

**St George & St Andrew United Church
Church Council Meeting
Jim MacIntosh Room
Thursday, May 16, 2024
7:00pm**

Present:

David Holborn – Chair Rev. Alex Constable – Minister
Rosanne Peach – Secretary Peter Hall – Trustee Rep. Wendy Fletcher – Interim Treasurer
Diane Unruh – Regional Rep. Anne Flewwelling Joanne Buckmaster Judy Lind
Richard Wiles

Regrets: Shelly Wright – M&P Rep

Guest: Kerry Fitzgerald Brian Redden John Coker

Welcome:

David Holborn – Chair, welcomed everyone.

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Holy Manners and Opening Prayer led by Rev. Alex Constable.

Quorum Confirmation: We have a quorum.

Agenda Additions: None

MOTION: **By motion of Joanne Buckmaster and Richard Wiles, that the agenda be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

Minutes of April 18, 2024:

The Bermuda- Nova Scotia Council Annual Meeting was held in Truro not Halifax.

MOTION: **By motion of Anne Flewwelling and Judy Lind, that the minutes of April 18 be accepted as corrected. Carried.**

Business Arising:

1) **Stewardship Planning:**

A few of our members joined the Webinar on Stewardship. They have home work to do for the next Webinar which includes figuring the median of giving. Data is needed in order to proceed with the planning. Other members were encouraged to join the next webinar.

2) **Vision Planning:**

MOTION: **By motion of Wendy Fletcher and Judy Lind, That we proceed with Vision Planning. Carried.**

Correspondence:

None

Treasurers Report:

Wendy Fletcher ensured us that she still had money and could pay the bills.

Committee Reports:

1) **Nomination:**

Richard Wiles presented the list of Coordinators for each of Volunteer Committee as well as the two Elected Committees to be posted at the back of the church for those want to know who to contact.

2) **Fundraising:**

The Yard Sale was a success bring in \$2,075.00. There were some very good items put aside to be sold elsewhere, including an Antique Singer Sewing Machine.

3) **Property Committee:**

a) The Sump Pump has been installed to drain the water that come in the basement under the Bell Tower.

b) The two pieces of metal needs to be placed over the window wells next to the wheelchair ramp to keep snow and leaves from accumulating.

c) There is a large piece of metal that needs to be cut in half. Once completed, the two pieces will be placed over the window wells next to the wheelchair ramp to keep snow and leaves from accumulating.

d) A telescope ladder is needed to replace the ladder to the bell to give access to it for repairs. There was a suggestion that a railing be put on the stairs leading to the bell tower.

e) The exterior sign needed repair as a portion of lumber needs replacing. The power receptacle had burned out and an extension cord was in use. This has been replaced.

f) The propane tank has to be raised and the ground raised so water will roll away from the kitchen window.

g) Shope vac with wheels would be helpful.

h)) Other projects that the members were doing – scrap and paint windows, keep cellar doors in repair.

4) **Search Committee:**

This Committee decided to take another ‘run’ with the advertising for an Organist/Choir Director. (See attached). It was suggested that they advertise in the local papers, i.e. the Bridgetown Reader and the Clare Shopper.

There is also a need to put a notice in the bulletin reminding people that there is a need for a Treasurer.

5) M&P:

Due to a situation will our minister is on vacation and the minister that would normally be available were also on vacation, M&P requested firming up the protocol for when the minister is away and there is a need for Pastoral Care. It was agreed that Rev. Alex make a list of minister that could be called on to help in any urgent situation.

New Business:

1) **Regional Representative Report of Conference:**

Diane Unruh, our new Regional Representative, thanked the members for the opportunity to represent our church at Regional's Annual Meeting held in Truro. Prior to that she attended two Zoom meetings to prepare for the event.

The theme this year was "Rooted in Faith – Growing in Leadership" with theme speaker Rev. Ross Bartlett. Ross spoke about the history of the United Church of Canada and described the "Golden Era" of 1945-65 where churches were booming, but emphasized that this was an anomaly. Throughout his theme sessions, (where he didn't pull any punches!) he discussed ways to become a flourishing congregation. He said we are all leaders.

Four proposals were discussed and eventually moved, passed. They were on:

- 1) Sustaining University Chaplaincy in BNS region (specifically Dalhousie University) Since restructuring in the United Church the chaplaincy has suffered from declining support and is presently unsustainable—they touch the lives of hundreds of young adults every year. They provide counselling, food for students experiencing food insecurity, an affirming ministry and foster diversity, equity and inclusivity on campus. It was moved and passed that the region will include the Chaplaincy representation on the Justice, Mission and Outreach committee and that they look at exploring the possibility that the Chaplaincy become a regionally recognized ministry.
- 2) Clergy Housing Assistance: 3) Clergy Housing Assistance: both of these relate to clergy who have not yet entered the housing market and are living in manses, but cannot afford to leave them as they have no equity for a down payment, clergy living in less expensive markets, congregations not being able to call clergy unless they have a manse or can negotiate a loan for a down payment. The 3rd proposal looked at approaching General Council to expand the Capital Assistance Fund to include the provision of down payment loans if no other resources are available.
- 4) Next Step on Reconciliation Journey: looked at forming a task group to look at returning lands or proceeds from selling lands which are owned by the region to Indigenous Peoples. The reason for this proposal is that Communities of Faith regularly "cease to exist" without making provision for the disposal of the lands or buildings. In such cases, they become the responsibility of the region.

The full report is attached.

Ministers Corner:

1) **Spring Fling:**

The Spring Fling, the noon concert with the Day Care that had to be postponed, is rescheduled for Friday, June 14th.

2) Rev. Alex reminded of the service at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the local Nursing Home.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, June 20th, 2024 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:pm by motion of Anne Flewwelling and Peter Hall.

New Creed and Benediction: After the New Creed, Rev. Alex pronounced the benediction.

David Holborn, Chair

Rosanne Peach, Secretary