

**Minutes**  
**Semi-annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday June 12, 2022 at 1400h**  
**Via Videoconference**

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**Reports & Attachments for this meeting:** Meeting agenda, Attendance List, June 2022 Annual Report, Real Estate Oversight Committee Update, Future Planning Group – Hub & Spoke Ministry, Financial Update – April 30, 2022, 2022-23 Nominations Report, June 12 2022 Slide Presentation

**Opening Prayer:**

The Rev. Scott Beckett led the congregation in prayer.

**Call to Order:**

Richard Cranston, Chair of Council, called the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of June 12, 2022 to order.

Attendance was taken. Ninety-one (91) people were present. The meeting was recorded for administrative purposes, and the recording will be destroyed once the minutes of this meeting have been approved.

**Opening Remarks:**

Richard Cranston welcomed everyone to this virtual congregational meeting and reviewed its purpose.

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.

**Voting Privileges for Adherents:**

Richard read the following motion:

MOVED by Susan Gittings, SECONDED by Christine Whiting: To allow Adherents to vote on any or all matters under consideration at this Semi-annual Congregational meeting of

June 12, 2022. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Richard referred to the agenda distributed to the congregation in advance and read the following motion:

MOVED by Marg Shaver, SECONDED by Al Hubbard, to approve the agenda as printed.

There were no changes to the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings:**

Richard referred to the minutes of the congregational meetings held on January 23, 2022 and February 6, 2022, which were circulated in advance. He read the corresponding motions:

- **Special Congregational Meeting – January 23, 2022**

MOVED by Mary Dowding-Paré, SECONDED by Ron Kucharski: To approve the minutes of the January 23, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting as printed.

There were no changes to the minutes as presented. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting – February 6, 2022**

MOVED by Steve Shaver, SECONDED by Christine Whiting: To approve the minutes of the February 6, 2022 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting as printed.

There were no changes to the minutes as presented. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Approval of the June 2022 Annual Report:**

Richard referred to the Annual Report distributed to the congregation in advance. He explained that the purpose of the Report was to re-establish a cycle of reporting on activities annually in the Spring, and thus it consisted of year-to-date updates from committees for 2022. He thanked Al Hubbard, Communications Chair, for compiling the Report. He read the following motion:

MOVED by Al Hubbard, SECONDED by Susan Gittings: That the June 2022 Annual Report be accepted as presented.

There were no changes to the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Real Estate Oversight Committee (REOC) Update:**

Steve Shaver, Chair of REOC, referred to his report contained in the June 2022 Annual Report. He provided an important update on the Committee's exploration activities and key learnings to date. He further reported that a) Council has approved a motion from the REOC committee

to form an Exploratory Committee to open discussions with a similar committee from St. Stephen's on-the-Hill about the option of a possible future together and b) REOC will continue its explorations on the various other options, while staying abreast of progress by the Exploratory Committee. He closed by urging the congregation to attend the Visioning Session on September 18, 2022, and to contact him with any concerns or questions following today's meeting.

The following question was raised by a congregant following Steve's presentation: *Usually, amalgamations are to do with financial pressure. We talked about selling one property, and then we jumped to a merger with another United Church. Is the church considering which option is best – selling a property or merging – or are they looking at doing both, in order to save money because of an aging population?* Steve replied with the following clarification points:

- REOC has a mandate to look at all options, and no decisions have been made about which option is best.
- REOC felt obliged to recommend that Christ First seriously examine this opportunity with St. Stephen's on-the-Hill. The purpose of current discussions is to determine whether there is enough of a fit between the two congregations to move forward to amalgamation talks.

### **Financial Update - as of April 30, 2022**

Clark Grice, Chair of Finance, provided an overview of Christ First's encouraging financial position as of April 30, 2022, as detailed in the June 2022 Annual Report.

### **Nominations Report for 2022-23:**

Carol Wilson referred to the Nominations Report circulated to the congregation in advance, and which she was presenting on behalf of Council. She thanked all who allowed their names to stand for this year's Nominations Report, and asked everyone to thoughtfully consider the following opportunities to serve on Council, in addition to the various other vacancies noted in the Report:

- Vice Chair - Council
- Chair – Congregation Support
- Chair - Recruitment

Carol read the following motion:

MOVED by Carol Wilson, SECONDED by Marg Shaver: That the 2022-23 Nominations Report be accepted as presented, with encouragement to continue the recruitment process having a view to filling those positions identified as Vacant plus additional members for committees identified as in need of more volunteer staffing.

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Andy Choles encouraged additional volunteers to join the Worship Committee. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

### **Installation of Council Members & Leaders – Covenanting Ceremony and Prayer:**

Rev. Heather opened the installation ceremony by thanking all volunteers, on behalf of the Staff team, for all the ways they support Christ First's shared ministry. She, along with Victoria Keane and Richard Cranston, led the ceremony to install Council Members and Leaders. Carol Wilson responded aloud on behalf of Leaders.

Richard invited the newly installed Christ First Council members to greet the congregation in turn.

### **New Business:**

- **Future Planning Group – Hub & Spoke Ministry**

Shawn Bausch, Chair of the Future Planning Group, provided an overview of "Hub & Spoke Ministry", an exciting opportunity for Christ First to bring online worship to communities of faith without ministerial pulpit resources. This initiative is detailed in the Future Planning Group report contained in the Annual Report.

The following comments/questions were raised by a congregant following Shawn's presentation: *I think this is a brilliant idea! Is this well known to all UCC churches?*

Shawn replied with the following clarification points:

- This program is not well known as it has not been publicized widely.
- We believe that if this program proves to be viable, we can be an example for the Region and across Canada.
- There are currently 5 operational 'hub' churches in Ontario and all of Canada. Christ First would be the first operational hub church in our Region.

### **Appreciations:**

Richard Cranston began his closing remarks by acknowledging today's meeting team consisting of technical crew, office staff and presenters. He offered special words of thanks to the following leaders who are stepping down from Council:

- Kay Cranston, outgoing Co-Chair of Community Outreach and Emergency Preparedness
- Mary Dowding- Paré, Chair of the recently disbanded Search Committee
- Marg Shaver, outgoing Chair of Congregation Support

Richard invited all present to join him in a heartfelt round of applause for these individuals.

**Adjournment:**

Having concluded all business, Rick Cranston declared the meeting closed and thanked all present for their attendance.

**Closing Prayer:**

The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz led the congregation in a closing prayer.

[Redacted Signature]

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Council Chair – Richard Cranston

February 12, 2023

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Date

[Redacted Signature]

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Council Secretary – Carol Wilson