

Minutes
Semi-annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 1130h
Clarkson Campus & Videoconference

Reports & Attachments for this meeting: Meeting agenda, Attendance List, Board of Trustees Report, 2023 Financial Statements, Treasurer's Comment, 2023 Budget, 2023 Budget Comments, February 18-Meeting Slide Presentation

Opening Prayer:

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

Call to Order:

Carol Wilson, Chair of Council, called the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of February 18, 2024 to order.

Attendance was taken. Fifty-nine (59) people were present in the Clarkson Campus Sanctuary and twenty-one (21) attended via Zoom.

This meeting was recorded for administrative purposes only. The recording will be destroyed once the minutes of the meeting have been approved.

Opening Remarks:

Carol Wilson welcomed everyone to this first hybrid Semi-annual Congregational Meeting and reviewed its purpose.

Carol introduced those members who are assisting at this meeting: Nancy Hori - recording secretary, Louise Sinclair - Vice Chair of Council, and the technical production team of Emily Adamson, Al Hubbard and Andy Choles.

As this was the first hybrid Congregational Meeting, where there was both in-person and Zoom attendance, Carol reviewed the courtesies and procedures for both groups when voting and/or

requesting opportunities to ask questions and/or provide commentary. A slide presentation was shared on screen for both audiences as a visual guide for the agenda and meeting content.

Voting Privileges for Adherents:

Carol Wilson explained that the voting privileges for this meeting can be extended to adherents with the approval of church members in attendance. She further clarified the definition of an 'adherent' as being as follows:-

- An adherent is someone who is engaged in the life and work of the congregation but who has not been formally received into membership of the United Church.

MOVED by Paul Fagan, SECONDED by Richard Cranston: To allow Adherents to vote on any or all matters under consideration at this Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of February 18, 2024. Motion CARRIED with one (1) abstention.

Approval of the Agenda:

Carol Wilson referred to the agenda distributed in advance to the congregation. Carol noted that two items have been added under New Business.

- An In From the Cold program update
- Worship Committee commentary

MOVED by Claude Lewis, SECONDED by Jane Rodd: To approve the agenda as printed. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2023 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting:

Carol Wilson referred to the minutes of the congregational meeting held on June 4, 2023 which were distributed in advance to the congregation.

MOVED by Nick Hurley, SECONDED by Pat Skinner: To approve the minutes of the June 4, 2023 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting as printed. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Board of Trustees Report:

On behalf of Joan Cobbold, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ian MacDonald presented the Trustees report. The report was circulated in advance to the congregation. Ian invited congregants to contact Joan if there were any questions pertaining to her report.

Strategic Planning Update:

Carol Wilson presented an overview of the activities which have occurred since the October 1, Visioning Workshop and the proposed upcoming phases and timelines required to develop a

three – five-year strategic plan. The projected goal is to deliver a plan to the congregation in late Fall 2024.

Carol recognized the leadership team of Louise Sinclair, Mary Dowding-Paré, Steve Shaver and Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz in this preliminary stage of the process.

Finance Committee Report:

- **Review and Approval of the 2023 Financial Statements**

Clarke Grice, Treasurer, presented the financial statements prepared by the accounting firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, following their audit of Christ First 2023 financial records and files. Copies of the statements were distributed to the congregation in advance. Clarke highlighted details on the following statements in the auditor's report:

- Statement of Financial Position (Page 1)
- Statement of Operations (Page 2)
- Schedule 1 (Page 3)

Clarke recognized Ian MacDonald, Doug Mills, Christine Whiting, and Dana Bryant-Giguere, for their contribution to the Christ First Finance Committee.

MOVED by Clarke Grice, SECONDED by Leslie Fagan: That the December 31, 2023 Year-end Audited Financial Statements prepared by our accountants Capstick McCollum & Associated, be accepted as presented.

- **Question arising from the report**

- Clarification and specifics were requested regarding the notable increase in Property operating expenses.
- * Both Clarke Grice & David Wheeler, Chair of Property provided examples of where costs have increased for services. There has also been a higher tenancy rate which adds to the cost of building care and maintenance.

Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- **Appointment of Accountants**

MOVED by Clarke Grice, SECONDED by Louise Sinclair: That the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, of Oakville Ontario, be appointed as Accountants for Christ First for the year 2024. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- **Review and Approval of the 2024 Operating Budget Proposal**

Copies of the budget had been distributed to the congregation in advance.

Clarke Grice commented that the proposed 2024 Operating Budget had been approved by the Finance Committee and Christ First Council. Clarke provided a line-by-line detailed account of each budget line.

MOVED by Clarke Grice, SECONDED by Claude Lewis: That the 2024 Christ First Operating Budget be accepted and approved as presented.

- Comments & questions arising from the report
 - As accessibility is a key issue for both buildings, it was recommended we have Capstick, McCollum & Associates audit rather than review annually, so we are in the position to access grants for upcoming projects.
 - * The Finance Committee will take the recommendation to Council for a decision.
 - Concerns were expressed whether the Strategic Planning group is considering the deficit budget in their decision making.
 - * Carol Wilson assured members that budgetary concerns are a consideration for strategic planning.

Motion CARRIED.

New Business:

- **In From the Cold update**

- Carol Wilson presented highlights of a letter sent recently to the congregation regarding issues and challenges pertaining to the In From the Cold program which led to its early closure on February 17th at the Port Credit Campus.
- Despite the project not having the desired outcome, working with community partners, Clarkson Community Church and Agape Place Peel, was a valuable learning experience for the Christ First team.
- Carol expressed her thanks to David Wheeler, Janis Cowie, John Dymond and all the volunteers who managed all the issues related to this program.
- Rev. Heather led the congregation in prayer and noted we are in a time of contemplation and action as we continue to move forward.

- **Worship**

- Andy Choles spoke on the rationale of using the screen during the worship services.

- **Outreach**
 - Barb Lewis spoke about the Mitten Tree project.

Appreciations:

Carol Wilson expressed her gratitude to those whose work has contributed to the financial results presented today.

- Clarke Grice and the Finance Committee, Bookkeeper -Andreea Vladescu, Office staff - Ashley Fanourgiakis, Janis Cowie
- Committee Chairs for the care in planning their budgets
- Louise Sinclair for her successful stewardship campaign
- Members of the congregation for their givings and support
- Fundraisers and their supporters

Carol Wilson also expressed her appreciation to those who supported today’s meeting:

- Meeting presenters – Ian MacDonald, Clarke Grice
- Production support –Emily Adamson, Al Hubbard, Andy Choles
- Communications – Nancy Hori, Ashley Fanourgiakis, Janis Cowie
- The Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz, for her leadership and support

Adjournment:

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

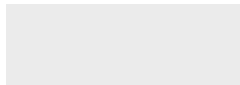
Closing Prayer:

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



 Council Chair – Carol Wilson

June 9, 2024
 Date



 Council Secretary – Nancy Hori