

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
December 13, 2017
2 O'Connor Cres

PRESENT: Brandon Moore, Nancy Hart, Kathleen Crosbie, Donna DeVita, D.J. McCready, Joan Verner, Jane Ridout, Donna Byres, Donna McErlain, Gillian Gibbons, Lyn May, Peter DeVita, Don Thomson, Donna Smith, Sandra Loughton, Sue Baker, Joanne Scofield, Jane Wedlock, Harry Ramsaran, Terry Davies, David Leyton-Brown, June Blanchette, Rev. James Ravenscroft.

REGRETS: Lynn Townsend.

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 Smith read a poem called "Unexpected" by Anne Weems.

1. Approval of Agenda

M/S David Leighton-Brown/ D.J. McCready that the agenda be accepted as presented with the addition of a UCW report.

Carried

2. Minutes of November 8, 2017

M/S Donna DeVita/Jane Wedlock that the Minutes of November 8, 2017, be accepted as circulated.

Carried

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

M/S Lyn May/Terry Davies that Council adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (attached) with Krasman Centre.

Carried

4. Correspondence

A Letter of Thanks was received from Joanne Scofield for her education bursary.

A letter was received from Ian Wilgus asking Council to acknowledge him as an inquirer for Ministry.

M/S David Leyton-Brown/ Sandra Loughton that the Council of Richmond Hill United Church recognize Ian Wilgus as an Inquirer and affirm that Ian is an active member of the Congregation. **Carried**

Council will move to establish a Discernment Committee with two people nominated by Ian, one from Council and one from the Congregation.

5. Committees and Working Groups Updates

a) Treasurer/ Finance

Jane Ridout presented a draft budget for 2018 to be finalized after the end of the year when final numbers are available. This reflects reduced givings as we have lost households to death and relocation. We often receive large gifts in December but we cannot budget for this. Not all pledge forms have been received. They are needed before February. At this time, there are no good prospects for new rentals.

M/S Jane Ridout/D.J. McCready that the preliminary budget for 2018 be received as presented. **Carried**

b) Worship: Sandra Loughton reported that the AV Working Group had a good meeting. They are waiting for results of the Discernment Circles before going out to visit other churches. Dave Mountain has received a quote of \$1,776.00 for two new wireless mics for the Sanctuary

c) UCW: June Blanchette expressed thanks to all who supported the Christmas Tea. Unfortunately numbers were down due to the co-incidence with the Leona Boyd Concert. The ladies were discouraged when the UCW was omitted from the "Welcome" insert. Efforts will be made to include UCW in the insert for Christmas Eve.

d) Property Report. Peter DeVita gave a brief report of work completed in 2017. This is: Sanctuary stone foundations have been repaired, new railings are almost finished, lights in Sanctuary are now on RF, building permit for tower assess is expected December 19, circular stairs to be completed in January, installation of main hallway occupancy sensors, plans to install new circuit panels in kitchen with 200 amp service. Regrettably, Net Zero was not able to secure a contract for the FIT Program.

6. Minister's Report

Rev. Ravenscroft commended the choir for two major concerts. The Longest Night service will be on Wednesday, December 20 and the clergy involved have decided to offer this service on the last Wednesday before Christmas in the future. There will be a solstice service on December 21. Rev. James has been visiting several people in hospital. The services at Del Manor are being suspended at this time. The Elgin Wood and Oak Ridges services are well attended and will continue.

7. New Business

- a) Presbytery Clusters: David Leyton-Brown reported on the recent presbytery clusters meeting in Thornhill. RHUC had the largest delegation of any church. This was an opportunity to make connections with other churches.
- b) Discernment Circles: Jane Wedlock reported that the committee has met three times for a total of 12 hours reviewing the information obtained at the last congregational gathering. They hope to have a report for the congregation in January. They have been meeting with the Mayor and Planning Staff to discuss impacts of the OMB removal and the courtyards vision. The Mayor wants to be helpful.. The group is also reviewing the notes from the community roundtables for social value trends and our visioning documents.
- c) Remit 6: Rev. James Ravenscroft reported that 16 people attended his 'Lunch and Learn' and there was good conversation. A straw vote was split. We must vote on this at the January Council meeting and this item should be early in the agenda.
- d) Annual Meeting: Brandon Moore suggested that the AGM take place on March 4. The Finance Committee proposed that we consider standardizing the date, e.g. the last Sunday in February.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting of Council:

The next council meeting will be January 10, 2018 in the Parlor..

Devotion: Terry Davies
Refreshments: Kathleen C/Jane R
Minute for Council:

att: Memorandum of Understanding

Brandon Moore, Chair

Donna DeVita, Secretary