

# Knox Church Council Meeting

March 21, 2017

Chair: Vivian Mitchell

Secretary: Sharon McIntosh

Present: Rev. Craig Miller, Vivian Mitchell, Coleen Wall, Roger Bright, Wayne Digby, Alan Moulin, Laura Crookshanks, Marilyn Van Wallegghem, Leanne Sprung, Susie McPherson-Derendy, Bernice Nerbas, David Barrows, Ken Wojnarski

Regrets: Irene Bromley, Wayne Clayton

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

**Opening Worship:** On behalf of the Trustees, Bernice Nerbas read "Life in Poverty."

**Adoption of Agenda as amended and Adoption of Minutes of the Feb. 21, 2017 meeting as circulated:**

**Motion:** Marilyn Van Wallegghem/Roger Bright

Carried

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

### a. Liberal Evangelism

The article, "What About Liberal Evangelicals" by Bradley T. Morrison was previously distributed to Council. In addition, Craig Miller provided Council with questions about the article and how Knox may use the actions recommended in the article (copies attached).

Discussion:

-Many on Council do not seem comfortable with Evangelism.

-The Strictness Theory which along with the authority of scripture, promotes high expectations of members to be active in the church – if they do not attend church, their relationship with God is in jeopardy – and the recruitment mandate. The United Church of Canada does not believe this, and has not focused on the Strictness Theory since the late 1950's.

-A general feeling of Council was that they feel faith is a personal, private affair, and do not like to be "pushy" with others about their beliefs.

-Some members of Council felt that while they are not comfortable talking about attending church, they are very comfortable telling others about the social justice issues the church is involved in.

-It was felt that our work with PRIDE falls within the 4 actions mentioned in the article, as does our work with the Islamic Community.

The discussion continued with ways to promote Knox:

- using Baptism as a time to promote.
- inviting people outright to come to Knox to worship.
- asking people to participate in events of the church other than worship.
- “boosting” on Facebook.
- while fire regulations now prevent us from keeping the doors of the Sanctuary open, perhaps we could use some signage telling people to feel free to go into the Sanctuary even though the doors are closed.
- possibly trying times other than Sunday morning for worship.

Craig Miller concluded the discussion by asking Council to continue the conversation among themselves and their committees, and to think about what the “higher purpose” at Knox might be.

b. BAPS Update

Sharon McIntosh reported that BAPS (Hindu group) are entering a lease agreement with Knox. At this point, a copy of the lease terms has been given to BAPS and we are waiting for return of the signed copy. They will rent the auditorium, lounge and upper level on Sundays from 5-8 pm. The lease will extend to allow for occasional use of the Sanctuary in lieu of the auditorium as arranged. Incidental use of the kitchen for warming and serving food brought in is allowed, but no actual cooking/preparation of the food. All rules regarding kitchen use must be adhered to.

c. Quote for Second Monitor

Roger Bright presented a quote for approx. \$3,000 for the purchase of a second monitor. The purpose of the second monitor is to make it easier for those people on the chancel. Also, if image quality becomes a problem in the summer when it is lighter and brighter, we could pivot one monitor to face the congregation if the image does not project as well on the screen.

**Motion:** Roger Bright/Alan Moulin Carried  
**To purchase the additional monitor at a cost of approx. \$3,000.**

Discussion:

- There was some discussion as to whether there should be a special fund drive, or if the funds should come out of either the memorial or general building reserve funds.
- It was asked if consideration could be given to installing a monitor partway down the Sanctuary to assist those who might not be able to see the screen from the back of the Sanctuary.

d. Pew Cushions

–Laura Crookshanks presented her research into purchasing pew cushions. Some of the larger companies specializing in worship supplies were contacted, however, they do cushioning of the entire pew, not individual moveable cushions. Laura contacted three individuals about making individual cushions, and prices varied from \$25-\$35 to \$75, depending on the type of cushion and material. Some cushions were available “off the rack” for just under \$20 at Bed Bath & Beyond. These have a non-skid surface on the back.

We did not get a price on cushioning the whole pew, but it is very expensive.

Laura Crookshanks suggested she take samples of the “off the rack” cushions and the cushions made for Central and let people try them out. In the meantime, Laura will continue to research options, and report back to Council next month.

**Correspondence:** None

**Financial Report:** prepared by Irene Bromley.

**Motion:** Roger Bright/Alan Moulin

Carried

**That the February 2017 Financial Report be accepted.**

Discussion:

-Year-to-Date figures are not as bad as it looks compared to last year as the Presbytery assessment was paid earlier this year.

-Building reserve income is donations people have designated as such.

**Committee Reports:**

- 1) *Ministry & Personnel (M&P):* No report.  
Coleen Wall advised the committee did not meet as too many members were unavailable.
- 2) *Property:* Attached.  
-Compostable cups for the sanctuary are on order.
- 3) *Minister’s Report:* verbal report by Craig Miller  
-Craig advised he was asked to be on the panel at the Walking Forward with Muslims event at Brandon University on February 24.. He felt this speaks to the relationship Knox has with the Islamic Centre.
- 4) *Worship:* No report.  
Diane Shepherd advised the committee did not meet this month.

- 5) *Congregational Care and Membership (PC&M)*: verbal report by David Barrows  
-The newcomers brunch will be held in April.
- 6) *Vice Chair*.
- 7) *Christian Education*: Attached  
-New children's furniture is needed for Junior classroom (clubroom). Roger Bright will research the options and get prices. He will look at possibly obtaining tables with adjustable legs to vary table height as required.  
-The Youth would like to spruce up the youth room.  
-Volunteers are needed to assist in Wigglin' Worship room.  
  
- Marilyn Van Walleghem reported the Adult Lenten series to be extremely rewarding.  
-3 people from St. Paul's in Virden attended, along with Knox people.
- 8) *Presbytery*: Attached.
- 9) *Trustees*: No report.
- 10) *Stewardship*: Attached.  
-The Time & Talent auction was a success; most recent figure shows proceeds of \$5,500.  
-A workshop on Assessing Legacy/Wills may be a possibility for the future.
- 11) *Outreach*: Wayne Digby, attached.  
(a) Refuge Brandon – Attached.  
-The Refuge Brandon committee has written a letter to our MP asking the ESL funding be reinstated.

Discussion:

-It was suggested Knox also send a letter to our MP, and possibly ask for a meeting with him. Our MP has already indicated he supports the ESL funding. Outreach will write a letter on behalf of Knox.

-There was some discussion on the importance of getting English skills to obtain employment other than entry level jobs not dealing with the public.

- 12) *Green Team:* verbal report by Ken Wojnarski  
-The Green Team has not met.  
-Members are involved in the ManSEA conference in Portage in April.
- 13) *Affirm Committee:* verbal report by Laura Crookshanks  
-There will be a repeat presentation of “Raising Children in an Inclusive Community” on April 8.  
-The Affirm Committee have been asked by Knox United in Russell to assist them in the affirming process. Laura Crookshanks, Lynn Manns and Sharyn Hayter will attend a worship service there in May.
- 14) *Chair:*

**Motion:** Laura Crookshanks/Leanne Sprung  
**The adoption of all Committee Reports**

Carried

***New Business:***

- a. Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 2  
The meeting is generally held on the first Sunday in May (in this case, May 7). Craig Miller advised Council he is requesting continuing education leave that Sunday. This is not a problem, but it would be good to have a minister in attendance. David Barrows will also be away that day, however, Joe Ball or Quentin Robinson may be available. Council Chair will arrange a date and call the meeting.
- b. Picture Board  
Coleen Wall advised we are running out of space on the picture board at the back of the Sanctuary. We may need to remove some pictures in order to make room for new families. Craig Miller has checked and some families have moved and are no longer attending Knox, so there should be room if we remove those pictures.

Next Council Meeting: April 18, 2017  
Opening worship – Al Moulin will be asked.

Closing prayer was offered by Craig Miller.

Motion to Adjourn: Ken Wojnarski