

Knox Church Annual Congregational Meeting (Part 1)

February 10, 2019

Chair: Sharon Christmas

Secretary: Sharon McIntosh

Prior to the meeting, brunch was served and the agenda, minutes of the previous congregational meeting of May 6, 2018, the (preliminary) 2018 Operating Statement, and the proposed 2019 Budget were distributed.

Present: Per attached list.

Call to Order: 12:20 pm

Opening Worship: Rev. Craig Miller

Knox Mission Statement

The Knox Mission Statement was read aloud by those present.

Moments of Remembrance

Rev. Miller read out the names of Knox congregation who died in 2018, followed by a brief moment of silence in remembrance.

Omni Motion: Al Moulin/Coleen Wall

Carried

That the agenda be approved as presented, that all present have the right to vote at this meeting, that the minutes of the May 6, 2018 Congregational meeting be approved as distributed, that decisions on motions be made by voice vote.

Introduction of Council

Sharon Christmas introduced the various representatives and chairs of the committees that form Knox Council.

Visioning & Strategic Planning – Part I

Craig Miller gave a brief background on the visioning and strategic planning process to date. Table discussion took place to discuss questions regarding volunteering and staffing in relationship to the challenges and opportunities already identified. Each table recorded their responses, to be compiled (later) by the committee for reporting back to the congregation.

Committee Reports

The congregation were referred to the committee reports included in the Annual Report, and were invited to put forth any questions or comments they wished to make.

Motion: Wayne Digby/Les Kelly Carried
That the committee reports be accepted as presented in the annual report.

Old Business/Business Arising

None

Visioning & Strategic Planning – Part II

Table discussion took place to discuss financial stability and the capacity to grow our church givings other than through additional fundraising events in order to respond to the challenges/opportunities we face. Again, responses were recorded for the committee to compile.

Craig Miller also invited the congregation to respond via e-mail if they had other thoughts after the discussions were over.

Mission & Service Fund

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, Wayne Digby recommended the goal be set at \$40,000.

Motion: Wayne Digby/Madelyn Robinson Carried (One Nay)
That the Mission & Service goal for 2019 be \$40,000.

Discussion:

-Al Moulin asked congregation to not only consider Mission & Service but also church givings as church givings had leveled out during the past few years.

Presentation of 2018 Financial Statements (not yet reviewed) – presented by Sharon McIntosh

Wayne Clayton presented figures on total funds brought into Knox including those for Mission and Service and for the Special Outreach Projects (almost \$260,000). This is about a 25% increase over 2015. He asked the congregation to join in celebrating this generosity.

Wayne Clayton advised the congregation of a donation to Refuge Brandon from Sylvia Barr of approx. \$30,000, and also of a bequest from the Margaret Eggleton Estate - \$66,667.67 initial payment, with possibly a bit more once the estate is completely settled.

Both of the above gifts were invested in term investments. In addition, \$50,000 from the church funds were also put in term investments. Investment terms were of various lengths so that funds could be liquidated more easily if required.

Discussion:

Al Moulin clarified his earlier comment that contributions had leveled out referred to the Church givings line in the operating budget, not the entire givings for all purposes. He also mentioned the importance of project based giving.

Motion: Al Moulin/BarryStrahl

Carried

That the report be accepted as presented.

2019 Operating Budget presented by Sharon McIntosh

Discussion:

Laurie Crowe responded to a question regarding the Ministry & Personnel budget as the 2019 figure was less than the 2018 figure. Extra was budgeted in 2018 to allow for costs associated with the minister's sabbatical leave. Figures for 2019 were budgeted at the maximum amounts for all contracts, with a 1.6% increase in wage for all staff.

Motion: Art Godfrey/Mary Gunson

Carried

The adoption of the proposed 2019 operating budget.

a. New Assessment Model

Art Godfrey & Craig Miller spoke regarding the new assessment model and funding. The assessment system changes were passed by remit. Previously, a portion of Mission & Service funds were used for the operation of General Counsel. In the new model, all Mission & Service funds will go to Mission & Service projects, not to general counsel operating funds. The new model bases a congregation's annual assessment (previously paid to Presbytery) on total church income for the previous year. This means those with more ability are paying more. However, monies paid back to the pastoral charges will be distributed evenly. This will allow smaller congregations to benefit. The congregation were referred to a page in a recent Observer explaining the new system.

The new funding model also allows for the possibility the region may also assess communities of faith a small assessment.

It was confirmed that contributions made directly to UCC are credited to Knox.

b. Planned Giving Fund

Wayne Clayton spoke on the planned giving fund. The policy had been drawn up several years ago, but has been dormant since. A committee is required to oversee the fund. At this point, the committee also needs to review the plan, and recommend any changes needed to make it more relevant to today. It was suggested a committee be formed to review the

process and report back to the congregation at the next congregational meeting. Sharon Christmas advised the Nominating Committee had been in touch with a few people, and Irene Bromley has agreed to be member at large, and Brian Manns has agreed to be the representative for the Property Committee. Doug Crookshanks then agreed to sit on the committee on behalf of the Trustees.

Art Godfrey mentioned that while people have the option to designate how a gift is to be used, some churches have found themselves in the undesirable position of being in need but unable to access funds because they had been designated only for a specific purpose. Therefore, it is import to have a Planned Giving policy and committee capable of managing such funds.

New Business

None

Thanks was expressed to Roger Bright and the Property Committee for the purchase of the new chairs and tables. Gifts from Wayne Galloway (\$5,000) and the InBetweeners (\$4,000) toward this purchase were acknowledged.

Approximately \$6,000 additional funds were taken from the Building General Reserve to cover the balance. Stewardship asked anyone who wishes to make a donation towards the tables and chairs.

The new projector for the Sanctuary has arrived and Roger Bright is working on the installation.

Art Godfrey thanked Craig Miller and Council for their work; this was followed by a round of applause from the congregation.

Motion to Adjourn: Wayne Clayton/Madelyn Robinson

Commissioning and Blessing

A closing prayer was offered by Craig Miller