

## Minutes of Whitehorse United Church Council Meeting June 28, 2022

**Present:** Ellen MacDonald, Bev Brazier, Richard Price, Rod Snow, Derek Yap, Rachel Grantham, Sheila Maissan

**Apologies:** Linda Talbot, Ruth Stebbing, Shannon Meekins, Harris Cox, Ian MacDonald (was briefly present).

**Call to Order and Opening Words:** Called to order at 7:10 pm by Rod Snow, acting chair. No quorum is present. Agreed to continue the meeting, asking the new Council to ratify all decisions at the next meeting. Sheila to take notes.

**Opening Prayer:** Bev

**Approval of Agenda:** (Richard, Ellen) to approve the agenda as distributed with the addition of a verbal report from Visioning Committee. Carried.

**Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting:** (Ellen, Richard) that the minutes of May 17, 2022 meeting be approved as distributed. Correction under Covid Protocols: change Ministry of Health to Department of Health and Social Security. Carried.

### **Business arising from Previous Meeting:**

1. COVID Protocols. No changes. Masks remain optional, are offered.
2. Website update. Contract signed but no work expected until September.
3. Special Gifts discussion. Make new business for next meeting. Rod not available to lead until October. His memo was very helpful.

### **New Business:**

1. **New Chair of Council.** Sheila Maissan was nominated and is willing. No other nominations. Acclaimed.
2. **New Secretary of Council.** Ruth Stebbing was nominated if she is willing to serve. Bev to contact her.
3. **Transfer of membership.** Jennifer Moorlag requests her membership be transferred to St. Paul's United Church, New Liskeard, Ontario. Motion that this be approved (Richard, Rachel). Carried.
4. **New council team building.** Bev suggests a morning or afternoon of team building and reviewing Council's mandate, possibly at Braeburn. Difficulty finding dates that work for everyone. Discuss further.
5. **Steve Bell event** exploring endings and beginnings. Steve Bell is a well known singer and pastor. Evenings of August 26 and 27. We will try to attract our congregation's leaders especially. Personal invitations? Phone calls? Advertising. Invite other churches also.

6. **Ian MacDonald** was thanked and lauded for his hard work and leadership as Chair of Council during very difficult Covid times. Applause.
7. **Rev. Linda Marcotte visit.** Three week exchange with Bev as pulpit supply July 24, 31, Aug 7, emergency pastoral care.  
Linda's partner Ari, accompanying her here, is a concert pianist, and has offered to play a concert here. Fund raiser for Ukraine? Discussion. Lovely idea but short notice. Music camp during his stay too. House concert? Simple concert here? With Barry? Program is key.  
Bev to email Linda cc Rachel, Barry asking for direct contact info for Ari to discuss possibilities. Rachel to consider options.  
Arriving July 20. Rachel will pick them up, deliver to Bev's house. July 21 at 10.30 she will lead a Thomson Centre service.  
Bev to ask congregation for tour guides, someone to introduce them at Thomson Centre. (Sheila unavailable July 19 – 30).
8. **Induction of council.** In fall. Consider next meeting.
9. **Church secretary.** Allanna Wiebe working reduced hours until September. M&P working on hiring a permanent administrator.

#### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Finance Committee** – report received, nothing to add
2. **Worship Committee** – report received. Series of five minute videos taken by MAD teen Chris last summer finally ready. Sheila to upload them to private youtube, share the link with council. Council to decide next meeting how / when to use them. Suggestions – link to new website; add to end of Sunday services.
3. **Property Committee** – report received. John Maissan does an amazing job of sourcing funding for our renovations. Vote of thanks!
4. **Ministry and Personnel** – report received, nothing to add
5. **Visioning Committee** - oral report by Richard. Good feedback from AGM. Appears to be general support for enlarging the platform. Joan Stanton arranging quotes for the cost. Scope of work, access ramp etc all under review. Pews v. chairs combinations less universal agreement. Storage of unused chairs an issue – sanctuary corner seems the only place. Decision will come back to the congregation at a special meeting in fall.
6. **WUC in the World** – oral report by Rod. A group read aloud the Truth and Reconciliation Committee calls to action on the church lawn on June 21. One call was for a permanent memorial in each capital city. WUC in the World preparing a letter to YG asking for an update on its actions. Council to review it next meeting.

**Minister's Report:** - report received. Also:

- Rev. Michelle Porco (Riverdale Baptist) has a baby daughter. Bev asked permission to deliver a baby shawl from WUC. Agreed.
- Bev suggest a change in WUC online, signage, letterhead, advertising, etc. Newcomers have no idea who UCC is. We should promote that WUC is part of UCC, a union of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches since 1925. Agreed.
- Regional Council to meet at WUC in late October. Will stay in a hotel. Details coming.
- Suggests we host a “welcome to the neighbourhood” simple hot dog barbecue for new Challenge building (40 units we think). Discussion. Invite local condo owners too? How to contact them? Agreed in principle. Will take organising. Sunday after church with our own congregation. Aug 20. Bev to check with Joy. Bev to check with Finance Committee. Numbers showing up completely unpredictable.
- Carolyn Westberg and Bev already thinking of Christmas Eve pageant. Theme just breathe. Breath – wind - spirit – inspiration.
- Richard and Rod were thanked for their work on Council. Applause.

**Pastoral Care Concerns:** many are struggling.

**Membership Role Changes:** Ellen, Ian doing the paperwork. Rowan Lang, Sofia Lang, Tomas Organ, Brook Hill added.

**Correspondence:** none

**Bev:** doing OK, many funerals lately, tired. Yellowknife exchange will be a part holiday. Agreed she needs to take care of herself. But laments she has only 51 Sundays left to preach.

**Closing Prayer:** Bev

**Meeting adjourned:** 8.30 pm

**Next Council Meeting: by Zoom Tuesday July 19 at 7 pm.** Bev will join from Yellowknife. Keep to essential items: ratify all decisions; plan new council team building; plan Steve Bell event: plan welcome BBQ; plan Linda and Ari visit, possible concert; review WUC in the World letter to YG.