

Minutes
Semi-annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 23, 2022 at 1400h
Via Videoconference

Reports & Attachments for this meeting: Meeting agenda, Attendance List, January 23
2022 Slide Presentation

Opening Prayer:

The Rev. Scott Beckett led the congregation in prayer.

Call to Order:

Richard Cranston, Chair of Council, called the Special Congregational Meeting of January 23, 2022 to order.

Attendance was taken. One hundred and forty-nine (149) people were present. The meeting was recorded for administrative purposes, and the recording will be destroyed following approval of the minutes of this meeting.

Opening Remarks:

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting, the purpose of which was to receive the report of the Search Committee, and to approve their recommendation for a new minister. He requested that the business discussed today remain confidential until the decision could be shared publicly.

Carol Wilson, Council Secretary, reviewed videoconference courtesies and procedures, including voting by objection or abstention, as signalled by show of raised hands for Zoom registrants, or verbal responses by those who phoned in to the meeting. A slide presentation was shared on screen as a visual guide to the agenda and meeting content, and live captioning was enabled.

Introduction of Search Committee:

Richard introduced Mary Dowding-Paré, Chair of the Search Committee. He offered words of appreciation to Mary and her team. Mary expressed thanks to them for their teamwork over the past year. She also expressed her gratitude for the support and encouragement received from the congregation, Rev. Morar, Ministry & Personnel and Council throughout the search

process. Search Committee members were invited to appear on screen and greet the congregation as they were introduced in turn by Mary.

Introduction of Regional Council Representative:

Mary acknowledged the assistance provided by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council throughout the search process. She introduced Mary Patterson, the advisor assigned by Regional Council, and offered words of appreciation to her for her guidance and support over the past year. Mary Patterson was invited to appear on screen and greet the congregation.

Voting Privileges for Adherents:

Richard read the following motion:

- Moved by Christine Whiting, SECONDED by Tanya Swinbourne: That Adherents be allowed to vote on any or all matters under consideration at this Semi-annual Congregational meeting of January 23, 2022. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Presentation and Approval of Search Committee Report and Recommendation:

Mary Dowding-Paré presented her report, encompassing the following topics:

- Challenges which were overcome in the search process
 - Small number of applications received from candidates who met their criteria
 - Covid may have prevented many ministers from moving
 - High cost of housing in the GTA
- Selection Criteria developed by the Call Coordinating Committee and augmented by the Search Team
- Attributes of the candidate chosen by the Committee – selection criteria were met and exceeded
- Key details about the candidate – Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz
- Terms of call:
 - Lead minister position
 - Full-time, 40 hours per week
 - Start date May 1, 2022
 - Salary considerations
 - Provisions for contingency accommodations in consideration of commuting distance

Mary was pleased to then bring a unanimous recommendation forward on behalf of the Committee. She read the following motion:

- MOVED by Mary Dowding-Paré, SECONDED by Barbara Abrams: That Members of Christ First extend a call to Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz effective May 1, 2022 for the position of full-time, Lead Minister; Christ First requests that Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approves this call, and that the Search Committee be disbanded with sincere thanks, following the covenanting service.

- The following questions and comments were raised:
 - Q: What is the history of the candidate's community involvement?
A: she has been involved in community round tables at present church; portfolio at previous church included experience with local and global outreach
 - Q: Will the candidate's family transfer their membership to Christ First?
A: To be determined
 - Q: Is hotel allowance in addition to housing allowance?
A: housing allowance is automatically built into overall salary; the hotel allowance is separate from the overall remuneration
 - Q: Is the candidate experienced in online worship?
A: Yes, she is very comfortable being on camera as her church has been worshipping online for at least two (2) years
 - Q: Did you consider use of the apartment at Clarkson Campus for accommodation?
A: This has been discussed with Community Outreach and Council, given that the apartment has been used for outreach purposes and would require a great deal of work to make it suitable for a minister. However, it was the candidate's preference that it continue to be kept for outreach use.
 - Many expressions of gratitude and support for the recommendation were offered by congregants, based on their prior knowledge of the candidate, e.g., through her previous appointment at First United
- Motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Mary thanked the congregation for their endorsement of the Search Committee's recommendation. She concluded her presentation by reviewing next steps:

- Regional Council approval is required and anticipated by January 26
- Confidentiality requested until January 30

Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

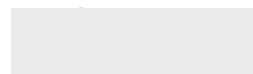
Richard Cranston expressed appreciation, on behalf of the congregation, to the following individuals:

- Mary Dowding-Paré, for her comprehensive report, as well as her leadership and collaborative efforts throughout the search process.
- Members of the Search Committee, for their dedication and commitment
- Technical team: Al Hubbard, Ed Mock, Maia Choles and Carol Wilson, for their efforts towards the smooth running of the meeting

Having concluded all business, Richard Cranston declared the meeting closed.

Blessing:

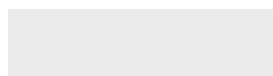
The Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes led the congregation in a responsive blessing.



Council Chair – Richard Cranston

June 12, 2022

Date



Council Secretary – Carol Wilson