

Council Meeting
First United Church
Tuesday June 25, 2019

Present

Burt Amiro, Chair, Grant Langford, Rev. Valerie Kingsbury, Heather MacLeod, Ken Cameron, Malcolm Macpherson, Alan MacLean, Lila MacLean, Ruthie Hiltz, Cathy Olsen, Chris Bowman, Eleanor Norrie, Pat Roberts, Janet White, Krista McNutt, Carolyn Dalrymple, Grant Campbell and John McElhiney.

Regrets: Rob Dickson, Susan Dixon Dyke and Lynn Macpherson.

Welcome

Chair Burt Amiro welcomed all to the meeting and declared that there was a quorum.

Worship

Rev. Valerie read from a book by Jan Phillips in which she discussed attitudes for the 21st century. She indicates that children's choices are affected by adult decisions today. Blessed are those who provide the true lights of the world.

This reading reminded Valerie of some of the discussions held at the recent ASTE seminar sponsored by and held at First United church.

She also encouraged all to attend the gathering at the civic square on inclusion which is a counter to a right wing racist group that is touring the Maritimes promoting their ideology.

Approval of the Agenda

On a motion by Alan MacLean seconded by Malcolm Macpherson the agenda was approved as circulated.

Minutes of March 26, 2019 Council Meeting

On a motion by Lila MacLean seconded by Grant Campbell the minutes were approved as circulated.

Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

There were several items of correspondence including a note from the ASTE Committee thanking Valerie and Chris for all the things they did to make the conference a success and also to First United Church for sponsoring this gathering. There was a note from Tracy Boutilier thanking the Council for a gift card given as part of Administrator's Day. A letter from the Children's Wish Foundation was turned over to the Outreach Committee for consideration. A notice of development was received from the Town of Truro concerning the demolition of a house at 9 Louise Avenue. Interestingly, this residence was the home of long time active members of First United, Alice and Ralph Guy.

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Minister's Report

Things are going well for her. She will be on vacation from August 12 to September 12. She is also in the unique position of providing Pastoral Care for the other United Church ministers in the area.

Ministry of Music

Chris Bowman reported that the summer concert series has been organized and begins tomorrow, June 26, 2019. Bookings are being made for musical events at First United and they extend as far as next spring. He advised that you check space availability if you are planning an event or a meeting as the use of space is quickly being taken up by the many events taking place on a weekly and annual basis. To this end a calendar of events was provided to everyone present showing the schedule of activities and events taking place in our two buildings up to August 2020. The calendar of events is also on line.

Minister of Faith Formation

There were no comments on the report.

Christian Life and Growth

Committee Chair, Malcolm Macpherson, advised that the next meeting would be in September. The supply needs over the summer will be met with Rev. Roger Moore. They are considering biodegradable wine cups for communion even though they may be more expensive.

Communications and Archives

No comments

Executive Committee Report

No comments

Fellowship

Chair, Grant Campbell stated that the BBQ held last Sunday went well. It was well attended.

Ministry and Personnel

Pat Roberts presented the job descriptions for the positions of Cleaner and Caretaker. As there were no concerns with the descriptions Pat moved and Janet White seconded that they be approved. Carried.

Valerie will send out an email regarding the official duties of these two positions for clarification / communication with the congregation.

Alan MacLean asked if these job descriptions were posted on the web site. The answer was no. It was again reiterated that committees look after their own set up and tear down. The caretaker could be asked to help if he is available.

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Music

There were no comments on the report.

Nominating

Chair Eleanor Norrie moved that the following individuals be appointed to the various Council committees.

Heather MacLeod	Vice Chair
Carolyn Dalrymple	Property Committee
Barb Main	Music Committee
Ian Fraser	Finance Committee

The motion was seconded by Malcolm Macpherson. Carried.

Outreach and Social Action

Co-chair Ken Cameron advised that donations to the Mission and Service fund were on target to meet this year's budget. Co-chair Janet White advised that the next Community Dinner at St John's Anglican Church for which we will be responsible will be held Saturday November 23, 2019.

Rev. Valerie reminded the Council that "change for change" is now providing funding for 3 scholarships to attend school in Guatemala. The cost of each scholarship is \$400. Extra money above this amount will be applied to the operation of the school. This money has been redirected from Haiti as we no longer have the contacts that we had previously in that country. This was recently reported in a minute talk in church by Betty Darby.

Pastoral Care

Cathy Olsen reported on a successful Spring Social held for the plus 80 members of the congregation on Saturday June 8th.

Regional Council

John McElhiney attended a recent meeting of the regional Council at which a number of position clarifications were made. He indicated that none of the clarifications had an impact on the life of our church.

Property Committee

No comments on the report.

Carolyn Dalrymple corrected a misunderstanding on the replacement of the sprinkler system. The \$150,000 cost only applies to the church hall. The replacement of the system in the church is a separate cost but would be less than the hall replacement. No figure available at this time.

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Treasurer's Report

On behalf of Susan Dixon Dyke Carolyn Dalrymple advised that transfers from Trustees this year are up by 67% mainly due to higher fuel usage and costs related to the fire inspectors report calling for a number of improvements. She also advised that people must stop touching the thermostat settings. There is a plan to enclose the thermostat controls in a locked box.

Stewardship

The committee is planning a breakfast before church on Sunday September 29, 2019.

Trustees

Alan MacLean welcomed Charlotte to the Board of Trustees as its newest member. He also commented on the expertise of Carolyn Dalrymple in fundraising. She has obtained significant funds for the church on a number of projects, the latest in obtaining \$50,000 for the replacement of the sprinkler system. The significant cost for replacing the sprinkler system and the furnaces are being addressed by the Trustees. A potential bridge loan from the Trustees and a possible loan from the United Church of Canada are two of the considerations.

He also noted that the high percentage increase in money being requested for operation from the Trustees is partly due to the unusually low requests from last year. This year's requests are more in line with previous years.

Malcolm Macpherson noted that it is important that we do things like Valerie's recent letter to the congregation asking for funds for our sprinkler and furnace systems to help people say that "the church is worth a lot to us".

United Church Women

No comments on the report

Motion to Approve All Reports

A motion to approve all reports was made by Heather MacLeod seconded by Grant Campbell. Carried.

New Business

Rental Request: A request has been made by the Liberals to rent church facilities. It was initially felt that we would have to extend this privilege to all parties so as to show no biases on our part. After some discussion and the question of how we handle a request from a party that has views contrary to our beliefs was raised, it was felt that we should not rent our facilities to any political party.

It was moved by Malcolm Macpherson seconded by Cathy Olsen that we do not rent our facilities to any political party in order to maintain our policy of being apolitical. Carried.

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Church Usage Agreement: The agreement prepared by the Property Committee was presented and the Chair noted that Rob Dickson requested that the requirement for insurance be raised from \$500,000 to 1 million dollars. There was a general feeling that this would not be an onerous stipulation. It was moved by Alan MacLean seconded by Krista McNutt that the agreement be approved with the increase in Insurance requested by Rob Dickson. Carried.

Lila MacLean raised the question of whether or not we have a policy regarding gambling and the use of alcohol. Rev. Valerie advised that we do have a written policy against these two items and it is strictly applied.

Finance Committee

Alan MacLean moved and Eleanor Norrie seconded that the Finance Committees duties as outlined by them be approved. Carried.

Electronic Doors: There was a general discussion concerning the use of the two main hall entrance doors. Some of the issues concerning the door leading into the parlour have been resolved but the electronic assist on the main door near Tracy's office is not functioning. The door is too heavy to be opened by some people and particularly young children. It was agreed that this needs to be fixed and the expected cost is in the order of \$3000. It was noted that some 400 people use this door each week. Malcolm Macpherson moved and Pat Roberts seconded that this be sent to the Property Committee marked urgent. Carried.

Keys: Chris Bowman noted that there is a set of keys kept in the audio booth that covers both buildings in case of emergency. If they are used be sure and put them back.

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting is set for September 24, 2019 at 7 pm.

Adjournment

On a motion by Lila MacLean the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Benediction

The benediction was provided by Rev. Valerie.

Burt Amiro, Council Chair

Grant Langford, Council Clerk