

**Christ First Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 1900h**  
**Merigold Room**

**Present:** Carol Wilson, Al Hubbard, Nancy Hori, Richard Cranston, David Wheeler, Heather McGillis, Teresa Madeira, John McGillis, Joan Cobbold, Andy Choles, Clarke Grice, Pat Skinner, Jill Robinson, John Anderson, Louise Sinclair, Rick Donaldson, Shawn Bausch, Steve Shaver, Mary Dowding-Paré

**Regrets:** Christine Whiting, Victoria Keane

**Ministry Staff:** Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

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Document Attached: 2024 Christ First draft budget
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**Purpose of this meeting:** To review the Christ First proposed budget for 2024 submitted by Clarke Grice, Treasurer.

**Call to Order:**

Chair of Christ First Council Carol Wilson, called the Council Meeting of January 10, 2023 to order. A quorum of 20 Council members were present.

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz led the opening prayer.

**Opening Remarks:** Carol Wilson

Carol Wilson welcomed Council members and Rev. Heather to the meeting, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- Carol reiterated the purpose of this meeting is the review of 2024 budget. In addition, there will be some high level discussions regarding the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. All regular business items will be deferred until the February 7 Council meeting, unless there is an urgent matter to discuss.
- Carol asked Shawn Bausch to provide an update on the Burns Supper under New Business.

No other new business items were brought forward at this time.

**Budget Discussions:** Carol Wilson, Clarke Grice

Carol Wilson thanked the Council members for reviewing the submitted draft budget in preparation for this meeting. Voting on the finalized budget will take place at the February 7<sup>th</sup>, meeting. Carol handed the budget presentation over to Clarke Grice.

- Using the submitted budget document, Clarke Grice gave a line-by-line synopsis of the budget vs actual for 2023 and explained any variances that occurred.
- Clarke then presented the 2024 budget with clarification and justification of the numbers where required. After extensive discussion on certain budget lines, it was determined some adjustments were required. Clarke confirmed those adjustments will be made and ready for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting when Council will vote on the budget.
- Carol thanked Clarke, and all those involved in preparation of the budget:
  - Finance Committee
  - Bookkeeper-Andreea Vladescu
  - Office staff- Ashley Fanourgiakis and Janis Cowie
  - Committee Chairs

With the information that was presented by Clarke, Carol asked that the budget situation be assessed with the big picture in mind as we work on the strategic planning process. Carol opened the floor for discussion and asked for feedback.

- After much discussion, all were in favour of supporting the budget as presented with the identified adjustments.
- Key components to communicate to the congregation will be the current financial situation in the context of strategic planning process taking place as we plan for the future of the church.

### **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – February 18, 2024** Carol Wilson

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 18, 2024 after the 10:00am blended service.

- Carol gave an overview and the rationale for holding a hybrid meeting. I.e. In-person in the Sanctuary and Zoom for those not able attend in-person.
- Carol gave an overview of the agenda and key speakers:
  - Clarke Grice – Financial reports
  - Joan Cobbold –Trustees report
  - Carol Wilson – Progress update on strategic planning process

In the event that the audited financial statements are not finalized in time to be distributed to the congregation ahead of the meeting date, there will be a contingency plan put into place to handle financial reporting to the congregation.

### **New Business:**

Shawn Bausch offered to host the Robbie Burns supper in his condo's party room on January 26 at 6:00pm. The food is being organized by Christine Whiting.

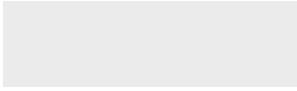
**Closing Prayer:** Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz led the closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** MOTION to adjourn the meeting – Rick Donaldson

**Next Meeting:** February 7, 2024

**Committee reports due date:** January 29, 2024.

**Strategic Planning Meeting:** January 31, 2024

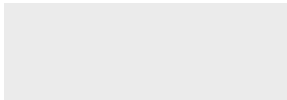


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Council Chair – Carol Wilson

February 7, 2024

Date



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Secretary – Nancy Hori