

**Minutes**  
**Semi-annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday June 4, 2023 at 1130h**  
**Sanctuary, Clarkson Campus**

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**Reports & Attachments for this meeting:** Meeting agenda, Attendance List, June 2023 Annual Report, Financial Update – April 30, 2023, 2023-24 Nominations report, June 4 2023 Slide Presentation

**Opening Prayer:**

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

**Call to Order:**

Richard Cranston, Chair of Council, called the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of June 4, 2023 to order.

Attendance was taken. Sixty-four (64) people were present. 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 definition of 'adherents' as those who are engaged in the life and work of the congregation but who have not been formally received into membership.

MOVED by Louise Sinclair, SECONDED by Paul Fagan: To allow Adherents to vote on any or all matters under consideration at this Semi-annual Congregational meeting of June 4, 2023. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Richard referred to the agenda distributed to the congregation in advance.

MOVED by Leslie Fagan, SECONDED by Daphne Donaldson: To approve the agenda as printed.

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

**Approval of Minutes of Semi-annual Congregational Meeting – February 12, 2023:**

Richard referred to the minutes of the congregational meeting held on February 12, 2023, which were circulated in advance.

MOVED by Al Hubbard, SECONDED by Andy Choles: To approve the minutes of the February 12, 2023 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting as printed.

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

**Approval of the June 2023 Annual Report:**

Richard referred to the Annual Report distributed to the congregation in advance, and acknowledged the work of committees that is reflected in the Report.

MOVED by Dana Bryant-Giguere, SECONDED by Ruth Collins: That the June 2023 Annual Report be accepted as presented.

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

**Financial Update - as of April 30, 2023**

Clark Grice, Chair of Finance, provided an overview of Christ First's encouraging financial position as of April 30, 2023, as detailed in the June 2023 Annual Report.

**Nominations Report for 2023-24:**

Rick Donaldson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented the Nominations Report prepared by a small working group who had been meeting in recent months to discuss position vacancies. He expressed thanks to everyone who had agreed to serve on Council for 2023-24.

MOVED by Rick Donaldson, SECONDED by Barb Abrams: That the 2023-24 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. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

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

The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz expressed appreciation on behalf of the Staff team, to volunteers who served during the past year, and to those have stepped forward for the coming year. She led the installation ceremony for the 2023-24 Council, with the assistance of Victoria Keane and Richard Cranston. Council Members were invited to join in a shared reading of the Council Covenant.

Rev. Heather offered words of thanks and praise for Ministers Emeriti – The Rev. Marney Dyker, The Rev. Bob Johnstone and The Rev. Dr. Ted Lutz, and Voluntary Associate Minister – The Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes.

**New Business:**

Richard Cranston gave an overview of the following initiatives from the life and work of Council:

- After operating for the past several months, the Hub and Spoke program has entered a transitional assessment phase, with findings to be addressed at the June Council meeting
- The Future Planning Group will soon present Council with a recommendation for Christ First to enter the study process to become an Affirming Community of Faith
- Council will consider its response to Remit 1 (arising from General Council 44), concerning the establishment of an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada. Council will vote on the Remit before the deadline of March 2024 and communication the result to the congregation.
- Council will hold a congregational Vision Workshop on October 1, for the purpose of revisiting the results of our 2019 Vision Session and discussing how Christ First may want to refocus its priorities over the next few years.
- Council will gather for a retreat day on November 4, to continue the strategic planning process around priorities identified at the congregational Vision Workshop.

**Appreciations:**

Richard Cranston began his final remarks by expressing gratitude to the team of organizers and participants for this meeting, as well as the following individuals who were stepping down from their roles on Council:

- Dana Bryant-Giguere – Treasurer
- Elisabeth Evans and Joanne Quennell – Co-Chairs, Welcoming & Fellowship
- Heather McGillis and Susan Gittings – Co-Chairs, Ministry & Personnel
- Rick Donaldson – Chair, Board of Trustees

After expressing gratitude to all who were members of Council during his term as Chair over the past 2 years, Richard turned the meeting over to Carol Wilson, incoming Chair of Council. Carol

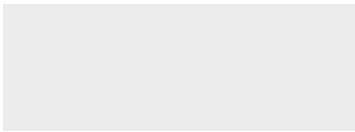
offered words of appreciation to Richard for his dedication and leadership as Chair.

**Adjournment:**

Having concluded all business, Carol Wilson declared the meeting closed and thanked everyone present for their attendance.

**Closing Prayer:**

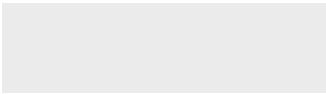
The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz led the congregation in the closing prayer.



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Council Chair – Richard Cranston

February 18, 2024

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Date



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Council Secretary – Carol Wilson