

Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 30, 2022 at 1900h
Via Videoconference

Present: Al Hubbard (video conference host), Andy Choles, Carol Wilson, Christine Whiting, Clarke Grice, Dana Bryant-Giguere, David Wheeler, Elisabeth Evans, Joanne Quennell, Louise Sinclair, Richard Cranston, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Teresa Madeira

Regrets: Heather McGillis, Pat Skinner, Susan Gittings

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

Reports attached this month: Community Outreach, Ministry & Personnel, Property, Real Estate Oversight, Spiritual Development, Stewardship, Welcoming & Fellowship, Worship, Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report, Youth & Family Ministry/Community Engagement Coordinator, Regional Council Representative, Fundraising (Faith Amour Concert)

Call to Order

Richard Cranston called the Council Meeting of **November 30, 2022** to order.

A quorum (17) of Council members were present.

Opening Prayer Rev. Heather

Opening Remarks Richard Cranston

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in particular, Rick Donaldson who has been recovering well following surgery. Richard reviewed video conference courtesies and procedures, including voting by verbal response for opposition or abstention. The date on the circulated agenda was corrected.

Review & Approval of October 26, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

No errors or omissions were noted.

- MOTION to Council by Steve Shaver that the Council minutes of October 26, 2022 be approved. SECONDED by Steve Shaver. Motion CARRIED.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Visioning Session Planning Update – Carol Wilson

- The working group consisting of Carol Wilson and Rev. Heather has been joined by Steve Shaver who will represent the Amalgamation Committee. They met recently with Chris Govern,

facilitator at Management Advisory Service (MAS), to update her regarding amalgamation deliberations and to discuss potential strategies for engagement with the congregation. The following action plan was recommended:

- Hold a facilitated “congregational check-in workshop” in early 2023, involving small breakout groups. The purpose is to provide a progress update on amalgamation deliberations and to give the congregation an opportunity to express concerns and ask questions about the process. Additional sessions may be set following the first event.
 - Hold a visioning session at a later stage, once it is known whether amalgamation is likely to occur
- Chris can assist us with these facilitated events. She has prepared a detailed plan for the first workshop; working group will review this plan in the near future and may be joined by Mary Dowding-Pare. Proposed date was initially January 29 but has now changed to March 26 given various timing constraints.
 - Steve stressed that Christ First needs to work in parallel with the St. Stephen’s on-the-Hill team with respect to periodic and relevant communications regarding the amalgamation process. The Joint Amalgamation Committee has a communications group who need to be consulted in order ensure coordination of all related congregational events.
 - MOTION to Council by Shawn Bausch to approve in principle the holding of a congregational workshop facilitated by Chris Govern (MAS), for the purpose of eliciting feedback from the congregation, subject to the approval of the Amalgamation Committee. SECONDED by Steve Shaver. Motion CARRIED.

Stewardship Campaign Update – Louise Sinclair

- Additional Time & Talent reports are in progress and will be distributed when completed. Reminder to committee chairs to reach out to new volunteers identified for their areas.
- Pledge numbers are being finalized. 3 new households have signed up for PAR, for a total of 80+% of Christ First donors.
- Help will be needed with follow up phone calls to those who have donated in the past but have not yet submitted an estimate of givings form.

Privacy Policy Update – Richard Cranston

- Richard is organizing a meeting in the near future to resume discussions
- Rev. Heather expressed encouragement for this project to go forward given the elements of the Policy that connect to the ongoing work of Congregation Support.

Council Covenant – Rev. Heather

- Rev. Heather will work on a document focused on accountability to one another, for discussion at the January 25 meeting

Upcoming Meetings – Carol Wilson

- Special Council meeting for budget review –January 9 on Zoom
- Regular Council meeting – January 25; location to be confirmed
- Semi-annual Congregational Meeting – confirmed for February 12, in person following combined service. A topic for future discussion is the possibility of embedding the meeting within worship, e.g. for the Spring congregational meeting.

Reports from Ministerial Team

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz – Lead Minister

- Rev. Heather expressed gratitude for the outpouring of compassion, care and latitude given by the congregation during the past couple of weeks while she has dealt with family challenges. She is also grateful for the efforts of the staff team to keep everything moving along smoothly.
- Congregation Support is still working without a chairperson. Small group gatherings with Visitors throughout November are instrumental in and indicative of the web of support that is needed in the congregation. Privacy policy is essential in supporting the work of the Visitors.

Victoria Keane – Youth & Family Ministry, Community Engagement Coordinator

Victoria highlighted the following:

- 3 new families have started to join 9:02 worship and Sunday School as a result of various mid-week and special initiatives
- Gratitude expressed to Mike Giguere and the team that supported the grant application recently approved by Edge. This funding allows for the continuation of the Community Hub Ministry project for 3 years. Dana Bryant-Giguere has just received the official letter outlining terms and will share this with Clarke Grice.

Committee Reports

No issues or discussions arose from the committee reports submitted by Ministry & Personnel, Real Estate Oversight, Spiritual Development, Welcoming & Fellowship and Fundraising (Faith Amour Concert).

Communications – Al Hubbard

- no recent changes to report
- Al thanked Rev. Heather and Worship for all the detailed information about services for the Advent season.

Community Outreach – Christine Whiting

- It was clarified that the Committee has decided to divert funding formerly provided to Food Grains Bank (FGB) to the local community instead, given that a) FGB is supported centrally by UCC through Mission & Service funding, and b) the need for funding in South Mississauga has increased substantially.
 - The estimate of givings form no longer includes the option to designate funds towards FGB
 - Given our longstanding relationship with Bighead River FGB that pre-dated amalgamation, there may be individuals in the congregation who would appreciate an explanation of the rationale for this change, and how to continue to donate individually if desired
 - Clarke suggested that donations to FGB can also be made periodically from Special Gifts allocations

Property – David Wheeler

- David will be focusing on accessing government grant money for capital improvements. He highlighted his concern over the lack of audited statements as a barrier to receiving grant money, as was the case for the Trillium Grant application to replace the Port Credit campus elevator (for \$65K), which was declined.
 - Clarke clarified that Christ Church previously had audited statements and changed to review engagement statements many years ago, given the cost and time factors involved in audits.
 - Rev. Heather will follow up with David regarding alternate funding avenues available outside the government
 - Dana stated that given the size of our operating budget now, it may be beneficial to consider returning to the practice of getting audited statements. Beyond opening up grant opportunities, an audit could give us more confidence in our internal accounting processes. Dana will ask our accountants what the process would involve, and whether the process for 2022 could start with the usual review in the interest of time, and be followed up with an expanded audit.
 - Shawn recommended further study and a proposal to be brought back to Council. He offered to support this process. Finance will assemble a small group to study this question and report back to Council.

Worship – Andy Choles

- Andy thanked Shawn Bausch for keeping the congregation informed about the test connections for Hub & Spoke during services.
- Andy requested advance notice about any special upcoming events that have an impact on worship services and/or duties for the Sunday morning volunteer teams and hosts.
- MOTION by Andy Choles, SECONDED by Elisabeth Evans, that Council approve the name of Cosette Lee-Guide for baptism into Christ First United Church on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Motion CARRIED.

Regional Council– Shawn Bausch

- November was a busy month for General Council – their first full meeting of their 3-year term
- Shawn has reviewed >100 Living Faith Stories, and reported that Christ First is in the top 5% across all categories

Future Planning Group – Shawn Bausch

- Shawn has spoken with Faith United following the successful Hub & Spoke test last Sunday. They were very pleased with their experience and would like to sign up for 3 services per month during February-June. And decision about the remainder of 2023 will come at a later date.

Financial Reports – Dana Bryant-Giguere, Clarke Grice

- **2022 Financial Update – October**
 - Dana reviewed the financial statements setting out the position of Christ First as of October 31, 2022.

- MOTION to Council by Dana Bryant-Giguere that the financial statements of Christ First as of October 31, 2022 which have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee be accepted as presented: SECONDED by Louise Sinclair. Motion CARRIED.
- **Finance Committee Report**
 - The Finance Committee will meet on December 10 to review the draft budget.
 - Dana thanked Clarke Grice for gathering all the budget information, and committee chairs for submitting their budgets on time.
 - Draft budget will be distributed to Council in advance of the January 9 Council meeting. In the meantime, Finance will advise Council if a special in-depth review process involving committee chairs is warranted.

New Business

- When the Educational Support Workers were recently preparing to go on strike, there was a demonstration in Port Credit. Richard Cranston received a query about opening the Port Credit Campus to demonstrators as a comfort station. He asked that Council members consider this as possibility for the future, for discussion at our next regular Council meeting.

Closing Prayer Rev. Heather

Adjournment Andy Choles

Next Council Meeting January 9, 2022

[Redacted Signature]

Council Chair – Rick Cranston

January 25, 2023

Date

[Redacted Signature]

Council Secretary – Carol Wilson