



***Minutes of Meeting of Grace United Council***

***Friday August 7, 2020 9:30 am***

***Grace United Church and Via ZOOM***

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**Attendees:** Dick Morrison, Susan Toller, Eileen Moore, Larry Seguin, Rev. Natalie Istead, Nancy Pitre, Mandy Brown, Hubert McClelland, Vicki Seguin, Jim Galloway

**Regrets:** Sharon Rounds, Susan Gaden

1. **Approval of June 25, 2020 minutes and Agenda**

Approval of the Minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting was moved by Vicki Seguin and seconded by Jim Galloway. **Carried**

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Nancy Pitre and seconded by Jim Galloway. **Carried**

2. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Larry has spoken with Nancy Landry. She is pleased to be returning to Council as of September 1, 2020.

3. **Minister's Report**

Natalie expressed thanks for the wedding gift and to those who organized it.

Covid has necessitated a quiet summer focusing mainly on visitation and Worship in new and innovated ways.

There will not be any Grace ZOOM Worship services for the last two Sundays of August and the first Sunday in September. Sonya will update the Calendar on the Website to reflect this.

Before we can re-open our building, we will need to submit a written plan 2 weeks prior to the re-opening to the Eastern Ontario and Outaouais Region.

There has been a wedding request received. The names of the couple are Sharmaine Nelles and Emmanuel Ishaku Mbya. There will be 5 people or less at the wedding. The date has not been firmed up yet as the Groom needs to be in Canada 5 weeks prior to the ceremony. It was suggested that for a small wedding there could be some flexibility to the rate for the church.

**Motion:** Approval for this wedding was moved by Eileen Moore and seconded by Nancy Pitre. **Carried**

#### 4. Budget and Treasurer's Report

Donations in the amount of \$2,300 have been received via Canada Helps.

The Nearly New group will be refunding the \$4,000 that we provided in the spring before COVID.

We are applying for the Canada Wage Subsidy program and expect to receive \$11,700 for a 4 month period. This program could be extended further.

We have not made any payments towards the salary of the Rental Coordinator. For January to March we owe MRCS \$1500 and from mid-March forward we will owe two thirds of salary for whatever time she works. MRCS preferred to wait until September to pay whatever we owe in full. Some months could be for the minimum of 10 hours as there is no rental activity due to COVID.

The transfer of \$45,000 from the trustees represents what was left from the Mission Strategy fund (from the 15% of sales). There is \$9,432 left in that account. We have not touched the Capital amount yet. Jim Galloway is managing the Fiera Fund holding the 85 percent from the sales. The fund currently is at \$1,076,064 which is within dollars of what it was at the beginning of the year.

Members were pleased with the information and the format of Mandy's report.

#### 5. Trustees Report

The Transition Committee, made up of Hubert McClelland, Mandy Brown, Amanda Shaughnessy, Stephan Schott, Helen Patterson and Sabrina Howe, have performed an evaluation of the Audio Visual equipment at \$7000, considering present value and replacement cost. MRCS has agreed that the equipment can be used by all renters at the Chelsea location at no charge. Neither this equipment nor the grand piano are covered under the Church insurance. Hubert has advised MRCS that both of these items need to be insured.

A cleaning deposit of \$50 will be charged unless the renting organization do the cleaning themselves. If the cleaning is well done, the deposit will be returned. The Covid deposit could be on a sliding scale from \$20-60, depending on the size of the gathering.

It has been decided to create the position of Rental and Cleaning Coordinator as a combined position. Mandy went over the proposed job description.

**Motion:** It was moved by Hubert McClelland and seconded by Vicki Seguin that the job description as detailed be the essence of the job description in principle and that the position of Rental and Cleaning

Coordinator be offered to Sabrina Howe as a 4 to 6 month contract, without posting, at 22.50 per hour with a minimum monthly work period of 10 hours and a maximum of 40 hours per month. **Carried**

Wayne Adams has been hired to cut the grass at the Rupert location for the amount of \$30 per cut.

Hubert would like some feedback on the number of cushions in the church, with the possibility of cutting them back and storing some of them.

It was agreed to increase the budget for the web site to add additional information concerning rentals and to fix the language issue (French English)

Sabrina has an online version of Quick Books with which she can produce invoices while Mandy does not. Mandy will research this to see if it would be worthwhile to provide the online version to Mandy as well as possibly the Envelope Steward, at a cost of \$35. This could avoid some duplication.

Natalie reported that the rules have changes concerning the proceeds of property sales. For any future church building sales, 10 percent of the proceeds are to be directed to Indigenous ministries within the United Church. This applies to new sales only.

It was agreed that since the Worship Committee is meeting September 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss re-opening plans, we would most likely not be re-opening before October at the earliest and that cleaning in Rupert would not be required unless a special service is being held such as Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve.

## **6. Options Committee**

Jim Galloway reported that the Committee has had one meeting and are preparing a Pros and Cons chart of the various options which are:

- Discussions with the Chelsea Community
- Discussions with the Anglican Community
- Status Quo
- Sale of Chelsea building

The Committee will document what has been done so far on each option and how things have been working out so far.

Jim reported that the Municipality is not interested unless someone can come up with funds to move the project forward. Sue Toller stated that the Anglicans are still interested in this initiative.

Amanda Shaughnessy is trying to arrange community meeting as someone is interested in collaborating with MRCS concerning cultural activity.

Sue Toller stated that the Trinity Centers Foundation has access to different funding methods and we should look into this option further.

Larry suggested that we need to broaden representation on the committee to include members from all originating communities. No one on the Council expressed interest in joining the committee. Natalie reminded everyone that committee membership was open to anyone in the congregation, as advertised in Grace Notes, and Helen Patterson was the only additional congregation member who was interested and has since joined the committee.

The Church Options Committee may meet with interested community groups to gain any new information on interest in the Chelsea building. Various opinions were expressed about how much time and energy should be put into a community meeting. One option may be to ask the Trinity Centre Foundation to organize a community meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Hubert McClelland and seconded by Nancy Pitre that we close discussion and adjourn the meeting.

**Carried**

#### **7. Other Business**

**Motion:** It was moved by Hubert McClelland and seconded by Nancy Pitre that we approve the loan of coat racks from Rupert Church to the Rupert Library and second hand store. **Carried**

#### **8. Adjournment and next meeting**

Sue Toller closed the meeting with a prayer. No schedule was set for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Vicki Seguin

Secretary to Council

Grace United Church

Larry Seguin

Chairman to Council

Grace United Church

