

Knox Church Council Meeting

September 20, 2016

Chair: Vivian Mitchell

Secretary: Sharon McIntosh

Present: Rev. Craig Miller, Vivian Mitchell, Irene Bromley, Lawrence Donald, Roger Bright, Wayne Digby, Alan Moulin, Lynne Manns, Wayne Clayton, Marilyn Van Wallegghem, Leanne Sprung, Phyllis Digby

Regrets: Laura Crookshanks

Call to Order: 6:31 pm

Opening Worship: On behalf of Ministry & Personnel, Lawrence Donald read some reflections on aging.

Adoption of Agenda and Adoption of Minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting :

Motion: Marilyn Van Wallegghem/Irene Bromley

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes/Old Business:

1. Technology Project for the Sanctuary

Roger Bright gave an update on this project. Changes have been made to the sanctuary. The projector is at the church; the screen is now in Brandon; and the wiring has been laid. Everything should be put together next week, and hopefully completed by end of September. Also, lighting has been installed to shine on the cross.

Correspondence:

June 24/16 United Church of Canada
Subject: Thank you for donations for Fort McMurray Relief
Referred to: File

July 2016 All Charities Campaign
Subject: Donations collected in 2015 from employees of the Government of Manitoba and affiliated employer groups
Referred to: Stewardship

Aug 2016 St. Andrews College
Subject: College Sunday
Referred to: Worship Committee

Financial Report:

Motion: Irene Bromley/Wayne Digby Carried
That the June 2016, July 2016 and August 2016 Financial Report be accepted.

Committee Reports:

- 1) *Ministry & Personnel (M&P):* verbal report by Lawrence Donald
 - Wendy Cockerline has resigned from the committee.
 - Colleen Wall now has responsibility for pulpit supply.
 - M&P requested clarification on who looks after scripture readers for summer services. Worship Committee advised that in the summer, it is the responsibility of the worship leader.
 - M&P also expressed a concern of the Music Department that summer relief sometimes make last minute changes that affect them. The Music Department has indicated they would like to see more use of Knox people to lead summer services.
 - Concerns from caretaker regarding carpet cleaning equipment were brought forward. Property will look into this.
 - M&P is revising the position descriptions for the music director and organist to bring them in line with each other.
 - Performance reviews are being conducted for all staff.

- 2) *Property:* Attached
 - Roger Bright advised some eavestroughing issues are also being looked at.

- 3) *Minister's Report:* verbal report by Craig Miller
 - Craig Miller thanked Ministry & Personnel and the congregation for their support and understanding during a combination of personal/family situations, resulting in some unexpected leave.
 - The Remit workshop Sept 10 was cancelled. We will now have to add time outside of regular council meetings to study the remits. No date has been set yet but hopefully will be decided by mid-October.
 - The Remember the Children ceremony will be held at Central United on Oct. 29. There will also be the opening of the mobile learning centre.
 - Craig reminded Council that we need to coordinate dates with each other and administration, especially for the larger events. This became very evident when setting dates for Taste of the Holidays and the Fall Rummage Sale.

-Craig will be away Sept 22-Oct 3 (vacation). The Green Team and Shaun Loney will lead worship September 25th, the Youth Group on October 2.

-Christmas falls on a Sunday. There has been some discussion as to whether we hold worship on Christmas morning as well as Christmas Eve. The recommendation from the Music Team is to only hold worship Christmas Eve. Council appears to be in agreement with this recommendation.

- 4) *Worship*: Attached, verbally highlighted by Phyllis Digby
 - With the implementation of the visual technology system, we will require a licence to project copyrighted material, at a cost of approximately \$250 annually. This cost will be offset by the reduction in printing/photocopying costs as less paper bulletins will be required.
 - It is planned to get a United Church banner for the chancel wall. Banners can still be rotated throughout the year.
 - Bernie Whetter has suggested remodeling the clubroom to accommodate choir rehearsals and small worship services. Roger Bright advised we had a chance of a good deal and purchased 16 padded stackable chairs which are upstairs now.
- 5) *Congregational Care and Membership (PC&M)*: No report.
- 6) *Vice Chair*: No report.
- 7) *Christian Education*: verbal report by Leanne Sprung
 - Spirit Kids Club is up and running.
 - Adult Christian Education is in the planning stages.
 - Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette is (again) working with youth. Youth would like to participate in more of the worship services.
 - Antoinette and Craig are working on planning evening youth events.
- 8) *Presbytery*: Attached, verbally highlighted by Marilyn Van Wallegghem
 - Presbytery recommends having someone attend the JNAC workshop on November 3 even though we are not currently involved in doing a JNAC.
 - Information regarding the Taste of the Holidays dinner is to be sent to Heather Sandilands, as she will be compiling information on all church dinners in the Presbytery..
 - Remits: A number of study guides are available on-line. Council is encouraged to check them out.

- 9) *Trustees*: verbal report by Wayne Clayton
 -With regard to the parking strip on 17th Street, the Trustees have not heard back from the city, and our signs are still up. They (trustees) suggest we take no further action at this time.
- 10) *Stewardship*: verbal report by Al Moulin
 -Stewardship met Sept 19.
 -Sylvia Nicholson resigned for personal reasons. Stewardship is looking for a replacement.
 -If we are going to hold a Time & Talent dinner and auction this year, Stewardship will need the support of additional volunteers.
 -Pledge drive: Stewardship reviewed the pledge card and plan to make significant changes. The Time & Talent survey will be separated from the pledge card. The plan is to distribute pledge cards to the congregation for collection in November.
 -The pledge drive was discussed in view of the UCC Salt & Light program. This is a very comprehensive plan to stimulate participation in church, particularly area of stewardship. The Stewardship Committee is not prepared to commit to the full program but did pick out elements they wish to use.
 -Stewardship had been requested to submit something for the quarterly newsletter. They requested clarification regarding the weekly e-mail announcements vs a printed newsletter. Craig explained the reasoning for have a printed newsletter. The plan is to have a quarterly newsletter that will highlight events in the church and congregation.
 -Thank You Cards: Thank you cards are available through the Salt and Light program to be sent to supporters of the church. Considerable discussion among Council followed: Concerns were raised as to how this would be done, who would receive thank you cards, confidentiality, whether it would actually result in increased givings, the fact that many offer time in lieu of or in addition to financial support. Stewardship advised that according to the Salt and Light program and also in the book, "Not My Father's Offering Plate", the practice of thanking targeted groups is an effective means of maintaining and increasing contributions to the church. However, many on Council felt everyone should be thanked for their contributions.

Motion: Lawrence Donald/Roger Bright Carried
That Council support the Stewardship Committee to send a letter of appreciation to all members and adherents and/or donors for their generous support.

Stewardship also brought to Council's attention that the Rotary Club of Brandon has funds available for community service projects. There was some discussion as to possible projects. Committees were advised that information and application forms are available on the internet, and are encouraged to apply if they feel they have a project.

- 11) *Outreach*: Attached, verbally highlighted Wayne Digby
 - Finding Right Relationships Visionary Group is the name of the sub-committee that will provide input on activities and direction that Knox should take.
 - Outreach is still working on a paid position of Right Relations Animator (formerly Outreach Ministry coordinator). It still needs to be determined if this would be a Knox position or community position, what the mandate/duties will be, funding, etc. Craig Miller clarified that funds available through Embracing the Spirit Funds (UCC) are 10% of all Mission and Service funds nationally.
 - Craig advised minutes from the last Refuge Brandon committee meeting are available from him for interested parties.

- 12) *Green Team*: Attached, verbally highlighted by Wayne Clayton
 - additional members on the Green Team are Susan Roddy and Orval Henderson
 - They have received an e-mail from the Scouts proposing they might work together on a Butterfly Garden.

- 13) *Affirm Committee*: verbal report by Lynne Manns
 - The committee plans to meet in October.
 - They will start providing coffee before church before church beginning this Sunday (Sept. 25).
 - They plan to start organizing "diversity lunches".
 - Boissevain Affirm Committee contacted Knox, looking for ideas to be an inclusive welcoming committee.

- 14) *Chair*: No report.

Motion: Leanne Sprung/Lawrence Donald
The adoption of all Committee Reports

Carried

