

Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 1900h
Merigold Room – Clarkson Campus

Present: Al Hubbard (video conference host), Andy Choles, Carol Wilson, Christine Whiting, Clarke Grice, Dana Bryant-Giguere, David Wheeler, Heather McGillis, Louise Sinclair, Pat Skinner, Richard Cranston, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Susan Gittings

Regrets: Elisabeth Evans, Joanne Quennell, Teresa Madeira

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

By Invitation: Joan Cobbold

Reports attached this month: Community Outreach, Congregation Support, Finance, Ministry & Personnel, Property, Real Estate Oversight, Spiritual Development, Worship, Future Planning Group, Financial Statements, Youth and Family Ministry/Community Engagement Coordinator
Other documents attached: May 2 Meeting Notes – Hub & Spoke, Q&A, Key Learnings, Policy Resolution, Hub & Spoke Update, Hub & Spoke Start-up Costs, Hub & Spoke Budget, Affirming Ministry documents, Vision Session Planning Group Report, SACM agenda, Fundraising Report – Lawn Sale

Call to Order

Richard Cranston called the Council Meeting of May 17, 2023 to order.

A quorum (18) of Council members were present.

Opening Prayer Rev. Heather

Opening Remarks Richard Cranston

Richard welcomed everyone, including John Anderson who was attending his first Council meeting. He then turned the chairing of the meeting over to Steve Shaver, Past Chair.

Steve thanked Richard for his dedication as Chair of Council over the past 2 years. He mentioned that Rick Donaldson would be representing Trustees for voting purposes, with Joan Cobbold (Trustees Chair as of June) in attendance by invitation. By Council consensus, there were no changes to the circulated agenda.

Review & Approval of April 19, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

No errors or omissions were noted.

- MOTION to Council by Andy Choles that the Council minutes of April 19, 2023 be approved. SECONDED by Louise Sinclair. Motion CARRIED.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Hub & Spoke Meeting May 2 – Learnings & Next Steps

- Steve Shaver stated that the expectation for this topic was to develop a framework for addressing the outstanding issues related to the Hub & Spoke initiative, rather than to debate the specific issues at this meeting.
- As co-facilitator with Richard Cranston for the May 2 meeting of several Council members, Rev. Heather provided an overview of the documents arising from that meeting, as prepared by Carol Wilson and circulated to Council:
 - *Meeting notes* – general summary of meeting
 - *Appendix A: Q&A* – compilation of questions and answers to date, with reference to previously circulated Council documents
 - *Appendix B: Key Learnings & Next Steps* – learnings to inform how we can move through the H&S project and projects to come in future
- Carol Wilson provided contextual background for the governance matters referenced in *Appendix B*. Terms of reference for the initiative need to be developed and ratified by Council. This will be addressed during a project assessment led by Louise Sinclair in the near future. As the process will be consultative, Louise invited those on Council who are interested to reach out to her with their input.
- The 2 motions below also arose from *Appendix B*:

Motion #1: MOVED by Rick Donaldson, SECONDED by Christine Whiting, that Christ First pause any further commitments to continue the Hub and Spoke project with Faith United Milton or any other church, beyond June 2023, until Christ First Council has resolved all outstanding issues and concerns. And further:

That Council appoint Louise Sinclair to lead the Hub & Spoke project assessment, anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2023, for presentation to and approval by Council.

- Shawn Bausch stated that the motion presents a challenge to Future Planning Group's relationship with Faith United due to their planning timeline of 6 months.
- MOVED by Shawn Bausch, SECONDED by John Anderson, to amend the date in Motion #1 from June 30, 2023 to June 15, 2023.
- Some Council members raised concerns that this reduced time frame may be too tight to allow for a thorough assessment, and that Council comfort with the initiative is the main priority. Others expressed concern over the potential risk of sacrificing a worthwhile outreach initiative (in their view), if the assessment cannot be completed over the next few weeks. It was pointed out that regardless of deadline, Council must proceed based on proper due diligence. Louise felt confident that the assessment could be completed in time for Council to make a decision at the June 7 Council meeting, provided that Council members read the supporting documents and be prepared to provide their outstanding questions and concerns over the next week.
- Motion CARRIED with 2 members opposed.

Amended Motion #1 was read aloud as follows: MOVED by Rick Donaldson, SECONDED by Christine Whiting, that Christ First pause any further commitments to continue the Hub and Spoke project with Faith United Milton or any other church, beyond June 2023, until Christ First Council has resolved all outstanding issues and concerns. And further:

That Council appoint Louise Sinclair to lead the Hub & Spoke project assessment, anticipated to be completed by June 15, 2023, for presentation to and approval by Council. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Motion #2: David Wheeler, in his preamble to the motion below, read aloud the *Policy Resolution* referenced therein:

WHEREAS CHRIST FIRST (CF) on occasion requires contractual and/or covenanting agreements, other than those contained in an approved budget, that would obligate CF to commit the use of its limited human, physical or financial resources in furtherance of the work of CF in our community, to be executed;

AND WHEREAS any committee requesting authorization to bind CF by agreement(s) cannot execute said agreement(s) until certain conditions are fulfilled.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Committee requesting that an agreement be signed to bind CF to certain obligations must have performed sufficient due diligence, including but not limited to discussing the impact of the agreement in question on other committees, to enable the majority of the Committee to recommend to Council that the agreement should be signed.
2. Council, upon receipt of a recommendation to proceed with a binding agreement or covenant from the sponsoring committee, will unilaterally and with sufficient time, determine whether the recommendation has been properly and thoroughly vetted prior to the matter being brought forward for a vote.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF the parties below have executed this RESOLUTION on behalf of Christ First.

MOVED by David Wheeler, SECONDED by Louise Sinclair, to approve the *Policy Resolution (May 17, 2023)* as presented.

- In response to questions about the types of contracts that would require Council approval, it was clarified that projects to be excluded would be covered in the wording: "other than those contained in an approved budget". This allows for committees to do their usual work unhindered.
- It was further clarified that the scope of this Resolution is to address the due diligence required before entering into binding contracts or covenanting agreements.
- Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Visioning Session Update

- Carol Wilson referred to her report circulated for information purposes.

- A facilitator has been secured for October 1 and a general plan for the workshop has been developed
- Carol invited Council members to contact her with any questions.

Affirming Church Update

- Shawn Bausch provided an overview of the intent of an Affirming Ministry commitment to inclusivity. There is a well-defined process to make the commitment as mapped out by Affirm United, an agency affiliated with UCC.
- FPG recommends that Council undertake this process, beginning with the formation of a group to study the question. Shawn requested that Council review all related documents which have been circulated, in preparation for a vote on June 7.
- Victoria Keane offered the clarification that although we are a welcoming church, the Affirming Ministry commitment involves becoming intentional and explicit with respect to inclusivity.

Reports from Ministerial Team

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz – Lead Minister

Rev. Heather referred to Chapter 4 in Robert Schnase's *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, highlighting the practice of 'intentional faith development'. She shared the concept that 'radical Inclusivity is and must be radical', from a lecture she recently attended at the Festival of Homiletics.

Victoria Keane – Youth & Family Ministry, Community Engagement Coordinator

There were no additions to Victoria's report as submitted.

Committee Reports

No issues or discussions arose from the committee reports submitted by Community Outreach, Ministry & Personnel, Real Estate Oversight or Spiritual Development.

Communications – Al Hubbard

- Reminder of Annual Report submission deadline – May 21

Congregational Support – John Anderson

- John mentioned that the Committee is short of volunteer callers, visitors and drivers. All those interested in volunteering are asked to contact him.

Property – David Wheeler

- MOVED by David Wheeler that Council approve the expenditure of \$9,654.10, contracted by D'Angelo & Sons Roofing and Exteriors, for the repair and replacement of the Eavestrough over the Administrative Entrance to the Clarkson Campus Building. SECONDED by Clarke Grice. Motion CARRIED.
- Inn From the Cold – plans are underway for next year, in collaboration with REOC, Mike Giguere (the Compass) and others from the community, with a view to drawing on funding from the

Region of Peel. Mike Giguere is working on a plan for it to become an independent, not-for-profit registered charity.

Worship – Andy Choles

- MOTION by Andy Choles, SECONDED by Victoria Keane, that Council approve Pearl Ann Asha Hamilton Butler Canaran for baptism into Christ First on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Motion CARRIED.
- Andy referenced the concern mentioned in his report regarding the bandwidth and quality of the internet connection. David Wheeler expressed concern over potential interruptions to service that would affect staff or tenants. He asked that logistics be considered in consultation with Property. Andy's motion stated in his report was deferred, pending further exploration of technological matters and costs.

Regional Council/Future Planning Group – Shawn Bausch

- Updates are available in the May newsletter from Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Fundraising – Lawn Sale – Victoria Keane

- Victoria thanked all who were involved
- \$4150 was raised. Christine Whiting added that the Quilters raised \$500 to add to the proceeds of the sale

2023 Financial Update - April – Clarke Grice

- Clarke referred to the financial statements setting out the position of Christ First as of April 30, 2023.
- MOTION to Council by Clarke Grice that the financial statements of Christ First as of April 30, 2023 which have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee be accepted: SECONDED by Christine Whiting. Motion CARRIED.

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting – June 4, 2023

Agenda and Logistics

- Carol referred to the meeting agenda with roles identified, for information purposes. All those named on the agenda will receive a logistics email in the coming days
- Pre-meeting Information package will be distributed to the congregation on May 29

Draft Nominations Report 2023-24

- Rick Donaldson reported that the nominations working group comprised of Richard Cranston, Rev. Heather, Steve Shaver met in April, with subsequent fine-tuning by Carol Wilson.
- MOVED by Rick Donaldson, SECONDED by Sue Gittings, that Council accept the Nominations Report as circulated to Council members on May 15, 2023, subject to changes and additions, and for presentation to the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on June 4, 2023. Motion CARRIED.
- The Nominations Report is open for the addition of new committee members throughout the year.

New Business

- Carol Wilson provided advance notice of June meeting dates for the 2023-24 Council: June 7 (business meeting on Zoom), and June 27 (social event). She will follow up with further details.
- Clarke Grice expressed gratitude to Dana Bryant-Giguere, outgoing Treasurer, for her dedication throughout her term.
- Steve Shaver acknowledged the dedication of Sue Gittings, who is also stepping down from Ministry & Personnel in June.

Closing Prayer Rev. Heather

Adjournment Louise Sinclair

Next Council Meeting June 7, 2023

[Redacted Signature]

Council Chair – Rick Cranston

June 7, 2023

Date

[Redacted Signature]

Council Secretary – Carol Wilson