

**RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**March 8, 2017**  
**RHUC Parlour**

**PRESENT:** Brandon Moore, Donna DeVita, Jane Ridout, Donna Byres, Donna Smith, Donna McErlain, Lynn Townsend, Jane Wedlock, Terry Davies, June Blanchette, Gillian Gibbons, Harry Ramsaran, Don Thomson, Sue Baker, David Leyton-Brown, Rev. James Ravenscroft.

**REGRETS:** Nancy Hart, D.J. McCreedy, Joan Verner, Sandra Loughton, Joanne Scofield, Kathleen Crosbie, Lyn May.

The secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum. Brandon Moore presiding and Donna DeVita recording, the meeting began at 7:30 pm. in accordance with the monthly schedule.

**DEVOTION**

Donna McErlain read a selection about Grace from Singing A Song of Faith.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**M/S** David Leyton-Brown/ Donna Smith that the agenda be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

**2. Minutes of February 8, 2017**

**M/S** Terry Davies/ Jane Wedlock that the minutes of February 08, 2017, be approved. **Carried**

**3. 7.a Missional Consulting Presentation**

Brandon Moore welcomed Karen Hilfman-Milson who is our Missional Consultant. Karen outlined the process she will undertake with the congregation. This involves a four step circle process: 1) Listening; 2) Conversation; 3) Discernment; and 4) Consensus. She will require a recorder (perhaps two or three) for the groups, a co-ordinator to ensure everyone has the option to be in Listening groups, hosts for the Listening groups and a small development and planning group. We hope to have the hosts and signup charts in place by Easter with the Listening and Conversation groups completed by June.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) Worship Committee Guest Speaker Working Group. A group has been formed to assist in finding and engaging guest preachers as needed. The members are: Lyn May, Harry Ramsaran, Wilhelm Bleek and Kathleen Crosbie.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Information was circulated about the Baillie Volunteer Service Award which is available through Toronto United Church Council.

#### **6. Committees and Working Groups Updates**

- a) Property: Brandon Moore has consulted with staff regarding pending issues. There is a leak in the CD Building. We must investigate whether this is covered by insurance. We need to have an evaluation by a contractor. Dan Plourde is also making a list of action issues.

- b) Lay Pastoral Visitors: Donna Byres raised a question about expired police checks.

**M/S** Donna Smith/Sue Baker that staff and volunteers whose police check has expired be asked to sign a statement annually that nothing in the previous year would necessitate a new police check and that RHUC will pay for police checks for new volunteers. Carried

- c) Outreach: Rev. James Ravenscroft has received a letter from a private refugee sponsorship group requesting that we would issue tax receipts to their donors. This was referred to D.J. McCready to investigate rules and implications. Jane Ridout volunteered to speak to D.J.

#### **7. Minister's Report**

Rev. Ravenscroft has been in contact with York Region Gay Pride Association regarding the change of venue for the annual parade. He has also met with David West, Councillor, and Ron Smith, the churches' representative to the BIA. Three Youths are in preparation for confirmation on May 14, Mother's Day. The communications working group is planning a meeting and are Brandon Moore, George Moon, Joanne Scofield, and Glen Warren. Recent weeks have been busy with funerals.

#### **8. New Business**

- a) Missional Consulting: see 3 above.  
 b) General Council 42 Remits: The results of congregational discussion at the AGM were reviewed.

Remit 1: **M/S** Terry Davies/David Leyton-Brown that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church agree that

- (a) the United Church be re-organized into the three-council model approved by the General Council 2015; and that

(b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change.

**Carried**

Remit 2: **M/S** Terry Davies/Donna Smith that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church agree that

(a) the process of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination the the General Council Transfer Committee; and that

(b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change.

**Carried**

Remit 3: **M/S** Terry Davies/Jane Wedlock that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church agree that

(a) a denominational office of vocation be established in the structure of the United Church, with responsibilities and structure as approved by the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council 2015:and that

(b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change.

**Carried**

Remit 4: **M/S** Terry Davies/David Leyton-Brown that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church agree to a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles:

- (1) use Mission and Service to fund ministry and mission activities;
- (2) fund governance and support services of other courts/ councils by assessing communities of faith/pastoral charges;
- (3) share assessments equitably across the whole church;
- (4) permit conferences/presbyteries/regional councils to use additional resources for regional purposes; and
- (5) encourage sharing of all resourses across the church.

**Carried**

c) Council Retreat: Brandon Moore asked for consensus on having the annual Council retreat in late September

d) Web Of Friends: Brandon Moore announced that Arlene Simms and Gary McCuaig will be stepping down in June.

## **AJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

## **Next Meeting of Council:**

The council will meeting will be April 12, 2017 at 7:30 pm In the Parlour at RHUC.

Devotion: Sue Baker  
Refreshments: Don Thompson/Nancy Hart  
Minute for Council: April UCW

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Brandon Moore, Chair

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Donna DeVita, Secretary