

RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 14, 2018
Parlour

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

REGRETS: Donna McErlain.

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

Joanne Scofield asked us to hold the people of Florida in our prayers and gave a reflection on Ash Wednesday based on Matthew 6: 16-21 and thoughts by Jan Richardson, a United Methodist author.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

2. **Minutes of January 10, 2018**

M/S Donna DeVita/Lyn May that the Minutes of January 10, 2018, be accepted with the addition of the Property Report. **Carried**

3. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

a) Discernment Circles: A preliminary report was circulated by Rev. Ravenscroft. Jane Wedlock reported that a similar report will be offered at the AGM. There are groupings around major themes with more to add to the final report scheduled for a Congregational Meeting on April 29. Financial information and a Property presentation will be available at the AGM on March 4.

b) AGM Logistics and Agenda: Property wishes to make a presentation at the AGM. The Preliminary Circle Report will be presented to offer insight for the April 29 meeting and Finance will present the 2017 Financial Report and a 2018 budget. UCW will lend their sound system and Fellowship will organize the luncheon. Tables will be set up on March 3. Please contact Brandon Moore if you can help. Deb Fratin will provide necessary paperwork for the AGM.

4. Correspondence

A letter was received advising us the Joanne Scofield has completed her Presbytery and Conference interviews and will be recommended as a candidate for Ministry.

Donna DeVita reported that our ballot on Remit 6 has been submitted.

5. Committees and Working Groups Updates

a) Finance: D.J. McCready presented the Financial Statements. He noted that givings are down from budget but up over the prior year. Borrowings from bequests have been paid off.

M/S D.J. McCready/ Jane Ridout that contributions received through bequests, where the donor did not stipulate how the funds were to be used, be transferred from the General Fund to the Bequest Fund in the amount of \$104,786.00.

Carried

M/S D.J. McCready/ Jane Ridout that contributions received in memory of someone, where the donor did not stipulate how the funds were to be used, be transferred from the General Fund to the Memorial Fund in the amount of \$1,200.00

Carried

M/S D.J. McCready/ Jane Ridout that Council approve the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Carried

Jane Ridout presented the Budget for 2018. Givings have been reduced as we have lost families in 2017 and pledges are down significantly. Space rentals remain the same but we do not have renters in place to support this. Expenses are on track but M&S Givings are declining. There is also a schedule of planned building expenses.

M/S D.J. McCready/ Jane Ridout that Council approve the Budget for the 2018 year to be presented to the Congregation at the March 4, 2018 AGM.

Carried

b) Property Committee: Peter DeVita reported that a pipe burst in the third floor ladies washroom when a window was left open in -17 degree weather.

The pipe was fixed and plexiglass put on the windows. Ventilation grates were added to the doors. This will cost ~\$700 to \$800. Wooden windowsills on the CD third floor are rotting and allowing inflow of water. They have been sprayed with foam as a temporary fix. The buzzer entry system had stopped working but Peter and Dan Plourde were able to fix it. These were unforeseen expenses.

The drawings and permit for the tower access have been obtained and the slab has been poured.

The Sanctuary floor was found to be in very bad condition when removal of the carpet was commenced. Repairs have been undertaken and the floor will be painted pending the outcome of the Circles.

The committee has prepared a rough draft plan of projects for the next seven months. The floor in Lower Centennial must be address before the room can be rented again. With each project the committee is trying to reduce operational costs.

7. New Business

a) Trustees Annual Meeting Update: Brandon Moore reported that he had facilitated the meeting of the Trustees. They have not been active recently. They must meet annually to review actions taken.

b) Council Spring Retreat: will take place in May after the final Circles meeting.

At 8:55 pm Brandon Moore handed the meeting over to Nancy Hart.

c) Communications: Joanne Scofield reported that the committee has been working on updated signage outside. A report to Council has been sent on line. Deb Fratin has been having problems updating the website. Council minutes are posted on the website. A notice of this in On-Line would help to make the congregation more aware of Council matters. Also Council meetings should be listed on the calendar. It was noted that other events are being posted at local community centres.

d) Committee News: Lyn May reported that Outreach wishes to reactivate the refugee support group. The Worship committee meeting has been moved to February 20.

6. Minister's Report

Rev. Ravenscroft reported that he has been very busy with the Circles process. He has been meeting many newcomers. We still have several members in hospital. The Youth Retreat was "delightful" with good conversations. Lent is starting with take home activities for the congregation.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting of Council:

The next meeting will be March 4, 2018 in the Gym for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Volunteer needed Saturday, March 3 to set up tables.

Refreshments: A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Brandon Moore, Chair

Donna DeVita, Secretary