

# Council Minutes April 6, 2022 Grace United Church

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## 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	John Cooke ✓
Re-opening	Marion Staples ✓
Planning	Jim Wicks ✓
Property	John Cooke ✓
Proclamation and Special Events	Bev Walkling ✓
Trustees	Pete Melanson ✓
Worship	John Baxter ✓

✓ = present

The Meeting was held via Zoom with 12 participants, as per adjournment and began at 7:02 pm. There was a quorum.

### 1. Devotion

Jim Wicks on behalf of Planning.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION: to approve the agenda.**

**[John Cooke / Marion Staples] Carried**

### 3. Approval of Minutes

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

**[Paul Cooper/Leslie Veldman] Carried.**

### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Glenn Parsons departure:

Plans for a send-off on June 19, worship service Bev Walkling will have a card large enough for congregation to sign. Cecily Chiles will discuss with the Choir regarding taking on responsibility for organizing a send-off during the worship service, and collection of a purse.

Plans for creating a search committee: Worship Committee, has proposed a 6-18 month (duration to be determined) interim position to allow a search committee to explore the needs and wants of the Grace community and to carry out the process of identifying qualified candidates for the permanent music director position. Search committee should be struck and led by Grace Council with representation from Worship, M&P, Choir and possibly representatives from other Grace groups. Deficit reduction committee could also be represented on the search committee.

**Motion: that Council authorize the creation of an ad hoc search committee for the position of music director at Grace United Church.**

**[Bev Walkling / John Baxter] - Carried**

Discussion: Could an interim position be extended to become a permanent music director? We need to make it clear whether a person hired for an interim position can also apply for the permanent position. Having rotating guest musicians, changing every week, may be exhausting for the church to manage. This should be an ad hoc committee of council.

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How should council populate this committee? Some members from council, choir, youth representation, the band, worship, deficit committee. Al Shaw to approach people to begin forming the committee. That group will meet and then decide who else should be represented on the search committee.

Ad hoc committee will report back to council on a regular basis, as do other ad hoc committees.

- Review of Special funds policy statements as distributed with the agenda:
  - Refugee Fund: Finance committee. When the refugee group was formed, there was an agreement that the committee would be responsible raising all the funds associated with sponsoring refugees. Suggested a line be added, the LRC is responsible for raising all funds required to meet the needs of sponsoring refugees. Make it clear that any deficit cannot be perceived as Grace's responsibility.
  - Region 7 should be changed to "Antler River Watershed Region".
  - Inn of the Good Shepherd Fund: Outreach committee.

**Motion: that the fund policy statements for Grace Refugee and Inn of the Good Shepherd Funds, be approved and added to the appendices of the constitution, with amendments to the Refugee fund statement. Paul Cooper / Regan Pfaff-MacDonald - Carried**

## 5. Correspondence

- Marg Thompson, Ravenswood United Church. Last service June 26, 2022. Looking for a home for several items. Worship committee may be interested in some of the items. Ravenswood was the first church where Kenji served as an ordained minister. Kenji will be attending the final service in June.
- Diversity ED is requesting financial support of 2S-LGBTQ+ camp for 80 youth and 7 adults in August 3-7, 2022. Total cost of the camp is \$6441.
  - Council should reply to Diversity Ed to find out when a financial commitment is needed.
  - Financial support could come existing funds or a dedicated fundraising event. Committees will discuss the possible fund options and report back to council in May.
  - Grace and Central/Dunlop have connections to Diversity ED and aligns with Grace as an affirming congregation.
  - Kenji will respond to Diversity ED to express our interest in the event and desire to support it; amount of financial assistance will be determined at a future meeting.

## 6. New Business

- Memorial for Doug Greenough, ideas proposed include a tree and naming the library. Discussion: Dedication of the library is easy and very appropriate. Suggest a memorial plaque to Doug Greenough, as the use of the room may evolve over time and it may not remain a library. John Cooke and Cecily Chiles to work together to sort out the timing and ensure the Greenough family is consulted.
- Call for new members on committees. New members are being sought for CC&G, Property, Proclamation and Special Events and Planning. Suggested taking several different routes for getting the message out and as a regular item on the email blast. Al Shaw will put together a message to be sent out in the weekly email blast.

## 7. Pastoral Team Reports and Teaching

### Kenji's ministerial report

- Visiting in-person at people's request, phone visits continue
- Readjusting to worship life with the video switcher back in the tech booth
- Getting plans in place for Holy Week
- Bible study continues to provide fodder for sermon writing
- Upcoming baptism for Catherine Shaw on April 24 – approval previously granted pre-pandemic. Invited the Rev. Dr. Sally Shaw to preside over the baptism ceremony at the request of the family

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- Met with my cohort for the Relevance to Resonance Project – still processing the experience and questions arising
- Worked with Barb Baxter for an on-line showing and discussion of the short film “What the Hell?” for PIE Day (March 14), to be public, intentional, and explicit about affirming and supporting the 2S-LGBTQ+ community
- Connecting with a ministerial group working on helping the unhoused in Sarnia, started by Fr. Dan Vere at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
- Working with 7 MDiv students at Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN as their Lab Instructor/Teaching Assistant for their on-line preaching course (began last week and ends at the end of May)
- **Unexpectedly became Acting Chair of the Worship Committee for General Council 44 meeting which is currently underway (was hoping the chair would return in June but mentally preparing to be in the role until the start of August)**
- **Suggest that June council meeting be moved to June 8. Final Jazz Vespers service is first Wed in June at Calvary in London.**

## 8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

### Worship

- Music Ministry: The committee discussed overarching aspects of the need to replace Glenn Parsons on both an interim and permanent basis. The committee indicated that they would take the lead to organize a departure celebration for Glenn following the Worship service on June 19.
- Other aspects of the discussions regarding the Music Director search process will be discussed in another part of the meeting.
- Implications of Provincial COVID-19 Restriction Lifting: There was strong agreement that physical distancing and masking should continue, or at least be strongly encouraged for in-person worship. Overall, the committee strongly agreed that the primary reason for exercising caution is out of a sense of care and concern for one another. It was also noted that the existing safety plan has a requirement for masks for all in the congregation who sing during the service. Gord and Bryce communicated the position of the committee to the reopening committee.
- Easter Vigil: There was agreement to continue with the tradition this year, and that the Vigil will be carried out in an on-line way. Gord Walking noted that there would be on-line resources available for those who wanted some guidance and direction. Additional details will be provided through the weekly email distribution.

### Christian Development

No report from the committee

- Bev Walking updated on plans for continuation of Splat programming.

### Congregational Care & Growth

- Delivering flowers to those who have lost a family member or people who are shut-ins, prior to Easter.
- Marriage info package finalized.
- Seniors drop-in held in March, booking another one last Friday in April
- Broadview subscriptions to be renewed this month. \$25 for 8 publications annually.  
Bev Walking

### Outreach

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- Continue with the Inn of the Good Shepherd support. 100 lbs of food were contributed, and 65 clients served. Appreciate everyone who volunteers to keep this ministry going.
- Sponsored soup luncheon for Canadian Food Grains Bank/Brigden United Church grow project.  
Paul Cooper

## **Proclamation and Special Events**

- Discussing holding an on-line auction in May and/or an outdoor garage sale and include a Giresi's pizza sale.  
Bev Walking

## **9. Ad hoc Committee Reports:**

### **Re-opening**

- I. Sunday Worship & Sunday Christian Development Programming: Congregational singing is permitted with masking and social distancing.
- II. Church Group meetings and User Groups: Groups decide whether they will wear masks.

Marion Staples

**Motion: that Council approve the Safety Plan that was circulated with the agenda, (Safety Plan Rev. 14).  
[Marion Staples / John Cooke] - Carried**

### **Investment Policy ad hoc committee**

- Members are Vern Chiles, Bill Palmer and Wayne Pease. Have met 2 times with a third meeting scheduled. Gathering information on options available. Target is to have a recommendation for June Council meeting.

### **Short-term deficit reduction ad hoc committee**

- Members are Al Shaw, John Cooke (pt), Jim Wicks, Bill Palmer and Paul Cooper. Have met once. Scoping priority areas and researching information from previous work that is available. Also, would like to support current activities underway. Target is to present recommendations to Council at October meeting.

## **10. Governance and Support Committee Reports:**

### **Finance**

- Operating budget - no significant issues up to end of February. Will issue more detailed update when the end of Q1 numbers are available.
- Still awaiting update on Ontario Covid Energy rebate submission.
- Finance Committee reps have joined Investment Policy and Deficit Reduction ad hoc committees.  
Paul Cooper

### **Planning**

#### **1. Project Proposals**

- None new to Planning

#### **2. Constitution Update**

- The updated Grace Constitution approved with some revisions at the Annual Congregational Meeting has been forwarded to Region for their endorsement

#### **3. Visioning**

- No formal meeting in March due to lack of quorum
- Members outside of the meeting reviewed a 1995 report from the then Planning Committee to glean insights and structure
  - Many issues and opportunities remain today as in 1995
  - Some "nuggets" that emerged:
    - The use of Small Groups as a church community strategy
    - The "parcel of land" off Lori Ave. and the need to have an overall land-use and parking strategy
    - Opportunities to better use the overall church buildings as potential added revenue sources

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- Visioning effort will continue to help guide the future of Grace and identify and deal with issues that arise as we emerge from the COVID pandemic

Jim Wicks

Discussion: Needing new members. Thanks to Joel Eagleson for his contributions to Planning. Activate Space, initiative for churches to create a directory of rooms available to coordinate rental bookings. Bev Walking to forward email with contact information.

## Communications

- No report

## Property

- Cathcart Driveway Repair – Saw cuts completed this week. Asphalt removal/replacement scheduled for May. Costs will be charged to the Legacy Fund as previously approved.
- Pathways rental in Rm 2/4 continues although Clients have not subscribed to the program yet.
- One of the light fixtures in the Narthex failed in January. We subsequently found the plastic shade to be very brittle and the fixture wiring in poor condition. We replaced one unit with a flush-mounted LED fixture. We propose to replace the remaining 29 fixtures. Total cost will be \$3220, including tax. Cost is based on a quote from Hillier Electric which includes a competitive price for the fixtures and a modest installation cost.
- **Motion: Moved that Council approve replacing 30 Narthex light fixtures at a cost of \$3220, paid from the Capital Replacement Fund, based on a single source supply from Hillier Electric. [John Cooke / Pete Melanson]**  
**Carried**
- We continue to seek another member for the Committee.

John Cooke

## Trustees

- No report

## Ministry & Personnel

- No report

## AOTS

- No report.

## Region updates

- No report

## **10. Adjournment, Meeting closed at 8:43 pm Motion to adjourn: [Marion Staples / Bev Walking] – carried.**

- Discussion of in-person or zoom meetings for next meeting. Consensus is to stay with Zoom meetings for now.

## **11. Closing**

Closing prayer - Kenji

Next regular meeting: May 4, 2022. 7 pm via Zoom.

June meeting to be postponed to June 8, 2022.

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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

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Al Shaw, Council Chair

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Cecily Chiles, Council Secretary