

Whitehorse United Church Council Meeting

Tues. Feb 21, 2023 at 7 pm at Whitehorse United Church

In Attendance: Sheila Maissan, Ruth Stebbing, Ian MacDonald, Ellen MacDonald, Harris Cox, Rev. Bev Brazier, Rachel Grantham (via Zoom), Jan Mann (finance committee)

Regrets: Linda Talbot, Derek Yap,

Welcome: Sheila opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Opening Prayer: Bev opened with prayer.

Approval the Agenda M/S/C (Bev, Ellen) to accept the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes

Jan 17, 2023 - Council Meeting M/S/C (Harris, Ellen) to accept the minutes as amended.

Jan 15, 2023 – Joint Council – Finance Meeting M/S/C (Jan, Harris) to accept the minutes.

Email vote on Camp Spirit application to Wahl Training Fund – was approved.

Update on Activities – repeat what was in the minutes.

- Refugee appeal for the Kidane family. “We are at \$11,650 with a target of \$20,000. BTW, we put out a call to Riverdale Baptist Church. We provided about \$8,000 and furniture when they sponsored a Syrian refugee. “*Stu Clark*
- Update on sanctuary renovations. Four weeks worshipping downstairs, now back upstairs. Flooring not finished, piano on order – arrive 2nd or 3rd week of March. Sound system issues on broadcast despite much work.
- Annual Financial Meeting on Zoom Feb 12, 2023, went well. as well as approving the financial statements and budget, WUC approved becoming an officially Affirming Congregation. We appointed Tim Keopke as Secretary of the Congregation.
- Energy upgrade work now delayed until April – vital parts back delayed, back-ordered.

Updates and Reports

- Minister search committee – see update – make an announcement for people to contact personal contacts (ministers) that we may know. Sheila will pull together some photos and videos for the team.
- Web Site - awaiting Alison’s (developer) return to bring site online.
- Administrator search – coverage is being handled while Allanna is away. Bulletin order has finally been put in. Jan is doing the statistical report. Annual report will be due in summer, Sheila has offered to coordinate.
- Property Committee report – no current issues for Council
- M&P – report

- Minister's report – questions – RCMP – wants Bev to remain as Chaplin – Council has no issue with this situation as it is Bev's choice. She wants to complete the training for people to handle funerals and memorial services. Swan Haven –Carrie McClagar wants this to be Inter-faith so is meeting with Bev to make plans.

Christian Growth Coordinator – an hourly calculation and job description were presented to Council.

Concern was raised that the scope of the Position paper is beyond the ability of the money and the 100 hours that was allocated. They need to return to the volunteer coordinator role that was initially proposed. Sheila will have a discussion with the Christian Growth committee. This coordinator would be contract position.

Volunteer Honoraria – request from Finance to make a policy. There was good discussion on this item to get clarity on why a specific volunteer would be recognized in a different way than other volunteers. A specific skill set, the necessity to be in attendance all the time, jobs that became bigger than initially proposed and the job becomes too consuming. Possibly look to another church or regional office to see if there are any examples. Bev suggests that we look to "What is God calling us to be at this time and place". Align our expectations with the realities of a shrinking volunteer force. Jan has seen budget line items in other organizations called "Gifts and Thank yous" - for volunteers that go above and beyond – they get a gift or cash card and there is a maximum limit. Bev wants this to be theologically framed. Council will be able to decide when this would be applied. All volunteers are valued. A statement needs to be written – Jan and Ruth will work on policy statement.

Special Event Givings envelopes – envelopes have been ordered. Easter, Thanksgiving, Anniversary and Christmas. Jan offered several options and it was decided to hand it out the week before Easter, included in the bulletin and have some available on the actual day. This would allow people to be prepared for the extra offering at Easter.

Reconciliation Fund Terms of reference –Ian will check the previous Council minutes for decisions that were made. Finance will take direction from Council on payment of any monies from the fund.

Braeburn – United Church has the camp July 30 – Aug 6th. We could ask for someone to possibly look to some programming.

Motion to Adjourn – M/S/C (Sheila, Harris) to adjourn.

Tabled items.

Bev – Retirement celebrations

Wahl fund and Special Gifts – organization

Closing Prayer – Bev closed the meeting with a prayer.