

**Whitehorse United Church Council Meeting
Minutes**

January 25, 2022, Held via Zoom

Present: Ellen MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Bev Brazier, Linda Talbot, Richard Price, Shannon Meekins, Ruth Stebbing, Harris Cox, Rod Snow.

Regrets:

Call to Order and Opening Words: Called to order at 7:13 pm

Opening Prayer: Bev led us in prayer.

Approval of Agenda: M/S/C (Richard, Ellen) to approve the agenda as distributed.

Approval of the Minutes from December 14, 2022: M/S/C (Linda, Rut) that the minutes of Dec. 14. 2022 be approved as distributed.

Business arising from Previous Meeting:

- COVID Protocols – We are still at 25 maximum people in the sanctuary for worship. On the media report yesterday there were no changes that affected us.
- Website Updating – Ruth will send the link to Ian of the Canadian company that focusses on church web sites. Requested that Bev to put info in the newsletter for people that have suggestions on web site.
- Nomination Committee – Committee – Sheila Maissan, Heather MacFadgen, Emma Eaton, Sue Richards, Nancy Heinbigner and Wes Marsh . Council confirms these people as the M/S/C (Rod, Richard) that Council approves the names for the Search Committee.

A meeting has already been set with Victoria Andrews – Regional Minister for Pacific Mountain Region.

- Youth and Family Minister - Ian will discuss with Victoria about how this could work out. Ian will also discuss with the Wahl Fund on how it could possibly fund this position.

New Business:

- Special Gifts Fund Decision Making – Richard

M/S/C (Richard, Ruth) "That the Irma Gordon Legacy Fund committee make recommendations to Council for any future funding decisions in 2022 and beyond, and that Council, for its part, endeavour to respond quickly to those recommendations".

We need to determine the next step to respond to Finance Council recommendation for consolidating the legacy funds etc.

- Irma Gordon Legacy Fund
 - recognizing Special Gifts – how do we do this. Bev brought up “What is a Special Gift” – suggestion – every week it was acknowledged the bulletin – usually “in Memoriam Gifts”.
 - Discussion – Ian will discuss Carole Williams about what the Special Gifts group would suggest for acknowledgement of gifts.
- Joint Meeting with Finance – minutes were circulated to Council and Finance Committee.

- Annual Financial Meeting
 - 100 participants max on Zoom. It was suggested that we send the link out to the Newsletter list. Concern was raised about “bombing” of meeting if there is wide spread publication of the link. Bev will confirm with Jennifer Moorlag on how best to handle the situation.
 - Brenda Dedon will Chair the meeting, and Sheila Maissan will be the secretary.
- Stewardship Committee
 - March Workshop - Ian has circulated the link to some training from the UC. Bev was asked to contact the Nominating Committee to find some people to serve on the Stewardship Committee.

Committee Reports

- Finance committee – report received

M/S/C (Linda, Rod) That the Treasurer be authorized to purchase a one-year redeemable GIC in the amount of \$40,000 in the name of Whitehorse United Church.

M/S/C (Linda, Rod) That the Treasurer be authorized to request the establishment of a new Special Gifts Fund with Canoe Financial.

M/S/C (Linda, Ellen) That the Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$50,290 from the operating account to the new Special Gifts Fund .

Question was raised about how the Governance of these funds - Rod will spend some time to consult with people on the issue of who decides the investment and who disperses the funds. Suggest that the Terms of Reference of the Irma Gordon Fund is a good start.

- Worship Committee – report received – Valentine’s Day Concert is planned with songs and readings about Love. It is totally recorded and will be available on FaceBook Live and You Tube.
- Property Committee – report received –
- Visioning Committee – report received – They did get funding from the Utilization fund and have hired Joan Stanton to do the work.
- Minister’s Report – report received

Minister’s Report – Bev has been doing memorial service acknowledgements in our sanctuary when people can’t get to a service due to COVID restrictions. She is also being involved in graveside services for people with no families. Bev will officially announce her retirement for June 2023. Dr. Linda Marcotte from Yellowknife who is an Interim minister and Bev will swap for August/22. Bev is asking for priorities for the next 18 months towards her retirement. She would like to offer Worship leadership training and Confirmation classes. Richard requested that Bev find out from the National and Regional churches for expertise with Visioning.

Pastoral Care Concerns – Opioid crisis. How do we as a church reach out and let people know that we are there for support? Bev has been called to accompany people when they have to identify family members. Possibly we could open the sanctuary at a set time during the week. Bev will consider this and bring it

back to the Council. Bev was asked about her own “mental health” while she is dealing with all of these concerns and she is good and still energized.

Membership Role Changes – no changes

Correspondence – no formal correspondence.

Closing Prayer: Bev led us in prayer.

Meeting Adjourned – adjourned

Next Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday February 15, 2022.

Chair of Council - Ian MacDonald

Secretary – Ruth Stebbing