

Council Minutes March 2, 2022 Grace United Church

Executive:

Chair	Al Shaw ✓
Vice-Chair	Leslie Veldman ✓
Past Chair	Regan Pfaff-MacDonald ✓
Secretary	Cecily Chiles ✓
Treasurer	Wayne Pease
Ministry	Kenji Marui ✓ Pat Morrison

Committee Representatives:

AOTS	Al Grimwood
Christian Development	Shirley Willis
Communications	Christopher Cooke ✓
Congregational Care & Growth	Bev Walkling ✓
Finance	Paul Cooper ✓
Region Rep	Kenji Marui ✓
Outreach	Paul Cooper ✓
Ministry & Personnel	Laura Black ✓
Re-opening	Marion Staples ✓
Planning	Regan Pfaff-MacDonald ✓
Property	John Cooke
Proclamation and Special Events	Bev Walkling ✓
Trustees	Pete Melanson ✓
Worship	John Baxter ✓
Financial Review Team	Gord Walkling ✓

✓ = present

The Meeting was held via Zoom with 13 participants, as per adjournment and began at 7:05 pm. There was a quorum.

1. Devotion

Al Shaw led introductions of the new council team and offered a prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda.

[Bev Walkling/ Regan Pfaff-MacDonald] Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: to approve the Council meeting minutes from February 2, 2022.

[Pete Melanson/Marion Staples] Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Review of Special funds policy statements as distributed with the agenda:

Benevolent: CC&G committee

Refugee: Refugee committee

Youth Worship: CD committee

Ken Plumley: AOTS

Inspiration: P&SE committee

Inn of the Good Shepherd Fund – no policy statement yet, draft statement was created but needs review and finalizing by Outreach.

Motion: that the fund policy statements for Benevolent, Youth Worship, Ken Plumley, Inspiration Funds, be approved and added to the appendices of the constitution. Chris Cooke / John Baxter - Carried

Discussion: Outreach has not reviewed the policy statement for Refugee fund. Revisit Refugee fund and Inn fund policy statements at a future meeting.

5. Correspondence

From Lindsay Travis, John Howard Society Sarnia.

Provincial grant for faith-based communities engaged in anti-hate work. Expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

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Discuss at Council to a) highlight the need to hear about such opportunities earlier and b) raise the idea of anti hate risks. Current security measures do not address anti hate considerations other than to maintain building security. We have no CCTV or camera systems.

Chris Cooke: question whether members feel there is a need for security cameras at the main entrances.

6. New Business

None

7. Pastoral Team Reports and Teaching

Kenji's ministerial report

- Getting used to life without Pat
- Worship will eventually even out and settle into "normal" as we emerge from COVID restrictions and AV components return from repair
- Will be doing short-term adjunct work with Luther Seminary. Former professor (highly esteemed Karoline Lewis) asked if I would help with her preaching course as a Lab Instructor. Ministry and Personnel approved my involvement as long as this work won't take away from my duties with Grace. I continue to track my hours and can provide reports if requested.
- Preparing for Study Leave next week: an in-person cohort meeting in Arizona for the Relevance to Resonance Project

8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

Worship

- Committee Composition: Tessa Hall and Daniella D'Andrea have joined the committee. Tessa was welcomed at the February meeting, and Daniella will join us at a future meeting.
- Music Ministry: As is now know, Glenn Parsons has announced his resignation. Bryce McGarvey has had an initial conversation with John Cooke from M&P as the process for identifying a replace is developed. Worship will work with M&P, any ad hoc committee of Council and the congregation to identify wants and needs for the person selected to be the next music director.
- At our meeting, Glenn indicated his willingness to assist with the process if called upon. Additionally, Glenn told the committee that Grace would be welcome to use any of the music that he and Beth recorded for use in our on-line services.
- Video Switcher: The video switcher is still out for repair, which will have an impact on weekly services. Members who attend in-person will have no access to video in the sanctuary, and those watching on-line will be viewing the service through a secondary camera. Kenji indicated that he would assemble a video for YouTube posting once the service was over.
- Guest Preacher: During Kenji's absence, Reverend Bob Gibson will oversee the worship service on March 13, with assistance from members of the Worship Committee

Christian Development

No report from the committee

- Bev Walkling updated on Youth Worship. While Pat is away, Bev and Leslie Veldman will be offering Youth Worship (high school and SPLAT) the first Sunday of every month.
- Leslie Veldman will continue to run the youth group evening programming while Pat is away.

Congregational Care & Growth

- Kenji and Bev met to work on a marriage package that could be handed out to interested couples. It will be reviewed at our next meeting. Chris Cooke updated council on what appears on the website regarding weddings and baptism polices.
- Wedding between Devon Laird and Afrodita Kujumdzieva, needs approval. Off-site wedding Saturday September 17, 2022 in Erin, Ontario.

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- At our last meeting we discussed the Benevolent Fund policy statement, and a copy was sent to Regan.
- We arranged delivery of annual reports and tax forms to those without email who had expressed interest.
- made phone calls to let those without email know we were resuming in person services.
- Once again, we will be delivering flowers to those who have lost a family member within the past year, a few days prior to Easter.
- We will book last Friday in March for seniors drop-in meeting, 10-11 am.
Bev Walkling

Motion: that council approve the wedding between Devon Laird and Afrodita Kujumdzieva wedding Saturday September 17, 2022; Kenji Marui will preside at the wedding. [Bev Walkling / Leslie Veldman] - Carried

Outreach

- Continue with the Inn of the Good Shepherd support. 66 clients served in February.
- Continue to work with Lambton Refugee Committee to support the Al Mudeer family.
- Reviewing potential 'soup luncheon' beneficiaries.
Paul Cooper

Proclamation and Special Events

- submitted Inspiration fund policy statement as requested via Gord Walkling.
- Looking for new committee members.
Bev Walkling

9. Ad hoc Committee Reports:

Re-opening

- As of Feb. 17, 2022, and in response to the changing of some of the provincial regulations, the Grace United Church building is open and in-person worship resumed on Feb. 27, 2022. All protocols will remain in place, regardless of any new provincial announcements, until the Re-Opening Committee meets again on March 23, 2022.
- Highlights of recent changes to safety plan:
 - I. Sunday Worship & Sunday Christian Development Programming: Congregational singing is permitted with masking and social distancing.
 - II. Church Group meetings and User Groups: Social groups can now have up to 50 people indoors.
 - III. Christian Development programs outside of Sunday morning: groups can now have up to 50 participants for social events.
Marion Staples

Motion: that Council approve the Safety Plan that was circulated with the agenda, (Safety Plan Rev. 13). [Marion Staples / Chris Cooke] - Carried

Investment Policy ad hoc committee

- Gord Walkling updated on the progress of forming the committee. Finance and Trustees would send representatives to look at a draft investment policy, to study that draft and bring it back to council for approval. Purpose of the ad hoc committee is to provide guidelines for Finance committee for investing of special funds.
- Trustees are responsible for all property both physical and financial properties or investments. The policy draft includes a section releasing Trustees from liability from decisions are made.
- No representative yet from Trustees to join the ad hoc committee.
- No representative yet from Finance to join the ad hoc committee.

Short-term deficit reduction ad hoc committee

- Paul Cooper reports that the committee is still recruiting members. Council executive should have a representative on this committee. Objective to have a balanced budget in 2023.

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10. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

Finance report from Paul Cooper

- Completed Annual General Meeting reports and presentations.
- Working to staff follow-up items from February meeting - deficit reduction, investment strategy and financial review recommendations.
- Working to complete a potential small COVID grant application - a rebate on energy costs. Deadline for submissions is March 14.
- Completing the annual United Church of Canada yearbook data. Deadline is March 7th

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GRACE FUNDS SUMMARY – 2021 (Rev 1)

FUND	Jan 01, 2021	Dec 31, 2021	2021 Fund Activity		MAJOR ITEMS
			IN	OUT	
					Greater than \$1000
Reserve	77,477	77,661	60,260 60,075		CEBA grant
Legacy Fund	376,482	365,342	970 12,112		Chapel Roof
L4L	11,430	11,680	250 0		Awaiting school restart
Youth Worship	4,192	4,180	0 12		
Communications Initiative Fund	18,280	9,782	14,450 22,948		Streaming facilities
Youth Initiatives	3,274	3,335	200 138		
Affirming Committee	147	147	0 0		
Inn of the Good Shepherd	2,172	1,464	3,025 3,733		Donations, Food to Inn
Benevolent Fund	1,037	1,447	1,475 1,065		
Memorial Fund	16,637	10,308	1,040 7,368		Streaming facilities
Canada Day	0	800	1,800 1,000		
Capital Replacement	11,242	6,769	6,296 10,769		Security upgrade, Soffit repairs, Alarm system upgrades
Ken Plumley	2,851	3,451	1,600	1000	Plumley scholarships (2)
Inspiration	15,926	8,726	0 7,200		Streaming facilities
Lay Leadership Development	7,001	7,001	0 0		
TOTALS	548,148	512,093	91,366 127,420		
Refugee Committee* (for LRC)	54,454	51,400	14,774 17,828		Rent, Furnishings, Living expenses
Sarnia Community Foundation	52,000	54,000	2000	0	See Finance Report

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Planning

1. Project Proposals

- None new to Planning

2. Constitution Update

- The revised Constitution with two amendments were approved at the AGM
- The document has been revised into its final form and will be formally sent to Regional Council for their approval
- The progress to update any of the associated Appendices will be monitored by Planning to ensure that they are completed

3. Visioning

- At the last Planning Committee meeting, we once again discussed how to progress the future vision for Grace and how to best engage the congregation in this process
- The key learning for us was around how we, Grace Church, will emerge from the pandemic and how we will be able to help build back trust and community within the congregation
- We acknowledged that the pandemic has polarized our world and that our congregation was not immune to that polarization
- Part of our visioning effort in Planning will be to identify ways, through our own discernment and involvement of the congregation, in which we can provide a trusting environment in which we can all feel safe to help us all heal our damaged spirits and relationships
- This effort will also require us to deal with, head-on, the segregation and the creation of “others” that the Public Health and our own COVID protocols have created
- We certainly do not have the answers to deal with this challenge, but we will continue this effort over the coming months

Jim Wicks presented by Regan Pfaff-MacDonald

Discussion: Constitution will be sent to Covenanting committee at Regional Council

Communications

- Continuing effort on updated logo for church signs and documents. Working with graphic designer on this endeavour. Hope to have a final logo selection in a month or so.

Property

No report

Trustees

No report

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Ministry & Personnel

- Dedication for Glenn should be planned.
- Interim period, what will be the needs for music during that period. M&P has the capacity to pay for guest performers during the interim.
- June 19 would be Glenn's last Sunday.
- Glenn may be working on some interim arrangements with Jim Wicks and Val Schmidt.

AOTS

No report.

Region updates

- Regional Report
- Antler River Watershed Regional Council supports and oversees ministries and ministers in southwestern Ontario (from Windsor to Woodstock, Wheatley to Parkhill). Its members are people who are interested in the wider work of the church, such as establishing and administering policies and protocols (about staffing, property, justice initiatives, etc.) on international, national and regional levels.
- There are two meetings throughout the year. Grace has provision for 3 lay representatives in addition to Pat Morrison and myself. Nick Monsour is currently named as one of the representatives but has not been able to attend the on-line meetings of the past two years.
- Spring meeting (in-person in Chatham or Windsor?) June 9-11, 2022
- Fall meeting: end of October, further details to be announced
- In addition to the Regional meeting, three commissions work throughout the year: Human Resources (pastoral relations, hiring and searching), Covenant (updates to church constitutions, property use, congregational support), Mission and Discipleship (social justice, affirming, camping, UCW and AOTS). Personnel for these roles are also welcomed and people do not have to be regional reps to serve on a commission.
- Suggested nominating representatives to Regional council, nominations to be approved at the Annual congregational meeting in Feb. 2023. Until that time, Kenji will continue his work with Regional council and bring information to .

Concluding remarks

Marion Staples suggested going back to Sunday lock-up responsibilities as outlined on the Agenda circulated with the meeting notice and at the end of these minutes. Paul Cooper volunteered to take on lock-up for CC&G on March 6.

10. Adjournment, Meeting closed at 8:31 pm Motion to adjourn: [Bev Walkling/Marion Staples] – carried.

11. Closing

Prayer for peace, Kenji

Next regular meeting: April 6, 2022. 7 pm

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2022 Devotion Responsibility:

JANUARY –CC&G
FEBRUARY –AOTS
MARCH – Property
APRIL – Planning
MAY – Trustees
JUNE – Worship
JULY - na
AUGUST - na
SEPTEMBER – na
OCTOBER – Finance
NOVEMBER – Outreach
DECEMBER – M&P

2022 Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:

JANUARY – Worship
FEBRUARY – CD
MARCH – CC&G
APRIL – AOTS
MAY – Communications
JUNE – Finance
JULY – Outreach
AUGUST – M&P
SEPTEMBER – Property
OCTOBER – Planning
NOVEMBER – Trustees
DECEMBER – Worship

Al Shaw, Council Chair

Cecily Chiles, Council Secretary
