

# Knox Church Council Meeting

January 17, 2017

Chair: Vivian Mitchell

Secretary: Sharon McIntosh

Present: Rev. Craig Miller, Vivian Mitchell, Irene Bromley, Coleen Wall, Roger Bright, Wayne Digby, Alan Moulin, Laura Crookshanks, Peggy Barrows, David Barrows

Regrets: Marilyn Van Wallegem, Leanne Sprung

**Call to Order:** 6:33 pm

**Opening Worship:** On behalf of the Affirm Committee, Laura Crookshanks read two meditations – one considering the meaning of “all my relations”, and one about Unity – from Richard Wagamese’s book *Embers*.

**Adoption of Agenda as amended and Adoption of Minutes of the Dec. 20, 2016 meeting:**

**Motion:** Alan Moulin/Roger Bright

Carried

**Business Arising from the Minutes/Old Business:**

- a. Honduran Group – Winterfest 2017 Pavilion. The Honduran group is gearing up for their pavilion. Last minute details are being checked out, and they have been communicating with the office manager to make sure everything is looked after. Roger Bright is again coordinating volunteers to act as hosts so there will be a Knox presence on-site during pavilion hours. The request for volunteers will also be put in the weekly news & notes.
- b. Liberal Evangelism. As decided at the December meeting, this item has been deferred till March. An article was handed out in December. Please be prepared to discuss in March. If you need a copy of the article, please contact the church office.
- c. Information Brochure – David Barrows obtained brochures from some other churches as samples. He suggested we would want to have our mission statement in the brochure and asked Council what else we felt would be important, giving enough information but not overwhelming the reader with too much. Craig Miller has some information from work that was done on a brochure previously but never went to print. It was suggested we need to give enough information for guests who might not go to our website to learn about Knox.

d. Remits 1 and 2.

Craig Miller presented information on the remits and the voting procedure. The remits will be voted on by both pastoral charges and presbytery. Church councils will vote on behalf of the pastoral charge – these remits do not require the vote of individual members of the congregation. A majority vote is required to pass. Abstention is considered as a vote against.

Remit 1 – Moving from 4 court model (congregation, presbytery, conference, national council) to 3 council model (communities of faith and/or networks, regional councils, and a denominational council).

Discussion:

-It is not known how many regional councils there would be if this remit passes, but will be less than the number of current presbyteries and conferences.

-This remit is driven by lack of financial resources and volunteers to run the 4 court model.

-A decision by 42<sup>nd</sup> Council is that the church must live within means, no longer using our reserves to finance ourselves.

-The 3 council model will mean more autonomy for communities of faith in decision making. Oversight from the regional body would only be when required.

-Each community of faith will have representation at regional council.

-Regional councils will be sharing their expertise with other regions as well.

-With the new model, assessment is from regional council to communities of faith, with a flat assessment nationally.

Remit 2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement. This remit formalizes what has become the norm since clergy were given the choice to seek their own call rather than relying on transfer and settlement.

**Correspondence:**

Dec. 2016 Melissa Peters (Prairie Mountain Health) for Camp Bridges  
Subject: Request for financial support  
Referred to: Outreach

Jan. 9, 2017 Assiniboine Presbytery  
Subject: Notice of Assessment for 2017  
Referred to: File

**Motion:** Coleen Wall/Alan Moulin Carried  
**That we pay the presbytery assessment in one lump sum.**

**Financial Report:** presented by Irene Bromley

**Motion:** Irene Bromley/Roger Bright Carried  
**That the December 2015 Financial Report be accepted.**

Discussion:

Outreach has requested that the proceeds from the Sobeys gift card sales be used for our donation to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Access/Brandon Ministerial Benevolent Fund, and then an amount be set aside for future outreach projects. It was decided a Special Outreach Projects Reserve (similar to that for Christmas Cheer or Food Grains Bank) be set up for these proceeds. The Treasurer and Office Manager will check on the amount to be moved to such a reserve.

**2017 Operating Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft** presented by Irene Bromley

Discussion:

- M&P has requested a further increase to their budget of approx. \$2,000.
- There is a possibility we might lose tenant which would affect rental income by a \$7,200 decrease annually. This is not a definite thing. We have been approached by other groups but could not accommodate them at the time. If we do lose the tenant, we can make other groups aware that space is available.
- Ministers of the UCC are eligible for sabbatical leave after 5 years of service Our minister will be eligible as of July 1, 2017. Due to Presbytery restrictions regarding how many ministers can be on sabbatical at any given time, this will probably not take place until 2018. This will not affect the 2017 budget, but we will need to keep this in mind for 2018 as we will need to budget for appropriate pulpit supply. We can explore options to pulpit supply (lay worship leaders), and may have to look outside the congregation for pastoral care support, other ministers for funerals, weddings, etc.

Council agreed that the Treasurer make the adjustments to the budget, and increase church givings to offset any deficit.

**Committee Reports:**

- 1) *Ministry & Personnel (M&P):* verbal report by Coleen Wall
  - Lawrence Donald has resigned as chair; Coleen Wall is now chair.
  - The Committee is looking for more men in their membership. Coleen Wall will be contacting the Nominating Committee in this regard.
  - Laurie Crowe will sit on the committee to provide financial expertise, but not as a regular member.

- Work is being done to bring the Organist and Choral Director contracts in line with each other.
- Vacation pay adjustments need to be done for employees who have completed 5 years of service.
- The Committee will be planning a staff appreciation get together.
- The budget draft reflects salary increase adjustments of 1.1% per UCC minimum as passed by Council last month, however, support wages are not on par with other churches. M&P is recommending the caretaker and office manager salary be increased by 2% rather than 1.1%

**Motion:** Coleen Wall/Wayne Digby Carried  
**That the increase for caretaker and office manager wages be 2% effective January 1, 2017.**

- 2) *Property:* verbal report by Roger Bright  
The snowblower has been sent for servicing. Repairs were less than the cost of buying a new one.
- 3) *Minister's Report:* verbal report by Craig Miller  
-The Brandon Islamic Centre asked for a letter of support in their application for charitable status. Craig has looked after this and provided the letter.
- 4) *Worship:* verbal report by Peggy Barrows  
-The committee has not met since last Council meeting as the scheduled meeting had to be cancelled.  
-The committee has requested they get a list of volunteers for readers, greeters, etc. per the most recent Time & Talent Survey. This will be forwarded to them once the results of the survey have been compiled.
- 5) *Congregational Care and Membership (PC&M):* verbal report by David Barrows  
-The committee is working with the Affirm Committee to get volunteers for coffee before and after worship. They feel this is important for community building.
- 6) *Vice Chair:*
- 7) *Christian Education:* attached.
- 8) *Presbytery:* None ( Presbytery has not met since last Council meeting))
- 9) *Trustees:* None

- 10) *Stewardship*: Attached.  
 Stewardship requested more details on repairs to the lower level. Roger Bright responded that the project was to upgrade the lighting and replace the ceiling. Per a quote obtained, the purchase and installation of new energy efficient lights will cost approx. \$17,000, and a new suspended ceiling approx. \$4,000. \$4,500 has already been donated for this project.  
 -Stewardship wants to identify concrete projects people can donate towards.
- 11) *Outreach*: Attached.  
 -Wayne Digby drew attention to the Embracing Spirit funding and the Right Relations Animator Proposal.
- 12) *Green Team*: None
- 13) *Affirm Committee*: verbal report by Laura Crookshanks  
 -A second diversity lunch is being planned for February 12 or 19, to take place at the Ethiopian restaurant (10<sup>th</sup> & Lorne). The restaurant is not normally open Sunday, but will open specially for Knox with a minimum of 10 people. They can provide a buffet with central seating.  
 -Raising Our Children in an Inclusive Community: This workshop is not just for parents as it will focus on how we as adults in our church community can make it inclusive. Child care can be provided on request for those attending this workshop.  
 -The committee has requested the Affirm United Newsletter be sent to all council members. The office manager will forward it when received.
- 14) *Chair*: verbal report by Vivian Mitchell  
 -Harold Reid has agreed to do the annual review of our accounts. This will be arranged after the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**Motion:** David Barrows/Laura Crookshanks Carried  
**The adoption of all Committee Reports**

***New Business:***

- a. Secretary for February meeting – Council were advised that Irene Bromley has kindly volunteered to act as Recording Secretary for the February meeting as Sharon McIntosh is not available that night.

Next Council Meeting: February 21, 2017  
 Opening Worship: Trustees

Closing prayer was offered by Craig Miller.

Motion to Adjourn: Roger Bright