

Christ First Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 1900h
Via Videoconference

Present: Carol Wilson, Al Hubbard (video conference host), Nancy Hori, Dana Bryant-Giguere, Louise Sinclair, Richard Cranston, David Wheeler, Heather McGillis, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Teresa Madeira, John McGillis, Joan Cobbold, Mary Dowding-Paré, Andy Choles, Christine Whiting

Regrets: Clarke Grice, Pat Skinner, Jill Robinson, John Anderson

Ministry Staff: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz, Victoria Keane

Documents Attached:

A Covenant for Mutual Care & Growth

Hub & Spoke

Hub & Spoke Memo and Recommendation, Hub & Spoke Motions, Hub & Spoke Q&A, Responsibilities for the Hub & Spoke Initiative

Affirming Ministry

Affirming Requirements, Affirming Ministry SWOT Analysis, Future Planning Group: Affirming Church Status - Motions to Christ First Council, Affirming Ministry Study Group – Terms of Reference

Call to Order:

Chair of Christ First Council for 2023-24, Carol Wilson called the Council Meeting of June 7, 2023 to order.

A quorum of 17 Council members were present.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz led the opening prayer.

Opening Remarks: Carol Wilson

Carol Wilson welcomed new members of the 2023-2024 Council, Mary Dowding-Paré, John McGillis, Nancy Hori and Jill Robinson (regrets). Dana Bryant-Giguere was present representing Finance for Clarke Grice.

Carol gave an overview of this evening's meeting, reviewed video conference courtesies and procedures including voting by verbal response for opposition or abstention.

Carol asked if there were any addition or changes to the agenda. An item of emerging business was added to New Business at David Wheeler's request.

Review & Approval of May 17, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes:

An error was noted on Page 5 - Fundraising-Lawn Sale. Victoria Keane, not Shawn Bausch was the lead on the Lawn Sale.

MOTION to Council by Rick Donaldson that that Council minutes of May 17, 2023 be approved.
SECONDED by Joan Cobbold. Motion CARRIED.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Hub and Spoke Project

Louise Sinclair was appointed by Council at the May 17 2023 meeting to lead an assessment of the Hub & Spoke project. The goal for Louise's assessment was to have questions answered and concerns identified so that Council would feel comfortable assessing the Hub and Spoke project. While the target date for completion of the assessment was June 15, Louise was able to produce an information package consisting of Memo and Recommendation, updated Q&A, Responsibilities for the Hub & Spoke Initiative and Motions documents to be reviewed and discussed at this meeting.

Carol thanked Louise for conducting the project assessment and documents arising from her evaluation.

Before beginning, Carol set expectations for the In-Camera discussion.

- The report will stand as is
- Express views and seek any clarification needed on the recommendations
- Adhere to the Council Covenant
- Discussion will remain confidential once concluded

MOTION to Council by Steve Shaver to go in camera. SECONDED by Heather McGillis Motion CARRIED.

Louise led the confidential discussion on the documents she produced regarding the Hub and Spoke project.

MOTION to Council by Carol Wilson go out of in camera. SECONDED by Andy Choles. Motion CARRIED.

MOTION I by Louise Sinclair and SECONDED by Mary Dowding-Paré that the Worship Committee takes leadership of the Hub & Spoke initiative effective immediately, with responsibilities as outlined in the "*Responsibilities for the Hub & Spoke Initiative*" document. Motion CARRIED.

MOTION II by Louise Sinclair and SECONDED by Steve Shaver that Christ First offer services defined in the Covenant Between Christ First United Church And The Rural Connect Multi-site Initiative (H&S Initiative Agreement) to Faith United until October 31, 2023, understanding that the Council of Christ

First must review and approve of the H&S Initiative Agreement and the Hub and Spoke Ministry Services Agreement dated February 1, 2023 between Christ First and Faith United by no later than August 31, 2023. Motion CARRIED. One abstention.

MOTION III proposed by Rick Donaldson was withdrawn after discussion.

Next Steps

- Summer 2023 – Review of Hub & Spoke contracts (as per Motion II) by Executive Council, for approval by Council via email vote.
- Fall 2023 – Council to determine the nature of final assessment of the Initiative to be sent to Regional Council and Rural Connect Multisite Initiative.
- David Wheeler indicated replacement of Hub & Spoke equipment may be necessary in future. Prior to his departure, Evan Hoffman determined this cost to be up to \$5,600.
- Communication of our decision - Carol and Shawn will work with Mary to prepare:
 - Notification to Faith United
 - Notification letter for Christ First

N.B. Minor revisions were made to the H & S documents following the Council meeting and distributed to Council members June 8, 2023.

Future Planning Group - Affirming Church Update - Shawn Bausch & Richard Cranston

Documentation was distributed to Council in May regarding the process to become an affirming church. Carol thanked FPG for their work on the more recently circulated Terms of Reference, SWOT and Motions documents. Shawn Bausch and Richard Cranston offered brief introductory remarks about the Affirming Church initiative.

MOTION I

Moved by Teresa Madeira, SECONDED by Shawn Bausch, that Christ First form an Affirming Study Group as outlined in the Terms of Reference supplied with this motion, to undertake the journey towards becoming an Affirming Church according to the program defined by Affirm United. Motion CARRIED.

MOTION II

Moved by Richard Cranston, SECONDED by Shawn Bausch, Christ First's Affirming Study Group be comprised of Richard Cranston, Keegan-Lee Guide, Rhiannon Hoffman, Patricia Blair, Jennifer Brodie, Duncan Wheeler, Bob Johnstone (*resource), Victoria Keane (staff), and Rev. Heather (staff) and three to five other individuals to be proposed and confirmed by Council based on the requirement for the widest demographic representation of Christ First's community possible as recommended by Affirm United. Motion CARRIED.

Next Steps

- The Council passes on best wishes to the study group.
- Study Group to seek guidance from their assigned Affirm United Coordinator on whether the additional three to five members are recommended or required.
- Congregational communication plan to be developed.

Visioning Session

Carol highlighted the reason for a Visioning Session on October 1, which was presented to the congregation at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting in June by Richard Cranston.

- Mary Dowding-Paré has developed a communication plan for the session in October. Thank you Mary.
- Detailed preparation to begin at the end of summer with promotion for the session to begin in September.
- All Council members are encouraged to attend the session.

New Business

Housekeeping –2023-2024 Council Year – Carol Wilson

- Council Social – June 27 Evite will be sent out
- New Contact List – Council Members 2023-2024. See email package
 - Meeting and Reporting Cycle - bi-monthly, starting in September, dates to be circulated
- Planning runway for effective meetings
 - Two weeks ahead – Meeting reminder with call for reports
 - One week ahead – Deadline for notice of motion/emerging business to come forward, allowing time for motions to be refined and/or additional due diligence
 - One week ahead – agenda planning session
 - Friday prior to meeting – deadline for reports or heads-up
 - Monday prior to meeting – Agenda and reports distributed for Council review
 - Additional information to follow over the summer

Summer Executive Council – Carol Wilson

Minister's Replacement: Rev. Morar Murray-Hayes will step in for Rev. Heather for the first two weeks of her vacation. Rev. Debra McGill will cover the last two weeks.

MOTION to Council by Carol Wilson to install the Executive Council to handle any emergencies over the summer months and as needed between regular Council meetings. The Committee will be comprised of the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chair of Council, Treasurer, Secretary of Council, Property and M&P chairpersons and Lead Minister. SECONDED by Joan Cobbold. Motion CARRIED

Community Outreach – Christine Whiting

SAGA camp at Clarkson Community Church on Lakeshore Road did not receive federal funding through the Canada Summer Jobs grant program, as they had for the last 19 years. The camp has 75% registration and is looking for ways to fund this very popular camp. The camp is looking for community support and is asking for help in the following ways.

- Tax-deductible financial gift to Saga Summer Camp

- Identify potential sponsors or organizations who would be willing to sponsor or donate to the camp.

Christ First Outreach has re-designated \$3,000 of funds to the camp, and up to \$1,500 in addition may be available. An appeal will go out to congregation through the weekly e-blast for additional donations.

Property – David Wheeler

Quotes have been obtained to repair the pot holes in the church parking lot. At their meeting earlier today, the Property Committee approved spending \$5,636.51 for the repairs. While the funding had not been approved by Clarke as of this meeting, David has asked it be approved by Council as the cost is over \$5,000.

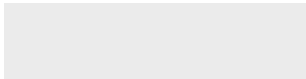
MOTION to Council by David Wheeler to approve the cost of \$5,636.51 to repair the church parking lot subject to approval by the Finance Committee. SECONDED by Rick Donaldson. Motion CARRIED, one abstention.

Closing Prayer: Closing Prayer by Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

Adjournment: MOTION to adjourn the meeting – Richard Cranston

Next Meeting: September 20, 2023.

Committee reports are due September 15, 2023.



Council Chair – Carol Wilson

September 20, 2023

Date



Secretary – Nancy Hori