

Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 1900h
Via Videoconference

Present: Al Hubbard (video conference host), Carol Wilson, Christine Whiting, Clarke Grice, Elisabeth Evans, Heather McGillis, Joanne Quennell, John Fargey, Kay Cranston, Marg Shaver, Mary Dowding-Paré (representing Search), Pat Skinner, Rick Cranston, Rick Donaldson, Rob Blair, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Susan Gittings, Teresa Madeira

Regrets: Dana Bryant-Giguere, Andy Choles,

Ministry Staff: Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes, Victoria Keane

Reports attached this month: Communications, Community Outreach, Congregation Support, Real Estate Oversight, Recruitment, Spiritual Development, Search, Stewardship, Welcoming & Fellowship, Worship, Trustees, UCW, Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report, Senior Minister

Other documents attached: Email Voting Since Last Meeting

Call to Order

Rick Cranston called the Council Meeting of **September 15, 2021** to order.

A quorum (20) of Council members were present.

Opening Devotional Rev. Morar

Opening Remarks Rick Cranston

Rick welcomed new Council member Joanne Quennell, Co-Chair of Welcoming and Fellowship. He noted that Louise Sinclair is the new Chair of Stewardship but John Fargey has agreed to represent the Committee on her behalf at Council. He reviewed video conference courtesies and procedures, including voting by verbal response for opposition or abstention. There were no changes to the circulated agenda.

Review & Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2021

- The circulated minutes were revised to remove Senior Minister's report from the attachments list on page 1.

- MOTION to Council by Heather McGillis that the council minutes of June 23, 2021 be approved as amended. SECONDED by Rick Donaldson. Motion CARRIED.

August 30, 2021 (Special Meeting)

- There were no errors or omissions noted for the circulated minutes.
- MOTION to Council by John Fargey that the council minutes of August 30, 2021 be approved. SECONDED by Kay Cranston. Motion CARRIED.

Email Vote – June 1, 2021

See attached summary of motion to Council for voting conducted by email following the May 26, 2021 Council meeting (Appendix). Mention of this summary was omitted in error from the agenda and minutes for the June 23, 2021 Council meeting.

Report from Summer Executive Council

Rick Cranston reported that there were no issues handled by the Summer Executive Council during July and August.

- MOTION to Council by Carol Wilson to disband the Summer Executive Council with thanks. SECONDED by Susan Gittings. Motion CARRIED.

Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) Update Heather McGillis/Kay Cranston

Kay reported that there is a lot happening behind the scenes in preparation for reopening on Sunday, with the main concern being safety:

- Congregants are asked to attend only if they are double vaccinated, and to pre-register for the service. They will be asked to use masks and hand sanitizer and sit with their family unit or “bubble” group
- Experienced ushers and greeters will be asked to sign up – no shaking of hands
- Rick Cranston expressed thanks to the EPC for coordinating the congregation update regarding church reopening

Stewardship Campaign Update John Fargey

John reported that some dimensions of the campaign will differ from those in the past, e.g. follow up will be done by email.

Reports from Ministerial Team

Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes – Senior Minister

Rev. Morar highlighted challenges mentioned in her report:

- Return to indoor worship after September 19th will involve 2 services each Sunday, with production challenges surrounding livestreaming. Morar is on a national Facebook group for churches that are livestreaming, for sharing of best practices.
- Production team is considering broadcasting the livestream half an hour later and Morar has been pre-recording sermons, scriptures and prayers as a backup to use along with banked music, in case of technical glitches.

- 1 session may be pre-recorded in lieu of livestreaming, and suggestion was made to consider attendance for in person and online services as basis for deciding whether to pre-record services

Committee Reports

Discussions Arising from Committee Reports

No issues or discussions arose from the committee reports submitted by Congregation Support or Worship.

Communications – Al Hubbard

- Sheryl Darlington, a former Christ Church member, has joined the Committee and will manage the social media platform. Given her role as Volunteer Coordinator at the Compass, this presents an opportunity for interesting synergies

Community Outreach – Christine Whiting/Kay Cranston

- Kay reported that Victoria has been hired for the Community Network Ministry coordinator role
- Compass Walk to be held September 18th – virtual or in person
- Committee is becoming very busy with various community support initiatives

Ministry & Personnel – Susan Gittings/Heather McGillis

- Sue and a team member have started working on an onboarding package for the new minister
- Holger Krutzelmann has recently joined the Committee

Real Estate Oversight – Steve Shaver

- Committee has started their work together by examining the big questions behind the “wicked problems” and, throughout the summer, compiling thoughts/ideas regarding the variables facing us now
- Circumstances have changed since the 2019 Visioning Session due to the pandemic – our vision may need to be revisited
- Next priority is to come up with a mechanism to engage the congregation in discussion about their views. It is important to ensure this is an inclusive process and get this feedback as soon as possible before moving on to an evaluation of real estate options.
- Risk profile with respect to financial viability and time horizon of various options needs to be assessed in addition to needs and wants of the congregation

Property – Rob Blair

- Air filtration units have been purchased and put in place
- Rob expressed concern about the scope of his new role as chairperson. Rev. Morar and Steve Shaver offered to meet with Rob to determine how best to support him in this role.

Recruitment – John Fargey

- John shared interesting responses to emails referenced in his report. He has found this follow up effort to be productive. In some cases the contact resulted in members offering to fill a volunteer role. These individuals were also more likely to be financial supporters. Those who asked to have their names removed from the membership roll were less likely to be financial supporters.
- MOTION to Council by John Fargey that Elisabeth Evans and Joanne Quennell be recorded as Co-Chairs of Welcoming and Fellowship Committee. SECONDED by Heather McGillis. Motion CARRIED.
- MOTION to Council by John Fargey that Louise Sinclair be recorded as Chair of Stewardship committee with a caveat that she not be obliged to attend Council. John Fargey, a committee member, to stand in for her.. SECONDED by Mary Dowding-Paré. Motion CARRIED.

Search – Mary Dowding-Paré

- Mary's team has been working very hard throughout the summer. She highlighted housing and moving costs as the biggest challenges
- Tong Liu will be leaving the committee so a replacement will be sought
- Mary will update the congregation in the near future
- Mary thanked Rev. Morar for her valuable support to the team

Spiritual Development – Teresa Madeira

- Teresa highlighted the initiatives outlined in her report: VBS, Youth Room Makeover, Explorers, promotion of Indigenous voices throughout September, Host Training kick off
- Victoria has begun to describe her work as "first third ministry" instead of "youth/kids' ministry" to elevate the importance of these years in the life cycle

Trustees – Rick Donaldson

- Property inspection for Port Credit Campus to be held September 17th, with Covid precautions in place. To be led by Claude Lewis (Trustees), with Paul Fagan, Stephen White, John McGillis, John Dymond, Christine Barlow and Janis Cowie in attendance.
- Clarkson Campus inspection is expected to take place September 24th
- Rick expressed thanks to Rob Blair for his assistance

Welcoming & Fellowship – Elisabeth Evans/Joanne Quennell

- Debra Moy has joined the committee
- 100 chickens have been ordered for September 19th. As of this meeting, 82 orders have been placed by congregants

Future Planning Group – Shawn Bausch

- Shawn shared a link to Edge's "Buying United" site, which gives churches access to purchasing resources at a discount

- Committees are encouraged to explore these opportunities and keep them in mind when thinking about budgets

Financial Report – Clarke Grice

- Clarke reviewed the financial statements prepared by Dana Bryant-Giguere, setting out the position of Christ First as of August 31, 2021.
- Clarke noted that review of financial records is time-consuming and respectfully requested that committee chairs track their expenses against the budget and ask Dana for individual detailed reports whenever discrepancies between their records and financial statements are noted. When approving and submitting expenses, the approved budget line needs to be referenced; Dana also needs to be advised about budget line for Visa purchases.
- According to Shawn Bausch, current federal wage subsidies are expected to continue through October and subject to election outcomes thereafter
- MOTION to Council by Clarke Grice that the financial statements of Christ First as of August 31, 2021 which have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee be accepted: SECONDED by Shawn Bausch. Motion CARRIED.

Business Arising from previous minutes

- Ministers' plaques: as approved by Council in January/21, the plaque from Port Credit will be moved to Clarkson Campus and a similar plaque is to be created for former Christ Church ministers. This is part of a project underway by Pat Skinner and a small team to make decisions about how to combine the historical artifacts from both former churches. Janis Cowie is keeping a list of these activities. Pat suggested that we order the new plaque from the creator of the original one, for consistency. Christine Barlow has contact details for the company. Suggestion made to cover this through the Memorial Fund or Special Gifts Fund. Clarke will look at possible funding sources and report back. Pat will ask for Janis' report to be provided for the next Council meeting.

New Business

- Rev. Morar is requesting that Christ First support the multi-church grief support group we have been using for the past 3 years. There will be 7 online sessions starting in October.
 - MOTION to Council by Steve Shaver to support the multi-church Grief Support Group with funding in the amount of \$400. SECONDED by Rick Donaldson. Motion CARRIED.

Closing Prayer Rev. Morar

Adjournment Pat Skinner

Next Council Meeting October 20, 2021



Council Chair – Rick Cranston

October 20, 2021

Date



Council Secretary – Carol Wilson

Appendix

Email Vote by Christ First Council – June 1, 2021

Motion Regarding Living Faith Story:

----- Original Message -----

From: "Carol Wilson"

To: "Christ First Council"

Cc: " Mary Dowding-Pare"; Steve Shaver"

Sent: 2021-06-01 12:59:41 PM

Subject: Motion to Council for voting by email - please reply by June 3rd

To Council members from Steve Shaver:

During the Council meeting last week, I overlooked the need to authorize Mary Dowding-Paré to reflect the change in real estate strategies, approved by Council, in our Living Faith Story (LFS). Mary has revised the LFS accordingly (see attached) and would like this to be shared with the congregation as part of the information package going out next week ahead of the congregational meeting. As such, we would appreciate your review of the attached (with special attention to the final paragraph in red, page 2) and response as soon as possible. **Please reply to this email by end of day Thursday, June 3rd**, indicating clearly whether or not you support the motion below:

Motion to Council by Mary Dowding-Paré, seconded by Rick Donaldson, to approve an update in wording in the Christ First Living Faith story to reflect the new direction to explore options for possible uses for Christ First properties.

Instructions for email voting:

- please reply to all with your questions of clarification and comments so that they are visible to all members; your concerns will be responded to by Mary
- please reply to all with your vote, to ensure it is visible to all members
- you must vote in the affirmative or negative without any conditions. Please answer: I approve/I do not approve

I look forward to your timely responses.

Thank you.

Steve

Result of email vote: CARRIED.