

MINUTES – Woodlawn United Church Council**November 13th, 2019**

OPENING: Council Co-Chair Peter Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Adelia Holloway, Barry Zwicker, Bob Watt, Dennis Dean, Don Hill, Keith Mussleman, Kerri Graham, Peter Woods, Rev Phillip Kennedy, Shannon MacLean, Teri Giannou

- **Regrets:** Helen Dixon, Grant Warwick, Mary Lynne Whyte, Brian Moors, Fred Evans, Kathy Dean, Ralph Sams
- **Guests:** Stewart Sampson

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: Co-Chair Peter welcomed Stewart Sampson, one of the co-authors of the Draft Governance Document. Peter then led the meeting in an opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved by consensus. (Appendix A)
The meeting agreed to an adjournment time of 9:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 16th, 2019 *minutes, as circulated, were approved by consensus*

Agenda Item - Chair Peter reminded the council that the meeting had been called as a 'single item agenda' meeting to discuss the Draft Governance Document which had been circulated on October 16th. During the May 2019 Council meeting Barry Zwicker and Stewart had been requested to review the existing Governance Document and to bring forward recommendations that would make our document more current, relevant and provide guidance and information that would benefit Council, Teams and Committees in fulfilling our duties. Barry provided some background to our existing document. It was originally drafted in 2007 when Woodlawn moved from a governance model of Session/Official Board to a Council model. Some of the reasoning for the change was: difficulty in finding persons to serve as elders, an attempt to minimize the number of meetings and to give committees the autonomy to meet and fulfill their responsibilities with a minimum of approval from a higher level of governance. There was a minor revision in 2014 which provided the Presbytery representative to be a member of Council. Barry explained that they used the United Church Manual for references and guidance in preparing the draft document while understanding that the Manual is intended to be used as a 'guide' and does not apply to each and every Community of Faith equally. Barry encouraged everyone to read, question and participate in the review of the draft document.

Peter acknowledged the work the ministry team had done in analysing the first part of the document and in preparing their concerns and recommendations (See Appendix B); then he asked those in attendance for their questions/concerns. It was noted the document is intended to be a guide as to how we fulfill our responsibilities at Woodlawn. That there will be room for revisions and/or modifications even after approval is received. There was acknowledgement that the appendices form an important part of the document and may require some modifications or changes as well. Stewart did indicate that there no changes to the responsibilities of the Teams and Committees; only a reformatting in some cases. There was concern that the draft document did not recommend UCW/UCM have a seat on Council. Another question raised was the makeup of the Executive and that the membership on the Executive should be reconsidered. There was a suggestion that there be cross references

within the document where such a reference would assist. There was some agreement with the idea of holding two meetings of the Community of Faith i.e a Budget meeting and a separate Annual General Meeting. There was a question of the difference between the Congregational Roll and the Historical Roll. Should Council be made aware of changes to the Congregational and Historical Roll to Council; should we or should we not? Authority for membership resides with the Council. There was discussion around the recommendation that the ministry team be represented on Council by one minister. The explanation for the recommendation being the desire to eliminate some of the meeting the ministers are required to attend. There was a general discussion around the current makeup of Council and the selection of which areas of responsibilities were represented by virtue of a 'seat at the table'. It was noted that committees such as Worship, Outreach, Christian Development were only represented by the chair of Program while all others were represented by their own chair persons. The meeting discussed the failure of Council to function as it was initially hoped that Council would function i.e. Council should not be considering issues that fall within the prevue of the Teams/Committees. It was suggested that it was important to make changes in our document and to our structure before new staff are called. It was noted that there is some cross over between some team responsibilities. There was discussion that the size of Council should not change but we should look are at different representation on Council. Discussion once more returned to the suggestion in the draft that the ministerial staff be represented on Council by one member only rather than all. There was a difference of opinion that this was a 'hard and fast rule' or 'a recommendation' and there was a difference of opinion whether the recommendation in the draft was a good recommendation. It was noted that the ministers would feel disempowered if only one were to sit at the table. It was also stated that the intent was to reduce the number of meeting and preparation time expected of the ministers. Shannon offered to reach out to Region for confirmation around the issue of ministry representation on Council. Discussion moved to the minister's involvement on the 'nominating committee' with the understanding their role to be a one of consultation only.

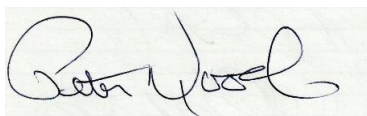
Barry suggested, now that we have a draft and the initial 'work through', that thoughts and recommendations for changes or inclusions be forwarded to himself or Stewart. Barry and Stewart agreed to meet with the ministers to discuss issues the ministers raised in the document they circulated as a response to the Draft Governance Document. (Document previously circulated to all Council members)

At 9:00 p.m. Peter scheduled two more meeting to discuss the Governance Document; Jan 8/2020 and Jan 29/2020. Peter thanked everyone for the serious and considerate discussion and closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:00 p.m. chair Peter sought and received consensus for adjournment.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – November 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER – Peter lead the Council in a closing prayer.



Peter Woods: Co-Chair of Council

Submitted



J Robert Watt - Secretary, WUC Council

APPENDIX A

Woodlawn United Church Council - AGENDA

November 13th, 2019

7 PM - MEETING ROOM B

Call to Order - Co-Chair Peter Woods

Opening Prayer – Co-Chair of Council

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of October 16th, 2019

Single Item Agenda: Discussion on Draft Governance Document circulated Oct 16th, 2019

Next Meeting Date – November 20, 2019

Closing Prayer – Co-Chair of Council

Adjourn