



COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – In Person / Zoom

Call to Order: Chair, Lianne Patterson, opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Lianne checked in on the Church Board to see how members were fairing.

Lianne led the Board through the revised Acknowledgement of Indigenous land, which continues to highlight that the people of Collier are treaty people seeking to live in reconciliation and good relations with all peoples.

Rev. Hewitt Holmes offered the centering prayer. The Board recited together the Covenant.

Present: Donald Carty, Sharon Crossley, Laurie Crosson, Sandra Dowds, Steve Harding, Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Rob Murdock, Lianne Patterson, Anne Snell, Terry Tizzard, and Marg Valad.

Regrets: Susan Storning

Consideration/Approval of Agenda:

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the agenda be approved for our meeting on January 24th, 2023.

Consideration/Approval of Minutes

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the minutes of the November 22nd, 2022, Church Board meeting be approved.

Business Arising from Minutes and Reports

a) **Sabbatical De-brief**

The Board welcomed back Rev. Hewitt Holmes. A round table discussion was had to allow each Board member to express how the Sabbatical (September 1 – December 31, 2022) affected them, including key learnings and challenges, and Hewitt shared his Sabbatical experiences and mentioned:

“The Sabbatical has been one of the greatest gifts I have ever received from Collier Street United Church. It was a sweet expression of your grace, care, and love for my well-being and wholeness. I will be forever grateful to Collier for your faith, faithfulness to God in Jesus Christ, and forward-looking commitment toward offering the best in ministry at Collier and through the wider United Church of Canada. It has made me even more profoundly privileged to serve week after week in the places God has chosen. This time has deepened my love and desire to serve God and creation, especially the most vulnerable in God’s world.”

In Summary, the Sabbatical allowed lay leaders and staff to excel in what they did; the staff was challenged at times but did a great job overall. Up-front planning was crucial for this Sabbatical, and we could consider more planning for the return of our minister, Hewitt.

b) Finance Task Force Report – Laurie Crosson

Laurie reviewed the Finance Task Force report with the Board, including year-to-date results compared to the budget. At the end of the year, we are showing a deficit of 128,000.00 dollars.

Motion: Agreed by Consensus that the Finance Task Force Report and the Financials as of December 31, 2022 (Income of \$ 318,070.27 and Expenditures of \$446,926.93) be accepted. **Carried**

c) 2023 Proposed Budget

Laurie outlined the 2023 budget explaining how the Finance Task Force calculated the figures. The Proposed Income is \$315,710, and the Expenses are \$413,651 with a negative balance (\$97,941). The Board noted that Collier is faced with a deficit this year, which is a reality of the church in a post-pandemic time.

Motion: Agreed by Consensus that the 2023 proposed budget be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting on March 12th. **Carried**

d) Trustees Report

Marg Valad provided the Trustee’s report, which was received for information, with thanks. It was noted that the markets are starting to turn around. Marg also mentioned that the final elevator invoice was due in January 2023.

e) Re-Imagining Collier Street United Building (Use & Usage)

Further discussion was had around the re-imagining of Collier Street United Church. The board is focused on exploring options to rebuild solid revenue streams to sustain Collier moving forward, which will reduce the upcoming deficit for 2023. Programming options were highlighted which could reinvigorate programs offered and support the surrounding community. Available grants are being investigated with applications submitted where there is potential.

Board agreed by consensus to extend the meeting.

f) Annual General Meeting

Board had an open discussion about our annual meeting coming up in March. It was agreed that it would be more efficient to hold the Service and the AGM in the sanctuary. The meeting will also be offered via zoom. Electronic voting options will need to be worked out before the meeting. It was suggested that we start the proceedings thirty minutes early. Lunch will be held in the Church Hall after the Service/AGM.

g) Worship, Connecting, and Community

Sharon Crossley provided a membership report. As of December 2022, we have 313 members.

h) 2023 Calendar of events

The Board received the calendar of events for information. Hewitt mentioned that members could review the calendar and advise the office of any additions or changes.

Adjourn by Consensus at 9:49 p.m.

Sending Prayer – Rev. Hewitt Holmes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for an in-person meeting.

Chair, Lianne Patterson

Secretary, Steve Harding

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