

Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 26, 2022 at 1900h
Via Videoconference

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

Regrets: Christine Whiting, Joanne Quennell, Susan Gittings, Victoria Keane

Ministry Staff: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz,

Reports attached this month: Lead Minister, Communications, Ministry & Personnel, Property, Real Estate Oversight, Spiritual Development, Stewardship, Trustees, Welcoming & Fellowship, Worship, Future Planning Group, Regional Council Representative, Financial Statements, Finance & Treasurer's Report

Call to Order

Richard Cranston called the Council Meeting of **October 26, 2022** to order.

A quorum (16) of Council members were present.

Opening Prayer Rev. Heather

Opening Remarks Richard Cranston

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed videoconference courtesies and procedures. including voting by verbal response for opposition or abstention. There were no changes to the circulated agenda.

Review & Approval of September 21, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

It was noted that the date for the Stewardship Luncheon, reported as November 13, is actually November 20.

- MOTION to Council by Pat Skinner that the Council minutes of September 21, 2022 be approved. SECONDED by Elisabeth Evans. Motion CARRIED.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

October 2 Congregational Meeting Follow up

- Steve Shaver reported that the Amalgamation Committee's work is getting underway, although he has recently received a resignation from committee member Dana Bryant-Giguere with regret. He expressed thanks to Dana for her contributions to the Exploratory Committee.
 - MOTION to Council by Steve Shaver, seconded by Carol Wilson, that Dana Bryant-Giguere's resignation from the Amalgamation Committee be accepted effective October 19 and that Louise Sinclair be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Amalgamation Committee effective October 26. Motion CARRIED.
- Richard Cranston has received positive feedback from several people to date following the congregational meeting. Teresa Madeira reiterated feedback reported earlier by Victoria Keane concerning the importance of church location for younger families. The Amalgamation Committee will take this concern under advisement.

Visioning Session

- Council will provide input to the guidelines and parameters for the next visioning session, now that REOC is in a supportive role with respect to amalgamation deliberations.
- Various discussion points were raised by Council with respect to timing and purpose of a congregational session. It is recognized that there is a need to engage with the congregation in the near future about our congregational identity and priorities, and the outcomes of a session could be valuable to the Amalgamation Committee deliberations. However, a 'visioning' exercise may not be productive at this stage while the question of amalgamation is unresolved.
- Carol Wilson offered to lead a small planning team to develop a strategy (purpose, timelines and format) for a congregational session, in consultation with Chris Govern from MAS. Carol and Rev. Heather will arrange to meet with Chris Govern in the near future and report back to Council.

Congregational Support Chair/Vice Chair

- Richard asked that as a Council and as individual members, we all try to find people to fill these positions

Policies

- Privacy - Richard will invite Ashley Fanourgiakis to join the working group in her role as office lead for database matters. He will bring a report to the next Council meeting.
- Funerals, weddings, baptisms – Andy Choles will be working with Rev. Heather on these matters and will report back to Council.

Reports from Ministerial Team

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz – Lead Minister

Rev. Heather captured her impressions and key learnings from her recent study leave spent in the Qu'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan, by reading from her written report which will be distributed following this meeting.

Committee Reports

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

Emergency Preparedness – Heather McGillis

- EPC manual will be removed from the church website and be replaced with more simplified instructions

Ministry & Personnel – Heather McGillis

- Planning for staff retreat is underway and 9 staff members have signed up.

Property – David Wheeler

- As a result of the recent first aid training, all first aid kits at Clarkson Campus have been updated, and the kits at Port Credit Campus will also be updated.

Real Estate Oversight – Steve Shaver

- Shawn Bausch offered to put Steve in touch with a lawyer who can offer a free second opinion on the AODA matters referenced in the REOC report. Steve and Shawn will discuss further.

Stewardship – Louise Sinclair

- Stewardship luncheon will be held on November 20. Elisabeth Evans will reach out to Louise regarding support from Welcoming & Fellowship.
- Office has received about 30 Time and Talent forms and Estimate of Givings forms to date
- Janis Cowie is in the process of letting leaders know of any volunteer names that come forward. Louise will send a preliminary report to Council within the week. She encouraged Council members to reach out accordingly to acknowledge volunteers as any names are received.
- Rick Donaldson complimented Louise on the Time & Talent form

Worship – Andy Choles

- Andy clarified that the challenges mentioned in his report were referring to differing opinions amongst the congregation about the elements of 9:02 vs 10:30 services included in combined services. These concerns, and how to address them, are a topic of discussion at Worship. Feedback was offered by Council members concerning balance of singers' voices and overall volume level of the 9:02 music elements.
- Rev. Heather affirmed the music leadership of Leanne Piller and Greg McCausland and their collaboration in honouring each other's work. She offered a reminder that these challenges around worship are part of the bigger communication pieces that may surface as we explore our congregational identity with the help of our consultant.
- Elisabeth Evans requested advance notice regarding upcoming services for the benefit of those providing refreshments or decorating the church. Andy will provide this information to the Worship member who will be coordinating Sunday morning volunteers, as well as to W & F and

Sip n Serve. There is a worship and events calendar available on a shared drive (access by request through the office) as well as a general calendar provided on the church website.

Regional Council – Shawn Bausch

- Shawn provided the following clarifications in response to questions arising from his circulated report:
 - Total expenses for Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HFRC) were \$820K, for a deficit of \$50K
 - HFRC funding comes from Denominational Assessments paid by congregations, as well as flow through from Mission & Service, support from the United Church of Canada and grant money from the government. Christ First has a line item in the budget for the Denominational Assessment.
 - HFRC has 13 staff members – breakdown of part time vs full time is unknown
 - There is no overlap between HFRC and UCC for the Hub & Spoke project; it is run by the UCC.

Future Planning Group – Shawn Bausch

- Shawn provided the following clarifications in response to questions arising from his circulated Hub & Spoke Ministry report:
 - We (as a hub church) can connect with up to 3 spoke churches on any given Sunday, but we are not limited in the number of relationships with churches that might share those 3 spots on a rotating basis. Testing is underway with one congregation (Faith United in Milton) that is interested in being a spoke, with the possibility of a test worship service before the end of the year. FPG has another strong lead for a spoke church in Oakville, and a short list of 24 churches in the Region who are prime candidates and will receive an information package and be invited into conversation about shared worship.
 - Maximum capacity of 3 spokes at a time is based on the experience of other hub churches. They have found that 3 is a practical limit with respect to technology and managing logistics. Our current internet service will support 1 connection, and it is anticipated that the upgraded internet (expected in January 2023) will support 3 spokes.
 - Projected incomes are based on slow growth, reaching 85% capacity by year 3, at a rate of \$150 per spoke per Sunday.
 - Expenses: additional personnel costs would be incurred beyond 1 spoke connection. Shipping costs would be incurred for spoke equipment transfers.

Financial Reports – Dana Bryant-Giguere, Clarke Grice

- **2022 Financial Update – September**
 - Dana reviewed the financial statements setting out the position of Christ First as of September 30, 2022. She added that the large bequest amounts mentioned in the Trustees report came in October, and therefore were not captured in her report.
 - MOTION to Council by Dana Bryant-Giguere that the financial statements of Christ First as of September 30, 2022 which have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, be accepted as presented. SECONDED by Shawn Bausch. Motion CARRIED.

- **Finance Committee**

- Clarke will send out budget information to committee chairs in the coming days; he requested that budgets be submitted by November 15.
- Dana will send out detailed budget reports to committee chairs, reflecting year to date (unreconciled/unapproved) figures.
- Dana will explore budget tools available in Quickbooks as a potential alternative to excel spreadsheets
- Dana requested that everyone submit their expenses as soon as possible in order to make use of remaining 2022 funds.
- David Wheeler requested that the Expenditure Control Policy be amended to allow committees to seek approval for unexpected costs exceeding the budgeted amounts in excess of \$1K from the Finance Committee, rather than requiring full Council approval. Clarke will review the policy.

New Business

- Council Covenant - Rev. Heather requested that this item be tabled for the November Council meeting. She will draft a document for review in advance, inviting us to craft together and agree to a Council version of Holy Manners for how we function as a leadership team for mutual accountability and support.
- Rev. Heather encouraged committee chairs to reach out to her with invitations to their meetings if she has not yet had the opportunity to attend them.
- Upcoming meeting dates:
 - No December Council meeting
 - January 9 – Special Council meeting (review of draft budget)
 - January 25 – regular Council meeting
 - February 12 – proposed date for Semi-annual Congregational Meeting, subject to confirmation by Rev. Heather/Worship

Closing Prayer Rev. Heather

Adjournment

Next Council Meeting November 23, 2022

[Redacted Signature]

Council Chair – Richard Cranston

November 30, 2022

Date

[Redacted Signature]

Council Secretary – Carol Wilson