

Council Meeting Minutes
Monday January 9, 2023 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, Heather McGillis, Louise Sinclair, Pat Skinner, Richard Cranston, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Susan Gittings, Teresa Madeira

Regrets: Joanne Quennell, Steve Shaver

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

Reports attached this month: 2023 Draft Budget Summary

Call to Order

Richard Cranston called the Special Council Meeting of **January 9, 2023** to order.

A quorum (18) of Council members were present.

Opening Prayer Rev. Heather

Opening Remarks Richard Cranston

Richard opened the meeting with best wishes to Council for 2023. He reviewed video conference courtesies and procedures, including voting by verbal response for opposition or abstention.

2023 Budget – Clarke Grice

Clarke reviewed the circulated draft of the 2023 Budget for Christ First. The following are highlights of his supporting comments:

- Actual 2022 figures have not been finalized and are subject to minor adjustments.
- Projected Identified Givings of \$394K for 2023 is based on results of the Stewardship Campaign and a detailed review of donors on a year over year basis. Of the 196 households who donate to Christ First, 169 confirmed pledges totalling \$352K. An additional \$42K is anticipated from the remaining 27 households.
- Projected rental amounts are based on 2022 results but are likely conservative at this stage
- M & P expenses reflect in part the UCC guidelines for annual salary adjustments as well as pension and benefit costs for staff, all of whom exceed the threshold of 13 hours/week.

- Extra Ordinary Expenses - Capital Expenditures needs to be increased by \$20K to reflect 2 furnace replacements at Port Credit Campus in late December, with an offsetting amount added to Reserve Funds for Expenses.
- Discussion and clarification points:
 - Concern expressed over potentially running significant deficit budgets year after year. Most 2023 expenses reflect a return to pre-Covid activity. Operating position will need to be monitored throughout the year for potential review and cutback of expenses.
 - Operating Surplus from previous years goes into the member equity position. Christ First is in a cash positive position that can easily cover an operating shortfall this year if needed.
 - Property anticipates additional rental income of \$15K from a Region of Peel grant for the In from the Cold program being run in the Port Credit Campus auditorium from January-March. This program is being run and managed by Clarkson Community Church, with the contribution of space by Christ First. In addition, other rental figures are conservative. David Wheeler suggested rental income be increased overall by \$20K.
 - Our 10% donation to Mission & Service is partially offset by the UCC grant of \$22K to fund Community Hub Ministry.
 - Although another deficit budget could signal leaner years ahead, with increasing dependence on rental income, there was consensus to go ahead with the proposed budget with amendments discussed, in light of a) positive outcomes over the past 2 years and equity position; b) the intent to monitor progress closely throughout the coming year; and c) the knowledge that, in time, there will be deeper conversations about our long-term purpose and direction that will help guide our financial future.
- MOTION to Council by Clarke Grice that the proposed budget of Christ First for the year 2023, subject to an increase of \$20K in Rental Revenue and a further \$20K in both the Extra Ordinary Income and the Capital Expenditures categories, for the purchase of two new furnaces for the Port Credit Campus as discussed, that has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee, be approved as presented. SECONDED by Rick Donaldson. Motion CARRIED.
- Clarke will send individual committee operating budgets to chairs, and the revised budget summary to Carol Wilson for distribution, as soon as possible.

New Business

- Richard Cranston provided the following update on the plan and timelines for congregational engagement regarding amalgamation:
 - There was previous agreement to explore the idea of a congregational workshop on amalgamation on March 26. Since then, a small working group including Carol, Rev. Heather, Steve and Mary Dowding-Pare, who is leading communications for the Joint Amalgamation Committee, met with Chris Govern on Dec 13 to review the proposed workshop plan, and in doing so, reconsidered the overall strategy and timelines for engagement with the congregation.

- It was decided that rather than waiting until late March, to use the February 12 semi-annual congregational meeting as an opportunity to engage with the congregation. At that time, Steve Shaver will provide an update and will take questions.
 - This will be considered part of an overall JAC communications plan, which coordinates communications with both churches, and will encourage an ongoing flow of questions and answers.
 - It was clarified that a congregational workshop with a focus on visioning will be planned at a later date.
- Clarke Grice announced that Dana Bryant-Giguere will be stepping down from her role as Treasurer in June, or earlier if her replacement is found before then. Dana will be taking on the role of Treasurer at the Compass effective the end of April.
 - Clarke asked that Council members consider potential individuals to replace Dana and advise him as soon as possible.
 - Clarke added that the payroll function may need to be hired out as we move forward, to lessen the workload for the next Treasurer.
 - Shawn Bausch expressed gratitude to Dana for her hard work and dedication during her time as Treasurer.
 - Elisabeth Evans requested access to a yearly event calendar for planning purposes. Al explained that the version shown on the website is generated by input from the office staff. Victoria Keane offered to review the calendar of services and events with Elisabeth.

Closing Prayer Rev. Heather

Adjournment Al Hubbard

Next Council Meeting January 25, 2023

[Redacted Signature]

Council Chair – Rick Cranston

January 25, 2023

Date

[Redacted Signature]

Council Secretary – Carol Wilson

Secretary: *CW*