



COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH
CHURCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Collier Street United Church

Call to Order: Chair Lianne Patterson opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Lianne led the Board through the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands. Lianne checked in with each board member to enquire about their summer and ensure their family was well.

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

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

Regrets: Donald Carty & Debbie Guyader.

Corresponding Members: None

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

Consideration/Approval of Agenda:

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the agenda be approved for our meeting on September 26th, 2023.

Correspondence: Steve Harding noted that there was no correspondence at this time.

Consideration/Approval of Minutes

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the Church Board meeting draft minutes of June 27th, 2023, be approved with minor changes.

Information was shared with the Board regarding the following Board Executive:

On August 29, 2023, the Board Executive unanimously confirmed support to the Finance Task Force to proceed with the Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant application.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus of the Board Executive that we proceed with the application for the Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant.

Business Arising from Minutes and Reports

For Discussion and Decision

a) **Re-Imagining update and Summer Mapping project**

Since the last Church Board meeting in June, the work with the Re-Imaging project continued. Four mapping projects were completed over the course of the summer. This was a real opportunity for the congregation to be engaged in the project, while at the same time enjoying a time of fellowship with other congregants. The mapping project full report is posted on the webpage along with the RI report.

Trinity Centres Foundation community stakeholders report is due at the end of October 2023. The Re-Imaging Task Force will review the report and share info with the Board and congregation.

b) Credence & CO

Congregational Session with Credence and Co. was held Sunday, September 24th, in conjunction with a worship service. The session was held in the Church Hall. All enjoyed the potluck continental breakfast and lunch.

The Credence workshop was inspired by the policy work completed over the past several months. The focus was on relating with one another in our faith community. The board had an open round table discussion around the day's events. Overall, the Board felt the participants were engaged in solid conversation encouraged by the speaker's questions. Small group activities helped add a more personal touch to the discussions. Some Board members felt that more time was needed on the "Intent-Action-Effect" portion of the meeting.

c) Team Updates

I. Leadership Mentorship and Growth (Constitution SWOT Analysis)

- a. LM&G team has yet to have its Fall meeting. In preparation for the meeting, a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis focused on Constitutional effectiveness and how it relates to their teams or the role they play on the board was sent to all board members and team leads. This project was to be completed by the end of September.

II. Worship, Connecting, and Community (Membership List Review & Christmas Eve Worship Service)

Sharon C. gave an update to the Board on the Congregational Membership Review. The process started in May this year. Letters were sent to members about their inactivity in time, treasure, and talents over two years. The list for placing members on the Historic Roll by their action and the action of the Board was presented.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the updated membership review for the historic roll be accepted as presented.

The current membership of Collier now stands at 205 Adherents will be added to this number to show those connected with Collier as of September 2023.

Anne S. provided the Board with options for the Christmas Eve services. With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, the suggestion was that we incorporate our Christmas pageant as part of the Sunday morning service. The Christmas pageant format may be changed this year. Options are being reviewed. Anne also suggests that one Christmas Eve Service be held this year versus two.

It was noted that we are looking at doing a joint Christmas Eve service with St Andrews Presbyterian. The details for a joint service will be worked out in the coming months.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the Christmas Eve Service schedule be accepted as presented.

The WCC is recruiting ushers and readers for our Sunday morning worship services by calling or emailing the office.

III. **Finance Task Force – Financials August 2023**

There will be an appeal to the congregation for additional financial donations over and above. The ask is for \$25,000.00 by October 15, 2023.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that we accept the Finance Task Force Report and the Financial Reports as of August 31, 2023 (Income of \$223,279.03 and Expenditures of \$292,823.66) be accepted.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus that the 2022 Reviewed Financial statements be received and recommended for approval by the congregation.

IV. **Ministry and Personnel (Staff Life & Updates)** Sandra Dowd provided an M&P update.

- The Staff met on two occasions for an early summer social. A potluck dinner was held at the home of Sandra D. at the end of May, and in the middle of June, the staff hosted a BBQ at the church.
- Jessica W., hired as our Community Outreach Administrator under the summer grant program, completed her contract as of August 24, 2023. She has been rehired as our Technology Support Administrator for 12.5 hours per week starting August 25th, with the agreement ending December 31, 2023.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus, the Board moved into an in-camera session.

DECISION: Agreed by consensus to move out of the in-camera session now.

There were no notes for the minutes from the In-Camera.

V. **Property Update – Workday & Snow Plowing**

The quotes are being sought for the 2023-2024 season. The Property Team will update the board on findings at the next meeting.

The “Good workday” was a success. Terry thanked the community for help on Saturday, September 23rd, 2023. The community came together and cleaned out the basement of the Church. Also, thanks to the UCW for making a well-needed lunch for all the participants.

D. **Anti-Racism Statement and Action Plan (Next Steps)**

Lianne noted that we approved the updated Anti-Racism statement and action plan at our last meeting. During this time, Lianne also shared some relevant Canadian news that shed light on the fact that much work is needed in this country regarding this topic.

Adjourned by Consensus at 9:18 p.m.

Sending Prayer – Rev. Hewitt Holmes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 24/2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Collier Street United Church.

Chair, Lianne Patterson

Secretary, Steve Harding