

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
AGM MINUTES
Mar 1, 2020
Lower Gym

The meeting began at 12 noon.

1. **Opening** – Rev. James Ravenscroft

James included statements of gratitude that had been generated by members of the congregation during worship over several weeks

Land Acknowledgement – by all

Covenant for Richmond Hill United Church - statement read out table by table

2. **In Memoriam** – Rev James Ravenscroft

A power point presentation with images helped us remember those from our RHUC family who died in 2019.

3. **Enabling motions** - James

a) Voting privileges for adherents

That adherents be recognized as eligible voters on all business properly brought before the meeting, and as permitted by the Manual.

M/S Brandon Moore /David Leyton-Brown

Carried

b) Election of Chair/Secretary/Parliamentarian

That Jane Wedlock be appointed Chair, Carolyn Balant be appointed Secretary (and Nancy Hart – when Carolyn is presenting), and David Leyton-Brown be appointed Parliamentarian of the meeting.

M/S DJ McCready/Susan Baker

Carried

4. **Approval of the Agenda** (Jane Wedlock assumed the role of Chair)

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

M/S Carol Moore/Paula Windsor

Carried

5. **Approval of the Minutes of AGM March 3, 2019**

Approval of Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting March 3, 2019

6. Annual Report 2019

a) Treasurer's Report (Presentation) – DJ McCready

There was no Finance chair in 2019, however Jane Ridout provided major support to the Treasurer who acknowledged members of the committee; Diane McLeod, Don Thompson, Gord Saul and Bill Warrick. The 2019 financial statements were presented.

A question was asked about rental of the Manse. A new tenant will be coming to the Manse - Home on the Hill.

Another question was asked about the surplus, does it factor in rent? Rental income is higher than original projections.

MOTION

That the Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2019 is accepted as circulated.

M/S DJ McCready /Donna Smith

Carried

b) Ministry and Personnel Report – David Leyton-Brown

A systematic process to review staff was put in place. Input was requested and received. Annual reviews will be done next September. Compensation and job descriptions were updated, including James to reflect leadership related to our Mission Action Plan.

c) Minister's Report – James Ravenscroft

James reflected on the importance of remembering our past to inform the future. The importance of community support, networking, nurturing relationships with new groups such as newcomers, reminds us of our Methodist roots. The need to be connected, building relationships with the wider community, like the circuit riders of old. The Sanctuary was built large enough for everyone in the community, not just the members, focused on those overlooked or discarded. The spirit of ancestors should be our guide to the future.

Welcome to RHUC - Acknowledgement of new members.

d) Mission Action Plan Update – Carolyn Balant

i) Mission Action Business Plan (PPT Presentation)

(Discussion recorded by Nancy Hart)

Mission Action Business Plan Committee – Jane Wedlock, Carolyn Balant, Bill Warrick, Wendy Thomson, Don Thomson, Jane Ridout, James Ravenscroft, and Nancy Hart working with Mylène Vincent and Christine Pacini (SHS Consulting).

Carolyn Balant presented the report from the MABP committee regarding proposed next steps

Motion:

That Richmond Hill United Church approve moving forward with a long-term plan

to:

- ***demolish and redevelop the CD Building to the congregation's vision, and***
- ***launch a process to secure and enter into financial and development partnerships by the end of 2020.***

Discussion:

- Expression of Interest (EOI) to be sent out to begin the process of creating partnerships
- Essential that the Core Values and Criteria (as outlined in presentation) be held in mind during process
- Adapting the sanctuary for additional use as a place for Performing Arts – Michael Grit (RHCPA) is supportive of having the sanctuary as a complementary venue in the village core. RHUC is a smaller venue which could host events that are not appropriate for the RHCPA
- Re short-term direction of CD building – still want the people who rent/share space to have welcoming environment; spaces may need painting, floor sanding; we need to retain current partnerships/rentals and to be good space for RHUC activities
- Re timeline – as in the motion, this year will focus on looking for partners, get municipal approvals; would be at least 3 years before hit the ground; takes at least 18 months for demotion and rebuild
- Re request for financials – no plan or full understanding of financial implications until, through the Expression of Interest, financial and/or develop partners are found; hope that next year we will have a full capital plan
- Re financial commitment that comes with this motion – RHUC's Finance committee did a projection 5 years ago; if we do nothing we have 3-4 years in the church therefore we need partners without the church alone needing to be responsible – short term costs include completion of a full appraisal of land and property, a site survey, and environmental survey; the cost estimated less than \$100,000

- Re how this plan is different from EDGE process – at the time they looked at a narrower field and now the city has scrapped the secondary plan that was in place at the time
- Re City of Richmond Hill – is just starting to update the secondary plan for the Village Core. RHUC needs to participate in upcoming meetings related to the development of the new secondary plan.
- Re clarify development partnerships, what is their vested interest? – In the Expression of Interest we clarify what we need; there is an open-call to help us understand what possible partnerships are out there; discussion of what debt there may be to the developer; we need to know disposition; all property remains UCC property
- Re CD building – appetite wasn't there to sell or divest the building; we could involve property management of the building; we could possibly sell air space to developers; no divestiture of land currently owned; the congregation will be invited to discuss future steps along the journey.
- We have limited financial resources, but we have this equity – we need other partners involved, and we need to understand our net worth.
- Re how this process may take energy away from our core mission – we have had circle meetings, have engaged with neighbourhood and we need to make decisions; we don't have the option NOT to do this; our mission opens up possibilities; we want people to be involved in RHUC's ministries that are beyond the ministry that takes place in the sanctuary
- Re accessibility – if it wasn't such a big issue we may have gone in another direction; there was no way to create one single elevator; key outcome is accessibility

MOTION – *That Richmond Hill United Church approve moving forward with a long-term plan to:*

- *Demolish and re-develop the CD building to the congregation's vision and*
- *Launch a process to secure and enter into financial and development partnerships by the end of 2020*

M/S Carolyn Balant /Peg Hiscoke

Carried

MOTION PASSED – 1 opposed

ii Re-branding of CD building – James Ravenscroft

The name, Christian Development, is a barrier to partnerships, as church is a barrier to some groups, who have been harmed by churches. A list of names was put forward and voted on. Four names made the finals and were discussed. A focus group eliminated Yonge from the names. A Graphic designer reviewed and

the recommendation is *Village Commons*.

Commons is a piece of land, or spaces that are shared.
Commons also refers to rights to use lands.

iii) Review of Governance (*Brandon Moore/David Leyton-Brown*)

At last year's AGM, we embarked on a trial of new governance model. In the past year, we have not been able to populate entire model, as described in governance document but that would have been the case even with the old model.

Communication needs to be more visible with this model. There is the need for volunteer management. The new Operations team has been very successful.

The failure to populate the entire structure is not a problem of the structure but the need for volunteers. The positions not filled are from the old structure as well as the new. It is recommended that we continue for another year.

The alternative to the new structure is the old structure with 12 vacancies.

MOTION: Having incorporated modifications in light of the experience of the first trial year, we agree to commit to another 12 months to further live into the new governance model.

M/S David Leyton-Brown/Brandon Moore

Carried

8. Climate Action Plan – (Presentation) – Jane Wedlock /Esther Collier

Preamble: last year's proposal for a geo-exchange system is on hold due to the focus on overall plans for our facilities. There is still a commitment to environmental sustainability.

MOTION – Esther

In light of the urgent need for international, national, provincial and local climate action in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

Richmond Hill United Church's mission that calls us to:

“struggle to understand the needs of our local community and to respond in appropriate and significant ways” and to:

“share ministry with Canada's people and people of the world”.

Be it resolved that:

The congregation of RHUC approve the establishment of a Climate Action Plan that will:

- a) *Through the adaptation and potential redevelopment of the CD building and our commitment to be a Centre for Community which has as a Core Pillar Energy Efficiency/Net Zero Target factoring in related cost premium, strive to reduce emissions from the church facilities from 2010 levels by 80% by 2030 and in such a way to reach a net zero level of emissions by 2050.*
- b) *Celebrate and support Climate Action Planning in the Community, ensuring that we meet or surpass the requirements from the City of Richmond Hill.*
- c) *Commit as a congregation to supporting and encouraging individuals and families to learn about, participate in and incorporate into their daily lives, Climate Action initiatives that will help meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.*

M/S Esther Collier/Paula Windsor

Carried

To make this happen, people at each table were asked to form groups of 3 (people or families) and send names to Esther. It is suggested that they have regular meetings and discuss categories to review such as home, travel, etc. They are asked to report back to Esther so that she can show the progress, update in a visual in Centennial Hall. Any questions are to be sent to Esther and will be reviewed at Lunch Plus sessions.

People were also asked to advocate for change such as join community groups or participate in carpooling. A neighbourhood map was on the table.

Summary

- 1) Create or join a group
- 2) Send in details to Esther
- 3) Sign up for carpooling

9. 2020 Budget (Presentation – DJ McCready)

The preliminary budget was sent to Board in December. The Final budget is presented here at the AGM.

Contributions are expected to decline due to those who have left or moved.

The new Manse rental should proceed in April.

Bequests have been a significant factor that helped us to pay back our designated funds. It is requested that members consider future planning or bequests.

Additional M and P costs are a result of cost of living increase, additional hours for the office administrator (rather than overtime) and the hire of a part-time evening caretaker to free up Dan to do maintenance.

We are not going into designated funds yet but will in 24 months if nothing changes.

MOTION – Move that the congregation approved the budget for RHUC as presented in the Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2020

M/S DJ McCready/ Harry Ramsaran ***Carried***

Mission and Service (M&S)

MOTION -- ‘Move that the congregation approve the 2020 budget for Richmond Hill United Church contributions to the Mission & Service fund of \$33,500

M/S Donna Smith/DJ McCready ***Carried***

10. Nominations – slate of officers (Handout)

A number of key positions remain vacant.

An invitation was made, but no nominations were received from the floor
People were invited to discern on their own time whether they feel called into a position of leadership

MOTION to approve slate of officers presented

M/S Donna Smith/Nancy Hart ***Carried***

Acknowledgement and thanks - those stepping down

- Brandon Moore (Past Chair), DJ McCready (Treasurer), Lyn May (Outreach)

11. Trustees

MOTION – MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

To accept the resignation of Lyn Townsend and nomination of Jane Ridout as Trustee

M/S Brandon Moore/Paula Windsor ***Carried***

12. Acknowledgements – Nancy Hart

a. Staff

Acknowledgement and thanks to James, Barry, Deb, Dan and Paulette

b. To all who set up for the meeting, prepared refreshments - Thank you!!

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn.

M/S David Leyton-Brown/Donna Smith

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:25

Jane Wedlock, Chair

Carolyn Balant, Secretary