

**Woodlawn United Church
Minutes of Council Meeting
June 22, 2022, 7:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: Fay Gunter, Barry Zwicker, Shelley Clee, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, Paul Whyte, Rev. Dale Skinner, Teri Giannou, Keith Musselman, Lisa Allen

ABSENT: Jerry Jackson, Jim Allen, Brian Moors, Kelly MacNeil, Dodie Covert,

GUEST: Ernie Nickerson

CALL TO ORDER: Barry Zwicker called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

OPENING PRAYER: Barry Zwicker offered an opening prayer.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Welcome to Ernie Nickerson, attending Council meeting this evening to speak to Council about Accessibility.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was approved as presented, without changes.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 PM

CORRESPONDENCE: The monthly Roll changes were recorded into the minutes as circulated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for May 2022 were approved.

PRESENTATION BY ERNIE NICKERSON: Ernie attended council to speak about some of the ideas and needs that are being considered regarding accessibility. A summary of these comments are included as an attachment to the minutes. Council has been asked to prayerfully consider a plan to move forward on some or all of these suggestions. There was a fair bit of discussion around Alpha, an event that provides education about the Christian faith. Dale is currently exploring Alpha and was planning to attend a meeting this week. In addition Ernie felt favourable about starting up a youth/adult Ukulele program. Barry committed to reaching out to his granddaughter and Melanie Doane to explore this program further. Also see below under Christian Programs re: proposal by Jerry Jackson. Council agreed to leave these needs on the agenda until a decision has been made on them. Thank you Ernie for attending and presenting a thorough assessment for Council to consider.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *M&P Urgent Appeal:* Fay and Barry reported that there were no responses to the urgent appeal for new M&P members. The question that was put before Council was "What do we do?" M&P is a standing committee of the church and requires representation. Without an M&P committee, Council may have to consider the alternative of outsourcing to other United Churches to manage our personnel affairs.

This is not necessarily desirable, but it may be the only option we have. Keith offered to connect with others to try to specifically target congregants that we feel may have the background to serve on M&P, and to talk to them about the opportunity. Barry felt it may also be a matter that needs to be presented to the congregation during worship, so that there is a greater understanding of the importance and the need for members to volunteer. Dale suggested that during transition they will make an effort to fill on a temporary basis. Barry emphasized the importance of doing this sooner than later.

2. *Funeral Coordinator Urgent Appeal:* Again, there were no responses from the congregation with respect to filling a volunteer role of leading funeral organization. IN CAMERA As this pertains to personnel and in response to Shelley's offer to oversee the coordination of this role on a temporary basis, Shelley was asked to step out for this conversation. The outcome of this in-camera conversation was that what Woodlawn offers for funerals would be streamlined and that the Ministers would carry the responsibility of assigning tasks to those involved in carrying out the various roles.
 - a. Keith submitted the comparison chart prepared by Shelley of the various churches in and around the HRM and what they charge for funerals. It was decided that starting September 1, 2022, that Woodlawn United would charge the flat fee of \$1200 for funerals, which includes the Minister's fee. Catering by the UCW would be over and above, and handled by the UCW.
3. *Notes from Transition:* There were no comments in response to the transition committee's notes taken during their session with Council. The question was raised whether they captured the essence of the discussion. There is still time to submit comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Financial Update:* Keith presented the budget and designated funds activity as at May 31, 2022. There was a discussion around the current balance and what is attributed to it. There are a number of reasons, including a reduction in offerings due to covid, lack of revenue by rental groups who will not be returning until September, the increase in expenses, the subsidy program ending in 2021, etc. There was a discussion around whether we would require fundraising in the Fall. Keith also suggested a letter from A&M explaining the projection of a larger deficit, and to propose a fundraiser in support of the General fund. No decision was made on the proposed letter.
2. *Christian Development Proposal:* In follow up to May's meeting, Jerry Jackson submitted a Christian Development proposal form that will be available to the congregation. In addition, Jerry proposed a "Learn to Play Ukulele" program and offered to champion this program and work with other leaders to explore interest in logistics for this proposal. There was discussion about the Ukulele program during Ernie's presentation. There appears to be a fair amount of interest. Barry agreed to follow up with Jerry Jackson about spearheading this opportunity. Shelley will look at the grant opportunities and prepare an application through UCC and/or other community grant.

3. *Policy Review Meeting* : Shelley will send Barry available dates in September to organize a dedicated Policy Review Meeting, and she also committed to bringing forward those policies that require revisions and updates, in order of priority.
4. *Covid/Mask Protocol*: It was decided that we would make masks recommended but not mandated. We still require masks when singing.

ROUND TABLE: Fay announced that M&P met to review the contracts for Gus, June and Maggie for 2022/23. M&P recommended the renewal of the contracts. Council unanimously agreed with the M&P recommendation. Shelley will formalize on letterhead, and send 2 copies of each to Fay for signature, give one copy to each of Gus, Maggie and June, and for the M&P File.

Dale asked Shelley to prepare kids packs for the summer in lieu of Sunday School.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday September 21, 2022

CLOSING PRAYER Rev. Mary Lynne offered the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Follow-up Task List:

1. Barry/Dale/Fay to determine a plan to present M&P matter and alternative to congregation during worship. To decide what that is going to look like.
2. Barry to speak to granddaughter and Melanie Doane about ukulele program. As well, Barry will reach out to Jerry about carrying this proposal forward and engaging others in that program.
3. Council to consider fundraising considerations for Fall? (not sure what was decided about this – to be discussed in September???)
4. Shelley to revise the funeral cost recovery to a flat fee starting Sept 1.
5. Shelley to prepare and present full rental occupancy list for Sept meeting
6. Shelley to send Barry and Fay dates for policy review meeting consideration.
7. Shelley to assist Fay in finalizing contracts.
8. Shelley to put kids packs together for the summer.