

Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 21, 2022 at 1900h
Merigold Room – Clarkson Campus

Present: Al Hubbard, Andy Choles, Carol Wilson, Christine Whiting, Dana Bryant-Giguere, David Wheeler, Elisabeth Evans, Heather McGillis, Joanne Quennell, Louise Sinclair, Pat Skinner, Richard Cranston, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Susan Gittings, Teresa Madeira

Regrets: Clarke Grice

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

Reports attached this month: Communications, Community Outreach, Congregation Support, Ministry & Personnel, Property, Real Estate Oversight, Spiritual Development, Welcoming & Fellowship, Regional Council Representative, Financial Statements & Treasurer’s Report, Lead Minister

Other documents attached: United Fresh Start Summary, Fundraising (Faith Amour Concert, Christmas Marketplace)

Call to Order

Richard Cranston called the Council Meeting of **September 21, 2022** to order.

A quorum (19) of Council members were present.

Opening Prayer Rev. Heather

Opening Remarks Richard Cranston

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no changes to the circulated agenda.

Review & Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2022

- No errors or omissions were noted.
- MOTION to Council by Andy Choles that the Council minutes of June 22, 2022 be approved. SECONDED by Rick Donaldson. Motion CARRIED.

September 14, 2022

- No errors or omissions were noted.

- MOTION to Council by Al Hubbard that the Council minutes of September 14, 2022 be approved. SECONDED by Steve Shaver. Motion CARRIED.

Report from Summer Executive Council Richard Cranston

There were no matters of business for the Summer Executive Council other than discussion about an upcoming fundraising event, which will be addressed under New Business.

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

Reports from Ministerial Team

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz – Lead Minister

Rev. Heather highlighted the challenges and concerns outlined in her report and reassured Council that in her view, these are all a part of church life.

Victoria Keane – Youth Music Program Leader

All activities have been reported under Community Outreach and Spiritual Development. Victoria expressed words of appreciation to Rev. Heather for their positive working relationship. Council members responded with applause.

Committee Reports

No issues or discussions arose from the committee reports submitted by Spiritual Development or Welcoming & Fellowship.

Communications – Al Hubbard

- Al highlighted the need for leadership for a photo directory and newsletter. He will put out an appeal for volunteers by eblast.
- A question was raised about whether the ‘Happenings’ concept should be reconsidered, in view of the ongoing congregational communication sent via weekly announcements and special eblasts. Printing costs have been reduced significantly in the absence of newsletter printing. However, there is still a need to reach those not on the email list with timely communication. Al will take this question back to the Committee for discussion.
- Rev. Heather has been considering creating a monthly ‘blog’ piece for the congregation. She and Al will discuss this idea further.
- There was general agreement that photos from church events should be shared, e.g. via screen in Narthex, weekly eblasts.

Community Outreach – Christine Whiting

- Christine added to her report that budgeted donations Foodgrains Bank and The Compass have been paid for the full year

- MOTION to Council by Heather McGillis that Council approves the grant application by Community Outreach and Ministry & Personnel to the United Church of Canada (UCC) Foundation. SECONDED by Christine Whiting
 - Clarification that the grant is for funding of the next 3 years of Community Hub Ministry, following the initial exploratory phase funded by the UCC Foundation last year.
 - Motion CARRIED.
 - Heather McGillis acknowledged the efforts of Mike Giguere and Victoria Keane towards preparation of the grant application

Congregation Support – Rev. Heather

- Rev. Heather highlighted the need for a chairperson to lead the ongoing work of the Committee.
- It was clarified that work on congregational records involves review of contact lists and how members wish to be contacted for purposes of pastoral care.
- Church Watch is the master database but churches are still required to maintain an historical roll. Question was raised about oversight of church records with respect to accuracy and regular updating – is this a staff or committee responsibility? Issue will be discussed further by the Committee.

Exploratory Committee – Richard Cranston

- Reactions from Council members to the report presented and decisions made on September 14:
 - Sense of inevitability and that this represents a natural and unsurprising progression of the process
 - Reiteration of the view that new initiatives and progress by Christ First should not be held back by the possibility of amalgamation. Visioning session is an important step.
 - Appreciation expressed for the hard work of the Committee over the summer and their comprehensive report.

Ministry & Personnel – Susan Gittings/Heather McGillis

- Sue distributed a brief summary of the United Fresh Start program as a supplement to the Committee's circulated report. A number of modules are available to work through as foundational pieces to assist Rev. Heather as she moves forward with the congregation. Four modules, which have been prioritized by Rev. Heather and Mary Dowding-Paré, are described in the attachment. Leadership would be provided by a UCC facilitator (at a cost of approximately \$250), with many details yet to be considered. It was suggested that the fourth module (Leading Planned Change) be offered to Council prior to the congregational visioning session.
 - MOTION by Heather McGillis that Council authorize Ministry & Personnel to proceed with engaging facilitators for up to 4 modules of the Fresh Start Program over the next year.
 - For accounting purposes, there was a friendly amendment to specify both fiscal years
 - Amended MOTION by Heather McGillis that Council authorize Ministry & Personnel to proceed with engaging facilitators for up to four modules of the Fresh Start Program over 2022 and 2023. SECONDED by Shawn Bausch. Motion CARRIED.
 - Sue thanked Rev. Heather and Mary for bringing forward this initiative

- As preamble to the motion below, Heather explained that Victoria Keane's role was initially focused on youth and celebration through music. The Committee wishes to update her title to reflect Victoria's expanded focus.
 - MOTION to Council by Sue Gittings, SECONDED by Heather McGillis, that Victoria Keane's role title be changed to Youth and Family Ministry, Community Engagement Coordinator. Motion CARRIED.

Property – David Wheeler

- Reminder of First Aid Training October 4th (see details in report) – mandatory for staff but additional attendees can be accommodated up to a maximum of 20 total
- Powerpoint was for information purposes and to inform our decisions going forward
- Ongoing internet issues have stemmed from the 'party line' infrastructure, especially with increased virtual communication demands in recent years. A dedicated line would be beneficial to staff, tenants and streaming of worship services. With reference to costs and terms detailed in the Property report, David sought direction from Council in light of uncertainty concerning the future of the building.
 - It was clarified that Bell phone service would be kept and only their internet service would be canceled for Clarkson Campus.
 - Hub & Spoke implications: Potential for internet upgrade costs to be offset by project revenue – to be presented at a future meeting. However, there is no guarantee that the proposed upgrade will suffice for Hub & Spoke streaming. There was consensus that an upgrade decision should be based on current church operating needs.
 - MOTION to Council by Al Hubbard to permit the Property Committee to proceed with a contract with Rogers for internet at Clarkson Campus for a term of 3 years (\$630 per month) to carry us to a time when the future of the buildings is known. SECONDED by Dana Bryant-Giguere. Motion CARRIED.
- Trustees walk through for both buildings to be arranged

Real Estate Oversight – Steve Shaver

- With reference to accessibility issues mentioned in the Committee report, Carol Wilson added that REOC discussions have not been limited to interpretation of legislation. REOC also recognizes the importance of being driven by our mission as it relates to inclusivity.

Stewardship – Louise Sinclair

- Stewardship campaign will run from October 16 – November 13. Similar to last year, it will be mainly launched via email. Louise has no committee and so far, no volunteers to assist.
- There was support from Council to wrap up the campaign with a celebratory luncheon on the final Sunday. Welcoming & Fellowship will assist.
- A link to a Time & Talent survey form will be included in an eblast to current donors in the week following the campaign launch. There will be a separate email to non-donors. A financial commitment form will be linked to an eblast the following week.

Worship – Andy Choles

- Committee will regroup next week. Andy was encouraged with the response to his appeal for Sunday volunteers.

UCW – Pat Skinner

- Anne Bokma is a guest speaker for September 25 service. She will be available for conversation during coffee hour and will be selling her book. Details will be sent by eblast

Regional Council – Shawn Bausch

- The information related to legal accessibility requirements was obtained at the last meeting of the HFRC Covenant Commission. Rick Donaldson recommended that this information be dealt with by Property and REOC. Shawn offered his report for information purposes and withdrew his motion.

Financial Reports – Dana Bryant-Giguere

- **2022 Financial Update – August**
 - Dana reviewed the financial statements setting out the position of Christ First as of August 31, 2022.
 - Overall financial position is positive owing to additional Covid subsidy money, increased rentals. Many expense areas are under budget.
 - MOTION to Council by Dana Bryant-Giguere that the financial statements of Christ First as of August 31, 2022 which have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, be accepted as presented. **SECONDED** by Andy Choles.
 - Query about criteria for use of \$50K reserve fund established in 2022 budget. Carol Wilson will check past minutes for details.
 - Clarification: First United Foundation Fund, which was wrapped up over the summer, has been converted to a Segregated Fund on the Balance Sheet. As with the FUF Fund, proceeds are allocated as follows: 50% to upkeep of Christ First properties, and 50% to local outreach.
 - Motion **CARRIED**.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Visioning Session discussion deferred until after the October 2 congregational meeting
- Privacy policy review was on hold over the summer but will resume soon
- Funeral policy review will be undertaken by Worship
- Location of future Council meetings:
 - There was general support for meeting in person on a regular basis and reserving Zoom for inclement weather
 - Question was raised about possibility of a hybrid solution to accommodate those who cannot attend in person. Carol stated that this will require a creative technical solution to provide 2-way audio communication for all, while the hearing system is in use. A volunteer may be needed to monitor the audio Zoom connection. Further study with an outside consultant may be required to find a viable conferencing solution. Carol will reach out to Evan Hoffman to discuss possibilities.

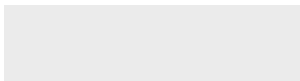
New Business

- MOTION by Dana Bryant, SECONDED by Victoria Keane, that Council confirm the approval granted informally by the Summer Executive Council for The Fundraising Concert with Faith Amour to be held Oct 29th 2022 at the Port Credit Campus, with the proceeds being shared between The Compass and Christ First.
 - Reminder to purchase tickets; 10-12 volunteers needed – please contact Dana or Victoria
 - Motion CARRIED
- Motion by Victoria Keane, SECONDED by Christine Whiting, that Council approve the Christmas Marketplace fund raising event scheduled for November 19, 2022 in the Auditorium at the Clarkson campus. Proceeds from the table rentals will be donated to the General Fund of Christ First. If the Tea Room is included, proceeds from that activity less operating expenses will be donated to Christ First. Motion CARRIED
- Richard requested that future fundraising plans always be brought to Council; Carol recommended using the report template for event description and motion for approval
- David Wheeler acknowledged Sandy Skinner and John Fargey for their years of service to the Halton United Church Extension Council, which has been incorporated for 55 years and will be winding up as of December 31st. A significant residual fund will be gifted to the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), from which a separate fund will be set up for any churches requiring grant money for accessibility. Doug Mills, a congregant who has stepped down from his position on Regional Council, has volunteered to be on TUCC for the next 6 years.

Closing Prayer Rev. Heather

Adjournment

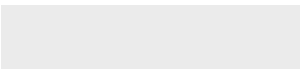
Next Council Meeting October 26, 2022



Council Chair – Richard Cranston

October 26, 2022

Date



Council Secretary – Carol Wilson