

Minutes
Semi-annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday February 12, 2023 at 1115h
Sanctuary, Clarkson Campus

Reports & Attachments for this meeting: Meeting agenda, Attendance List, Remembrance – John Fargey, Board of Trustees Report, 2022 Financial Statements, Treasurer’s Comments, 2023 Budget Summary, 2023 Budget Comments, February 12 2023 Slide Presentation

Opening Prayer:

The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz offered her opening prayer via recorded video.

Call to Order:

Richard Cranston, Chair of Council, called the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of February 12, 2023 to order.

Attendance was taken. Seventy-four (74) people were present, with The Rev. Heather attending via phone connection due to her isolation for Covid. The meeting was recorded for administrative purposes, and the recording will be destroyed following approval of the minutes of this meeting. A slide presentation was shared on screen as a visual guide to the agenda and meeting content.

Opening Remarks:

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed its purpose. He introduced Carol Wilson, Council Secretary, as recording secretary for the meeting.

Voting Privileges for Adherents:

Richard explained that voting privileges for the meeting can be extended to adherents with the approval of church members in attendance. He further clarified the definitions of ‘adherents’ vs. ‘members’ as follows:

- Members – those who have been formally received into church membership
- Adherents – those who are engaged in the life and work of the congregation but who have not been formally received into membership

MOVED by Daphne Donaldson, SECONDED by Elisabeth Evans: To allow Adherents to vote on any or all matters under consideration at this Semi-annual Congregational meeting of February 12, 2023. Motion CARRIED, with two (2) abstentions.

Approval of the Agenda:

Richard referred to the agenda distributed to the congregation in advance. There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

MOVED by Pat Skinner, SECONDED by Andy Choles: To approve the agenda as printed. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings:

Richard referred to the minutes of the congregational meetings held on June 12, 2022 and October 2, 2022, which were circulated in advance.

- **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting – June 12, 2022:**

MOVED by Mary Dowding-Paré, SECONDED by Ruth Collins: To approve the minutes of the June 12, 2022 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting as printed.

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

- **Special Congregational Meeting – October 2, 2022:**

MOVED by Al Hubbard, SECONDED by Shawn Bausch: To approve the minutes of the October 2, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting as printed.

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

Appointment of New Council Member:

Carol Wilson announced that the appointment of John Anderson to the role of Chair of Congregation Support was recently approved by Council, subject to ratification by the congregation at today's meeting.

MOVED by Carol Wilson, SECONDED by Leslie Fagan: To approve the appointment of John Anderson as Chair of Congregation Support until the June 2023 semi-annual congregational meeting, when his position will be re-confirmed during the Installation of the 2023-24 Council. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Remembrance:

Louise Sinclair, Chair of Stewardship, offered words of remembrance for John Fargey and his exemplary leadership, on behalf of The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz and Christ First Council.

Board of Trustees Report:

Rick Donaldson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented his previously circulated report and invited questions. Dana Bryant-Giguere, Treasurer, offered the clarification that the First United Foundation (FUF) has been dissolved, resulting in transfer of the FUF funds to the First United Fund of Christ First.

Finance Committee Reports:

- **Review and Approval of the 2022 Financial Statements**

The financial statements prepared by the accounting firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates (CMA), following their engagement review of Christ First's 2022 financial records and files, were distributed to the congregation in advance. Dana Bryant-Giguere, Treasurer, highlighted the following aspects of the statements (see Treasurer's Comments for her full commentary):

- Statement of Financial Position (p. 1), which reports the assets and liabilities held in each of our Funds.
- Statement of Operations (p. 2), which shows total Receipts vs Disbursements
- Details of Receipts and Disbursements can be found on p. 3, Schedule 1.

Dana thanked Clarke Grice, Chair of Finance, along with Committee members Ian MacDonald and Doug Mills and Christine Whiting. She also acknowledged the following individuals for their assistance: Janis Cowie (office - management of rentals), Ashley Fanourgiakis (office – bookkeeping assistance) and David Watters (bank deposits).

MOVED by Dana Bryant-Giguere, SECONDED by Doug Robinson: That the December 31, 2022 Year-end Review Engagement Financial Statements prepared by our accountants Capstick McCollum & Associates, be accepted as presented. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- **Appointment of Accountants**

MOVED by Dana Bryant-Giguere, SECONDED by Paul Fagan: That the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, of Oakville ON, be appointed as Accountants for Christ First for the year 2023. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- **Review and Approval of the 2023 Operating Budget Proposal**

The 2023 Budget was distributed to the congregation in advance. Clarke Grice presented highlights of the budget (See 2023 Budget Comments for his full commentary), projecting an overall operating deficit of \$65,370. He closed with the following remarks:

- Many capital projects identified by the Property Committee have been excluded from this budget as they have been deemed non-essential at this time, but will need to be addressed in future.
- The Finance Committee looks to findings of the Real Estate Oversight Committee and the Amalgamation Committee with interest.
- Given the positive result for 2022 after a projected shortfall, and the positive member equity operating position along with other available funds, the Finance Committee is confident at this time that our financial needs for the coming year can be funded.

MOVED by Clarke Grice, SECONDED by Mike Giguere: That the 2023 Christ First Operating Budget be accepted and approved as presented.

Following clarifications as detailed in the 2023 Budget Comments in response to questions from a congregant, the Motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Amalgamation Committee Update:

Steve Shaver, Chair of the Christ First Amalgamation Committee, shared a slide presentation on behalf of the Joint Amalgamation Committee (JAC) which gave an update of the committee's progress. The presentation (which was later distributed to the congregation within a communications update from JAC) covered the following topics related to the work of JAC:

- Committee Composition
- Mandate
- Progress
- Next steps
- Timelines

New Business:

Andy Choles, Chair of Worship, spoke in affirmation of Christ First's ability to embrace change, as evidenced by initiatives necessitated by the Covid pandemic. He further encouraged the congregation to continue to accept and embrace change as we move forward, with the opportunity to engage in varied worship experiences such as a) occasional blended Sunday services which are created for the purpose of gathering the whole family of Christ First and b) the Rural Connect (Hub & Spoke) program, along with ongoing amalgamation discussions. His remarks were met with a round of applause from the congregation.

Appreciations:

Richard Cranston began his final remarks by expressing gratitude to the following individuals whose work contributed to the financial results presented today:

- Dana Bryant-Giguere, who will be stepping down in June 2023, Clarke Grice and the Finance Committee
- Committee chairs for care in planning their budgets
- Louise Sinclair, for her successful stewardship campaign
- Fundraisers and their supporters
- Congregation, for their givings and support

Richard further expressed appreciation to those who supported today’s meeting:

- Meeting presenters
- Evan Hoffman, for technical support
- Ashley Fanourgiakis and Janis Cowie, for sending out meeting announcements
- Carol Wilson, for meeting preparation
- The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz, for her leadership and support

Adjournment:

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

Closing Prayer:

Mary Dowding-Paré led the congregation in a closing prayer on behalf of The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz.

[Redacted Signature]

Council Chair – Richard Cranston

June 4, 2023

Date

[Redacted Signature]

Council Secretary – Carol Wilson

Secretary: *CW*