

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 13, 2017
RHUC Parlour

PRESENT: Brandon Moore, Nancy Hart, Kathleen Crosbie, Donna DeVita, D.J. McCready, Joan Verner, Lynn Townsend, Jane Ridout, Donna Byres, Donna McErlain, Gillian Gibbons, Lyn May, Peter DeVita, Donna Smith, Sue Baker, Joanne Scofield, Jane Wedlock, Terry Davies, David Leyton-Brown, June Blanchette, Rev. James Ravenscroft, Wendy Thomsom and Brent Gravill.

REGRETS: Don Thomson, Sandra Loughton, Harry Ramsaran.

The secretary confirmed the presence of a quorum. Brandon Moore presiding and Donna DeVita recording, the meeting began at 7:35 pm. in accordance with the monthly schedule.

DEVOTION

Rev. James Ravenscroft reminded us of the origins of “Holy Manners”. He sees this as giving us five guidelines.

- We want to keep God at the centre of all we do.
- We wish to encourage the full and equitable involvement of all participating.
- We hope to listen carefully to each other without interruption.
- We welcome the conflict of ideas as a natural outcome of engagement.
- We would like participants to anticipate and expect “aha” moments along the way.

He concluded with a reading from Romans 12.

1. Approval of Agenda

M/S Donna Smith/ D.J. McCready that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

2. Minutes of June 14, 2017

Minutes of June 14 were tabled to next month.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

Delegation of Summer Authority to the Executive was rescinded. No actions were required over the summer.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence

5. Committees and Working Groups Updates

a) Ministry and Personnel

Gillian Gibbons reported that James is moving his office to the empty office. This will free his present office for rental. The Chapel is underutilized as a rental. There was discussion around repurposing this room. Wendy Thomson outlined moves necessitated by radon gas in the "pit".

b) Discernment

M/S Jane Wedlock/Kathleen Crosby, having reviewed the report of the Discernment Committee, that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church support its findings and recommend Joanne Scofield be assessed for suitability as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry. **Carried**

M/S Jane Wedlock/Donna Smith that Council support Joanne Scofield's continuing education for Ministry with a grant of \$500 from the Bursary Fund. **Carried**

Thanks to all those who participated on the Discernment Committee.

c) Treasurer/ Finance

Jane Ridout presented financial statements to the end of August. Rental revenue is down. Music expenses are high but special gifts are often given to this purpose. Memorial Funds will be used to pay Karen Rev. Karen Hilfman Millson. The Finance Committee is strongly committed to seeing Stewardship as part of the Listening Circle process. They outlined the following points:

- We have two buildings, the Sanctuary and the CD building.
- The committee is not positive we can do fundraising in a magnitude to save the buildings.
- Fundraising for the buildings must be additional to the General Fund.

d) Presbytery

Terry Davies pointed out that we now have four members on the Presbytery Executive: Terry Davies, David Leyton-Brown, Harry Ramsaran and June Blanchette. Presbytery is developing workshops to help pastoral charges to move to the new regional governance model. This will encourage the development of "clusters" and "networks". Terry recommends our attendance at

the November 25 meeting as this will likely be in Thronhill. There will be two facilitators per meeting and followup actions.

e) Outreach – Net Zero

Peter DeVita reported that the Ontario MicroFit Program is scheduled to end December 31 or sooner.

M/S Lyn May/Peter DeVita That Council authorize Net Zero to proceed with an application to the IESO for a Micro/fit approval with the understanding that there is no financial commitment at this time.

Carried

f) Property

Peter DeVita reported that the Property Committee is looking at a 50 year plan for the buildings with a five year rolling plan.

The CD roof is almost finished with new technology at low cost. The protective coating should be renewed in 25 years. Railings have been purchased for the CD building and will be installed by Dan Plourde and a volunteer (likely Bill Warrick) at a cost of c. \$1,500.00 The steps need fixing and the wood under the Sanctuary steps needs replacement. The CD peak should be completed in the next week. Materials have been bought to caulk the coping stones. Copper capping is recommended as it will last forever. The CD west stairwell will cost approximately \$16,000 to fix as it is high and involves asbestos and lead.

The Sancturay roof is in poor shape with blue skin showing and srinking wood. The dormors are starting to lean and allow ingress of birds, bats and rain.

The tower louvers have deteriorated to the point that wood has fallen down. A spiral staircase to allow safe access to the tower will cost about \$20,000. Lexon louvers would cost about \$20,000 verses replacing the wood at \$140,000. Eaves, capping and dormers would cost about \$100,000. Discussion ensued about a targeted fundraising campaign.

M/S David Leyton-Brown/ Terry Davies that Council reallocate the unspend funds from the CD roof project to the installation of safe tower access.

Carried

6. Minister's Report

Rev. Ravenscroft reminded us of the upcoming Web Extravaganza and the need for committees to set up tables for various activities around the church. He informed us that all the Remits which we supported have been passed across the national church. Remit 6 requires a vote before February. There will be some education for Council and a Lunch and Learn in November.

7. New Business

Conversation Circles will take place October 15 at the Legion. Lynn Townsend and Fellowship will handle the catering.
Council Retreat is cancelled for this year.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Next Meeting of Council:

The council meeting will be October 11, 2017 at 7:30 pm. in the Parlour.

Devotion:

Refreshments:

Minute for Council: undesignated

Attached: Finance Report

Brandon Moore, Chair

Donna DeVita, Secretary