

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

PRESENT: Phillip Carmichael, Pam Zygmunt, Rev. Roni Beharry, Jack Page, Doreen Reid, Bud McMartin, Greg Wilcox, Brenda Cote, Janie Clayton, Merlin Clayton, Bob Pronovost.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phillip Carmichael at 7 pm.

1.1 DEVOTIONS

Phillip read “Wait Until You Get to the Corner” as devotion that was followed by a prayer by Rev Roni.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion #1 by Bob and seconded by Janie that the agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

3.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Motion #2 moved by Bud and seconded by Bob that the minutes be accepted.
CARRIED

4.0 COUNCIL GUIDELINES

Phillip reviewed the updated document.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

i) email from Karen Carmichael stating that due to ongoing medical circumstances in the family she is unable to produce a Newsletter until 2021 at the earliest.

Discussion on looking for someone to put together a Newsletter. If no one to be found, suggested that possibly the church secretary could replace it with the Newsflash.

6. REPORTS

i) Worship

Ushers have been assigned for Sundays for the rest of the year.

Attendance is averaging in the teens with exception of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

In complying with COVID-19 restrictions, the virtual choir is prerecording up to three hymns per week. John Henderson is looking into costs of having plexi glass screens installed so that there can be live singing by the choir. Estimated cost is \$1,400.

Question asked if the funds from the Memorial Fund could be used to cover the cost.

Discussion on merits of having shields installed. General feeling was that the majority would not be in favour.

Non-virtual Communion is under discussion.

Motion #3 moved by Bob and seconded by Bev that, in accordance with Bylaw A.2.5, Council grant permission to conduct online Communion services.

CARRIED

ii) TREASURER

Brenda presented a detailed financial report. As of the end of October, there is a surplus of \$20,837. There is a \$44,000 deficit budget projected for 2021.

Emmanuel was given approval for the CEBA Loan of \$40,000.

iii) FINANCE

There are a number of fundraising projects being looked at by the Animation Team and Finance:

Jess Rochon is heading a cookbook fundraiser and there are plans to put out a calendar featuring the church's stained glass windows.

The Cookie Walk is booked for November 28.

Regarding Peer Review. Finance would like all committees that have own bank accounts to use one peer reviewer to look at all records to ensure consistency.

In its report to council Finance noted approval of the CEBA loan application and its intent to invest \$30,000. An objection to this was raised, with the chair of Trustees stating investments are the responsibility of Trustees.

Motion #4 moved by Brenda and seconded by Greg that council direct Finance and Trustees to work together to develop an investment policy.

Following discussion;

Motion #5 moved by Greg and seconded by Brenda that motion #4 be tabled until the next meeting.

CARRIED

iv) CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WORK- No report

v) MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Committee will be meeting soon to complete employee reviews.

vi) OUTREACH MISSION AND SERVICE

The committee met October 28 and approved donations to the Alzheimer Society, West Ferris Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund, Nipissing Hospice, The Gathering Place and Raven Trust.

As well, the committee agreed to budget \$1,000 in seed money to be used by the Animation Team in consultation with Congregational Life and Work for development of activities to promote community well being.

Givings as of October stand at \$5,041.

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After the report was submitted, the committee chair had been in touch with the Alzheimer Society and wondered if council would approve of the Art Program resuming in January.

Motion #6 moved by Pam and seconded by Bev that we allow the Alzheimer Society to resume the Art Program in January with Outreach Mission and Service providing clean up afterwards, and subject to public health guidelines.

CARRIED

vii) PROPERTY

Northern Renovation will be performing snow plowing at the church this year. Sanding and hand shovelling are extra costs.

The new buzzer system is working. The old buzzer needs to be covered up.

A proposal for renting space to the Canadian Shield Regional Council has been submitted. No response to date.

The gardens are being tended to by Bud with assistance of Nancy Dixon.

The Reopening Committee has set clear guidelines for any activities at the church. Emmanuel Village is contracting out its custodial work since Richard, the previous custodian, resigned.

viii) MINISTER'S REPORT

Advent planning is well underway and the theme is "An Unlikely Advent: Certain Hope in an Uncertain World."

Due to COVID-19 no singing is allowed in the sanctuary. John and the small virtual choir are doing their best to provide prerecorded music.

YouTube video links will be sent via the Newsflash. It has been said that including them in the service is taking too long.

A donor wishes to donate a camcorder to Emmanuel with features such as Wi-Fi and built in speakers. Lorne is doing research. The better equipment means that services can be produced over a shorter period of time. Also looking into making DVDs of the services for senior residences and members without computers.

Pastoral care visits are taking place by phone.

ix) PUBLIC RELATIONS – No report

x) TRUSTEES

New Trustees were officially welcomed at a recent meeting.

Signing authority at one bank has been dealt with and a second will be on November 20. The Trustees will also be looking at insurance coverage, having met once with the Rivet Insurance rep Dan Garrigan, and a second one in the near future.

Trustees will be purchasing a safe to store church items in. Mandated in the UCC Trustees Manual, the safe will be stored "off premises" at the chairman's residence.

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Re: \$15,000 self administered loan dating back to 1996. The Trustees noted there has not been an effort to pay it back and asked what is the plan to restore the funds to the Trustees portfolio.

During discussion it was noted that a request had been made in February, inquiring if the loan could be forgiven and also if funds from the Manse Fund could be used towards the housing allowance portion of the minister's salary and that there has been no response.

A written review of the matter to be brought back to council was requested.

Regarding insurance, it was suggested that UCC be consulted as it also carries some coverage for personal liability. This may mean we have duplicate coverage.

xi) WILLING WORKERS – No report

xii) REGIONAL COUNCIL REPS

Janie reports that an Affirming Statement for Canadian Shield Regional Council at the Court of CSRC. It affirms, welcomes, includes and supports LGBT2S+, cultures, theologies, gender identities, two spirit people.

The success of the three Webinars on Indigenous justice was discussed at a Nov. 19 meeting of the North Bay and Area Mission Cluster. Appreciation has been expressed for the donation from Emmanuel through the Outreach Mission and Service Committee to RavenTrust. It raises legal defence funds for Indigenous people of Canada to defend their rights and the integrity of lands and culture.

PROPERTY RESOURCE TEAM CSRC - Jack

The CSRC annual meeting was held via Zoom on November 6 with over 100 participants. The current committee consists Rev. Melody Duncanson Hales, Rev. Gord Roberts, Stuart Taggart, Dale Young, Jim Jackson, Paul McAlister, Jack Page and Donna Mese.

Issues under review and discussion: St. Andrews, North Bay, belfry removal; Harmony, Thunder Bay, Church building sale; St. Andrews, Sturgeon Falls, sale of manse; St. Andrews, Schreiber, closing; Chalmers, South River, closing; Trinity, North Bay, repairs; and Porcupine United, expansions.

Xiii) EMMANUEL VILLAGE – No report

xiv) Ad Hoc Committees

I. Constitution and Bylaws

Five committee members have submitted comments on the draft documents. These will be reviewed for further action and preparation of the final drafts will be completed. The final drafts will be sent to CSRC for its review, comment and acceptance, before being presented to the Congregation.

ii) Re-opening committee – talked about new policies that have been implemented

iii) Animation Team – Already addressed under finance

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7. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Motion #7 moved by Bob and seconded by Bud that all committee reports be accepted.
CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

I) Duty of Care Policy

II) Bequest Policy

Motion#8 moved by Bob and seconded by Pam that the items under New Business be tabled until next meeting.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #9 moved by Bob that we adjourn at 9:15 pm.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm. (early look at budget)

Devotions: Bud

Chair

Secretary

