

Whitehorse United Church Council Meeting
Minutes
Nov 16, 2021, Held via Zoom

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

Regrets:

Guests: Heather MacFadgen joined the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Call to Order and Opening Words: Called to order at 7.28 pm

Opening Prayer: Bev led us in prayer.

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

Approval of the Minutes from Oct 19, 2021: M/S/C (Rod, Richard) that the minutes of Oct 19, 2021, be approved with the addition to the amendment of the 2nd motion in the Sept 21, 2021, minutes to add " Bev stated at the meeting that she will not accept gifts for performing marriages because she sees this as part of her job".

Business arising from Previous Meeting:

- COVID Protocols – this will be an ongoing agenda item. The Whitehorse Ministerial group which does not include WUC has sent a petition to the Government that churches be considered “essential services”. Bev was asked to sign, but she refused as it does not reflect our views on this matter. Bev, with the backing of Council will write a letter to the Premier stating that the Ministerial does not represent Whitehorse United Church.

Cookie Walk –Ian will send a note to Chya Bergman and Agnes Reidiger asking them for an operational COVID plan by next week.

Ian will draft a notice for our renters outlining the Church’s COVID protocols for information and that they are expected to follow the Government rules. Cathy, office administrator, will distribute this notice.

Richard requested an exception to the Church’s rules (no in-person meetings) for the Visioning Committee who wishes to meet in the sanctuary, as they are discussing changes to it. They have 9 people in the group and will follow our protocols.

- Website Updating – Ruth will move forward and put together a request to Council / Finance for a budget to have a consultant to work on a proposal.
- Irma Gordon Fund
 - Banners – This has been approved.
- Nomination Committee – Past Chair of Council (Joan Stanton), Chair of Congregation (Brenda Dedon), and a Rep from Christian Growth have agreed to be on the nominations committee. Bev is working with Christian Growth to get a representative. We are looking for people for Council, and the Pastoral Relations (search) committee.

Old Business:

- Edit Minutes of Sept. 19/21 – this was reflected in the acceptance of the Oct 19 minutes previously.

New Business:

- Youth and Family Minister – Ruth presented the suggestion to the Council. Tabled until next meeting to get more information on the process with the Irma Gordon Fund.

Committee Reports

- Finance committee – report received
 - Budget 2022 – still needs tweaking but currently looking at \$30 – 35K deficit.
 - asking for a joint meeting with Council in Jan before the Feb AFM . This was a successful experience last year.
 - suggestion raised that a letter from Council Chair and Finance write a letter to the congregation similar to last year. Rod will see if Joan Stanton has a copy of the previous letter.
- WUC in the World – no report
 - Heather joined us for discussion about a \$10K request for Reconciliation work. Would like to set up a Reconciliation fund. Potentially that this could be ongoing budget item. A discussion was had around the best way forward. Council is in agreement that a request to the Irma Gordon fund be made and we ask Finance to have a budget item for reconciliation activities. The congregation could make donations directly to this fund.
 - *M/S/C (Rod, Richard) that Finance add a line item for Reconciliation activities and that individuals can donate to that specific item.*
- Visioning Committee – report received
- Ministry and Personnel Committee –no report
 - Search Committee
 - email from Victoria Andrews outlining the process.
 - Document – PR Guidelines – Ian recommended that Council be very familiar with this document.
- Worship Committee –report received
 - Advent Schedule
- Christian Growth - no report
- Property – report received
 - Energy Plan – John Maissan has found funding outside of the Congregational funds. He is asking if Council is open to proceeding with the plan.
 - *M/S/C (Ellen, Richard) that Council endorse John’s plan and encourage him to go forward with funding arrangements.*
- Pastoral Care – no report
- Community Life - no report

Minister’s Report: - report received.

Spiritual Care Concerns:

- Financial contribution for Whitehorse General Hospital staff gifts. There is ministerial support to the Hospital. Money is given every year for gift
 - *M/S/C (Richard, Ellen) that WUC donate \$100 to the Spiritual care group at the Hospital.*

Pastoral Care Concerns: There were none that could be discussed.

Membership Roll Changes: Ian and Ellen reviewed the roll and updated it.

Correspondence: no correspondence.

Closing Prayer: Bev led us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned: *M/C (Richard) that the meeting be adjourned.*

Next Regular Council Meeting: Dec 14/21 at 7:30 pm.

Chair of Council - Ian Macdonald

Secretary – Ruth Stebbing