

Knox Church Council Meeting

June 20, 2017

Chair: Vivian Mitchell

Secretary: Sharon McIntosh

Present: Rev. Craig Miller, Vivian Mitchell, Sharon Christmas, Irene Bromley, Coleen Wall, Diane Shepherd, Roger Bright, David Barrows, Leanne Sprung, Alan Moulin, Orval Henderson, Bernice Nerbas, Debra Gray

Regrets: Wayne Digby, Wayne Clayton, Laura Crookshanks

Call to Order: 7:08 pm

Opening Worship: Orval Henderson provided opening worship on behalf of the Green Team.

Adoption of Agenda as circulated and Adoption of Minutes of May 16, 2017 meeting:

Motion: Al Moulin/Roger Bright Carried

Adoption of the Minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting:

Motion: Diane Shepherd/Roger Bright Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes/Old Business:

a. Pew Cushions

No new information was received regarding the pew cushions.

b. Sunday School Furniture

As a follow-up to discussion at the May Council meeting with respect to upgrading/replacement of tables and chairs for the Wigglin' Worship Room, Club Room and the Kids' Space in the Sanctuary:

MOTION: Roger Bright/Leanne Sprung Carried

That we purchase 3 – 48” round “Tundra” adjustable tables from Quality Classrooms in Winnipeg, and 1 set (6) ECRKids 12” Stackable School Chairs and 1 set (13) Lifetime Contemporary Children’s Stacking Chairs (14”) from Costco. Total cost including taxes \$1,600.

- c. Defibrillator
There was nothing further to report on obtaining a defibrillator. However, in discussion, it was clarified that this project will come under the Vice-Chair as discussed at the May meeting.
- d. Community Sponsorship of Refugee
Debra Gray recapped the community sponsorship project and asked that Council authorize Gerald Whetter to act on behalf of Knox in this matter.

Motion: Orval Henderson/Roger Bright Carried
one absention

That Gerald Whetter be authorized to act on behalf on Knox in this community sponsorship project.

Discussion:

-Some concern was still expressed with transparency and Knox's role in this project. Debra Gray confirmed they did seek an opinion on this from the Sponsorship Training Program for Canada, and it was felt this would not be an issue. The Sponsorship Training Program for Canada will be asked to provide Knox with a letter to this effect.

-As discussed at the May meeting, a letter was obtained from Westoba Credit Union verifying our financial position. This letter was referred to Debra Gray for use in the community sponsorship.

Correspondence: None.

Financial Report: presented by Irene Bromley

Motion: Irene Bromley/Sharon Christmas Carried

That the April and May 2017 Financial Reports be accepted.

Discussion:

-The May figures do not reflect the curriculum costs for Christian Education as the materials are not yet ordered.

Committee Reports:

- 1) *Ministry & Personnel (M&P):* verbal report by Coleen Wall
-The Windup/Staff Appreciation Barbeque was held in June – attendance was small but the event went well.
-The committee will next be meeting in the fall.

- 2) *Property:* verbal report by Roger Bright/Sharon Christmas
- Roger Bright advised the surge suppressor for the organ had broken and was replaced with a surge suppressor purchased locally at a computer store and GFI receptacles. Winnipeg Organ Centre advised this would be the most cost efficient method of replacing the suppressor as ordering one from Allen Organs would be expensive and take time as it would come from the U.S., and a standard suppressor designed for computers would work just as well.
 - Sharon Christmas reported on the next stage of the kitchen renovation – replacement of the island. A donation had been received, and they felt they have enough funds to proceed. Sharon has met with people to design the island and give quotes. Plans are to have the work done over the summer and be completed by the fall, or at the very latest, by the Taste of the Holidays supper.
 - It was suggested Wayne Galloway's name be added to the donor plaque.
 - Sharon Christmas also asked for opinions on the new coffee machines and if Council felt we should keep them. The general opinion was they are working well and we would like to keep them.
- 3) *Minister's Report:* verbal report by Craig Miller
- With respect to the article about liberal evangelism studied earlier this year at Council, Craig encouraged Council to continue to think about creative ways to tell our story to the greater community.
 - Grand Marshall's of the Pride parade affirmed Knox's support and attended our Pride service.
 - Four communities of faith are scheduled to be holding worship services using Knox facilities, all on the same day – Hindu, the Islamic Centre, the Solstice Ceremony (Indigenous spirituality), and Knox worship service for Aboriginal Sunday.
 - Craig received correspondence from Katherine Hoffley who indicated after reviewing the 2016 Year Book Statistics, she calculated Knox has had an 11% gain in local church givings over the past 3 years. We checked and the yearbook shows a figure for "total raised for all purposes from congregational givings" so her calculations would likely include Refuge Brandon funds, special Outreach projects, etc.. Our calculations indicate an increase of about 4.5% since 2013 in local givings. We should celebrate this and the faithfulness of the congregation and be thankful of their support.
 - Alan Moulin asked that Katherine's letter be circulated to Stewardship.
 - Sharon Christmas suggested the good news things be presented to the congregation to celebrate.
 - It was suggested Knox have Seniors Sunday worship.

- 4) *Worship*: verbal report by Diane Shepherd
 - Elaine Rust wishes to “retire” from maintaining the candles and organizing greeters. Cheryl Doull has volunteered to help, but Worship could do with more volunteers for this.

- 5) *Congregational Care and Membership (CC&M)*:
 - verbal report by David Barrows
 - CC&M are looking at holding a Seniors Service in the fall, as a means of showing respect and appreciation for our seniors. It has not yet been determined what form this will take. In the past, such services included the old-time hymns and food.
 - Knox was asked if anyone provides rides to church on Sundays. CC&M will see in September if people are willing to do this. CC&M feel that besides the transportation, the connection is also important.
 - Discussion:
 - Roger Bright mentioned we had previously arranged rides and taxi service for residents at River Heights Terrace but this had been discontinued after they (River Heights Terrace) obtained their own van.
 - It was asked if Knox could face liability issues if they were responsible for having arranged a ride. The Trustees will look into this with our insurers.

- 6) *Vice Chair*:
 - Sharon Christmas requested a copy of the Vice-Chair position’s duties and a definition of “communication”.

- 7) *Christian Education*: verbal report by Leanne Sprung
 - Spirit Kids Club has wrapped up for the year.
 - The Celebration of the Teachers was well received, and was appreciated by the teachers.
 - SKC Youth were involved in the Pride parade, did a drama in the Pride Sunday service, and decorated the genderbread people.
 - The youth event at the Escape Room went well, as did the Youth brunch.
 - Thanks to Roger Bright for researching replacement furniture.
 - CE is still planning on curriculum for next year.
 - All teachers are still planning to continue next year, but CE can do with extras to fill in.
 - Vacation Bible School will be held at Central. Also they are looking for adult and youth helpers.

Discussion:

-Sharon Christmas advised Colleen Gareau is no longer in Brandon, and Central may not be able to continue some projects she was involved in. Heresay is that Vacation Bible School may not happen. Leanne will check with Central before we promote it.

-Vacation Bible School used to be done on a rotational basis, but has been done by Central past few years. The majority of kids attending were neighbourhood kids rather than congregational kids.

8) *Presbytery:* Attached.

-Craig Miller highlighted the following from the conference annual meeting:

-Marianne Olfrey is now retired, and anticipates attending Knox when available, however, she will likely be called on frequently for pulpit supply.

-The Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario will receive a Mission Support Grant of \$50,000 for 2018. Initially the Conference was to receive no support for 2018, however, both BC and Toronto Conferences waived their grants for 2016-2018 and an increased rate of return from investments freed up funds for us.

-The results of voting on the Remits are not complete yet. We are still awaiting word on the 3 court system.

-The Conference website has posted a number of videos from the meeting at

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/c39835a3545e362025c5boe02/files/330b3a4b-a8c2-42ab-ae9f-8a0488caa900/2017_Annual_Meeting_Highlights.pdf.

-David Barrows drew attention to a shortage of ministers, as evidenced by 13 retirees and only 1 new (diaconal) minister being celebrated at the annual meeting.

9) *Trustees:* Attached, verbally highlighted by Bernice Nerbas

Motion: Bernice Nerbas/Coleen Wall Carried
That we pay our insurance premium as presented in the Trustees' report, in one lump sum as in the past.

10) *Stewardship:* Attached.

-Alan Moulin advised there had also been a request for a workshp on funerals, to make sure that things go smoothly for the family. Alan will take it to the stewardship committee.

-Craig Miller mentioned Brockie's has offered to do planning training, and suggested Alan talk to Sonny (at Brockie's) about this. People are not obligated to do their planning through Brockie's if they attend the workshop. Alan will discuss with the committee and follow up with Brockie's.

-Some information (on funeral planning) is also available through the United Church of Canada.

11) *Outreach*: Attached.

12) *Green Team*: verbal report by Orval Henderson

-The Green Team has not met for some time but plan to get together in the summer to plan for the fall.

-The Green Team had a wonderful response to the educational sessions over the winter.

-Mr. Loney, who spoke at a session at Knox last fall, also recently gave a presentation (An Army of Problem Solvers) at Brandon University. He has had good success with his book, promoted during his fall tour.

-Sharon Christmas advised we are now a composting church. Compost bags are in the kitchen, and there is a green bin outside.

13) *Affirm Committee*: No report.

-David Barrows mentioned that many people attending Pride in the Park were surprised that the church supports Pride. It was a very affirming presence. Craig Miller also commented that many young people are not aware of the role the United Church has played over the years.

14) *Chair*: No report.

Coleen Wall asked Council how long it is necessary to keep committee minutes. She could not find anything on the website. Some Council chairs advised they do not keep them once business is finalized, however, due to the nature of the Ministry & Personnel Committee, it was thought they might be needed to be kept longer. Sharon McIntosh will look into this. In addition, it was suggested the Presbytery Conference Rep may know – Coleen will contact her. Craig Miller suggested the conference archives may also be able to advise.

Motion: Sharon Christmas/Roger Bright

Carried

The adoption of all Committee Reports (for both May and June).

New Business:

- a. Executive to conduct business on behalf of Council over the summer months

Motion: Coleen Wall/Sharon Christmas Carried
That the executive of Knox United Church, comprised of the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, minister or Presbytery appointee, secretary, treasurer and property representative, be authorized to conduct the business over the summer months from June 20, 2017 until September 19, 2017.

Craig Miller asked Council to keep Wayne Clayton in their prayers, following the deaths of his brother and a close friend. Also, our thoughts are with Sheila Brydon-Gibb who is in hospital with diverticulitis and will be undergoing a procedure.

Next Council Meeting: September 19, 2017
Opening Worship: Vivian Mitchell

Closing prayer was offered by Craig Miller.

Motion to Adjourn: Orval Henderson