

RHUC Board Meeting
November 10, 2021 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Attendees: Jane Wedlock (Chair), Kathleen Crosbie, June Blanchette, DJ McCready, Tracy Wixon, Dianne McLeod, Jane Ridout, Ian Wilgus, Rev. Ruth Noble, Doug Loweth, Harry Ramsaran, Elsa Crowley, Vince Conville

Regrets: David Leyton-Brown

1. Jane W. welcomed Board members who attended through zoom and those who came to the chapel. Elsa Crowley and Vince Conville were invited to inform the Board of their work with the Racism Awareness Working Group and were warmly welcomed.
2. DJ provided the Land Acknowledgement.
3. June Blanchette shared a Remembrance Day message of peace and hope.
4. The agenda was approved by consensus.
5. Minutes
 - a. Board Meeting minutes of October 13, 2021 minutes were approved by consensus
 - b. Board Meeting minutes of November 2, 2021 were approved by consensus
 - c. Operations Team minutes from Oct 7 and Nov 4, 2021 meetings were distributed to Board members.

The question of who is going take on the responsibilities that need to be acted upon (eg. training, supervision) for the health and safety policy to be implemented now that it has been developed and approved was raised.

ACTION: Jane W to follow up with Doug Loweth

 - i. Transition Team update: All is working smoothly.
6. Racism Awareness Working Group

Elsa and Vince provided an overview of the working group. The group of racialized members of the congregation were invited to come together early in 2021 and has been meeting regularly with Leadership was provided by James and Julia Ye. In March 2021 the group invited Doug Loweth and Jane W to their meetings. All agreed it was important that the Board be aware of the recommendations coming from the group and consider necessary actions

 1. The working group would like to see more visual symbolism of racial diversity around the church and during worship to make it more welcoming in the same way that we are explicitly welcoming to the LGBTQ2S community
 2. Consider how we might create opportunity to deepen our relationships across difference
 3. They are also asking what implications for policies at RHUC might be.
 4. Suggestion that resources to support this work are available through Rev. Kim Uyede Kai, staff with regional council who provides support to communities of faith re Anti-Racism and Intercultural church.

A comment was made that the Affirming Ministry Statement adopted by RHUC

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<http://www.rhuc.org/affirming-ministry.html#vision> is more inclusive than may be understood and that the Vision Keepers should consider how this could come to life within the congregational setting.

ACTION: DJ to bring item to next Vision Keepers meeting

Elsa and Vince were thanked for bringing this information to the Board and we will continue in close conversation about what needs to happen.

Elsa Crowley and Vince Conville left the meeting.

7. UPRC Partnership

Motion to approve the request from UPRC to proceed with a feasibility study and to inform the congregation of current developments in our partnership with UPRC in RHUC Reflections.

M/S Jane Ridout and Dianne McLeod
Unanimous approval.

8. Stewardship – Generous Spirit

It was agreed that two mailings would be most appropriate. A preliminary stewardship letter will be sent in November and will include a pledge request. In January 2022 a follow up letter would be sent to encourage those who didn't pledge in 2021 to do so. The letters would need to build excitement about our mission and belonging to our vibrant community!

9. Forums

a Leadership and Congregational Development:

DJ expressed his view that the forum model is not effective in filling volunteer positions. It would be helpful to have a database of people's interests and skills to access when short term projects require volunteers. This needs to be considered in the broader context of Generous Spirit.

10. Federal Summer Jobs Program

Dan and Deb will be asked whether they would like help with any projects this summer knowing that supervision of any hire is required.

11. Correspondence

Canadian Mental Health Association – York Region and South Simcoe is the community lead on the engagement and development of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for Richmond Hill. This initiative is provincially mandated under the Police Services Act and York Region has responsibility for developing the plan. South Central Richmond Hill (including the Village Core) is one of 4 neighbourhoods in the region that must develop a plan. We have received a link to a questionnaire that would provide them with information to assist them in developing a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The poll is to be sent to the Board with an email (yes or no) response expected before it is distributed to the congregation.

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12. Minister's Report

Ruth was pleased to have the choir back on Sunday mornings and to have more people attending worship. The A/V system will be used on Saturday for Thomas McBey's son's baptism.

13. Search Team Update

The team continues to meet weekly. Doug read the most recent update that was provided to the congregation.

14. Shining Waters Region Update

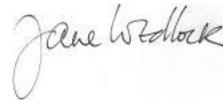
Harry reported that great effort is being put into supporting the community ministries at Jane & Finch and Davenport & Perth.

Motion to adjourn.

Next meeting: Wed. December 8, 2021 7:30pm (Zoom and Chapel)



Kathleen Crosbie
Recording Secretary



Jane Wedlock
Board Chair