going well even though she has many items on her plate. She noted that we are part of a wider church and outlined a phone call from a colleague. He was looking for support in the form of the confirmation of a theological candidate who is coming into the United Church from a Catholic background. Valerie's request was that she be permitted to confirm Brent Walker in church this coming Sunday. Malcolm Macpherson moved and Susan Dickson Dixon Dyke seconded that we approve Valerie's request. Carried.

Reverend Valerie advised that she will be attending a conference meeting in April.

Clerk's Report

There was no comment other than the Clerk noted that Valerie has performed 6 funerals since our last meeting just eight weeks ago.

Christian Life and Growth

Malcolm Macpherson advised that their last meeting of the committee was last Sunday. Some highlights are that there will be an 11 am service on Good Friday, a Sun Rise Service on Easter Sunday along with St David's United in Bible Hill and an Easter Sunday service at 10:30 am on April 21, 2019.

Council Executive Meeting

There was no discussion on this report but Alan MacLean noted that "We are so indebted to Rob Dickson who has worked so hard and well for the church"!!

Ministry and Personnel

Their last meeting was held on January 11th. They are working on performance evaluations and have two completed. Both were positive.

Music

There were no questions.

Nominating Committee

Eleanor Norrie moved the nomination of the new members outlined in the committee report; Kaleigh Kingsbury as Lay Rep to Regional Council, Shelley Power as Chair of Stewardship and Justin Berry as a member of the Stewardship Committee. This was seconded by Carolyn Dalrymple. Motion carried.

It was further moved by Eleanor, seconded by Janet White that Jennifer Jordan who has joined the Outreach and Social Action Committee and Greg Allan who has joined the Pastoral Care Committee be approved as members of these committees. They had been inadvertently left off the report to the Annual Meeting. Carried.

Eleanor also noted that Jennie Johnson has withdrawn from the Stewardship and CL&G Committees and Carolyn Ward has withdrawn from the Stewardship committee.

Outreach and Social Action

Janet White noted that she is not on the email list and has thus not been receiving reports etc. The next community meal will be held in April. The committee is also broken into three teams of two to look after preparing meals for the homeless shelter on Monday nights.

They are also looking at their role in the possible refugee family coming to the area in the near future.

Pastoral Care

Cathy advised that they are currently working on Pastoral Care visitations.

Property Committee

Carolyn Dalrymple reported for the Property Committee. She advised that the asbestos tiles in the basement were now gone and that the new linoleum has been almost completely laid down. She has been working on a grant for the sprinkler system and is fairly confident that we might get \$50,000 for this project.

She also reported that the heating system is running better with the latest repairs that have been carried out. Carolyn also advised that "Lots of research is underway on the heating system".

Treasurer

Susan Dixon Dyke has taken on the role of Treasurer and in her first report pointed out that last year was "Rosy" but that year to date we are seeing a monthly deficit of about \$15,000 based on current congregational givings, fund raising, envelopes and PAR. This may require a greater drawdown from the Trustees than budgeted. She noted that the greatest increase in givings has come from the hall usage. The report was based on the first two months of the year and included a two page handout providing a detailed view of various sources of income and expenditures.

Stewardship

Reverend Valerie advised that the committee will be looking at doing some fund raising activity on a regular basis. They are looking at skits etc.

Trustees

Alan MacLean reported on a recent meeting with the scouts regarding our support of their program. "It was an amiable meeting and was able to clarify a number of issues". Alan had high praise for the Scout leaders. He described it as "a good will meeting". The main change involved the allocation of money on an as need basis rather than on a transfer of funds on a yearly basis to cover the whole year's budget.

Alan has been in contact with the Hatcher family who have whole heartedly agreed that we use the W. Chalmers & Shirley Hatcher Fund to purchase the curtains for the hall stage. The value of this fund will more than cover the requirements for this project.

Alan also wanted to point out that while the value of capital money dropped significantly in 2018 it has rebounded totally in the past month of 2019. He reiterated the willingness of the Trustees to support the operating expenses of the church when required.

United Church Women (UCW)

Lila MacLean was pleased with the results of the pancake lunch and supper held early in March. While initially deciding to not hold the annual yard sale in May the UCW will proceed with this fundraiser. She was concerned about the setup of tables and chairs. Pat Roberts indicated that this has been discussed with Joy Hewitt who has indicated that she will be doing this work as part of her contract. It was suggested that there might be support for some of this work from volunteers.

Burt Amiro called for the approval of all reports. It was moved by Malcolm Macpherson, seconded by Pat Roberts that all reports be approved. Carried.

New Business

Alan MacLean advised that Interconnections now has 16 people involved in 8 week rotations of two people to support the work of THOS.

Next Council Meeting
June 25, 2019

Adjournment

On a motion by Susan Dixon Dyke the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Burt Amiro, Council Chair

Grant Langford, Clerk of Council