

Council Minutes May 4, 2022 Grace United Church

Executive:		Attendance
Chair	Al Shaw	Present
Vice-Chair	Leslie Veldman	Present
Past Chair	Regan Pfaff-MacDonald	Present
Secretary	Cecily Chiles	Present
Treasurer	Wayne Pease	Absent
Ministry	Kenji Marui Pat Morrison	Present On leave

Committee Representatives:		Attendance
AOTS	Al Grimwood	Absent
Christian Development	Shirley Willis	Absent
Communications	Christopher Cooke	Absent
Congregational Care & Growth	Bev Walkling	Present
Finance	Paul Cooper	Present
Region Rep	Kenji Marui	attendance noted above
Outreach	Paul Cooper	attendance noted above
Ministry & Personnel	John Cooke	Present
Re-opening	John Cooke	attendance noted above
Planning	Jim Wicks	Present
Property	John Cooke	attendance noted above
Proclamation and Special Events	Bev Walkling	attendance noted above
Trustees	Pete Melanson	Present
Worship	John Baxter	Present

The Meeting was held via Zoom with 11 participants, as per adjournment and began at 7:00 pm. There was a quorum.

1. Devotion

Pete Melanson on behalf of Trustees.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda.

[Bev Walkling/Leslie Veldman] Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: to approve the Council meeting minutes from April 6, 2022.

[Jim Wicks/Paul Cooper] 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 met with the Choir regarding taking on responsibility for organizing a send-off during the worship service, and collection of a purse. Ian Adamson and Vern Chiles are organizing collection of a purse. An email will be circulated, from the church office.

Choir meeting again Thursday May 12 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Plans for creating a search committee: Ad hoc committee formed -see entry below under ad hoc committee report.

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- Diversity ED financial support of 2S-LGBTQ+ camp. Committees were asked to review existing funds. CC&G approved \$200 to donate from Benevolent Fund. Outreach could hold another virtual soup lunch to raise funds for Diversity Ed if Council wants to approve it. Diversity ED needs a commitment by May 15. Reply to Diversity ED with a commitment of \$200 plus the proceeds of a virtual soup lunch which we anticipate would raise \$500-\$1000.

Motion: That Grace hold a virtual soup lunch to support the Diversity ED QT Camp at Lambton Centre, commitment of \$200 plus the proceeds of a virtual soup lunch which we anticipate would raise \$500-\$1000. [Bev Walkling/John Cooke] - Carried

- Doug Greenough memorial, correspondence with the Greenough family is ongoing.

5. Correspondence

- None

6. New Business

- None

7. Pastoral Team Reports and Teaching

Kenji's ministerial report

- Kenji is currently in the midst of 4 funerals in 11 days, 3 of which had been postponed/scheduled later due to the pandemic.
- Worship services had a string of Plan Bs that needed to be enacted to due to COVID.
- Thanks to the Worship Committee volunteering their help, and the sanctuary's technological capacity, another form of hybrid worship emerged with Kenji pre-recording portions of worship to be shown during the in-person gathering.
- Kenji will be attending the Festival of Homiletics, an annual preaching conference, in Denver next month as part of his continuing education/study leave. Plans for pulpit supply are in place for Sunday, May 22.
- We're looking forward to Pat's return from sabbatical in 2 months' time!

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. Sheila Scott has volunteered to serve on the search team for the new music director
- Implications of Provincial COVID-19 Restriction Lifting: Following the Easter season, there was once again strong agreement that physical distancing and masking should continue, or at least be strongly encouraged for in-person worship. Gord and Bryce communicated the position of the committee at the April reopening committee meeting.
- Video Switcher: The video switcher has returned and has been reinstalled. It was noted that there is a periodic flicker in the video, particularly noticed when viewing Glenn. Pat has not had an opportunity to complete any troubleshooting or optimizations since the return of the unit. It was also noted that the microphones in the piano needed to be reset to increase the volume. Finally, Kenji noted that the recording files from the April 16 service could not be located so he put together items for the You Tube version of the service.

John Baxter

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Christian Development

No report

Congregational Care & Growth

- April Easter flowers distributed,
- CPR defibrillator training being organized. Batteries were changed in the defibrillator in April.
- Broadview subscriptions being renewed.
- Sponsoring Autumn Jammers music group, meeting Tuesday mornings.
- PCMH, support group for parents and caregivers of children with mental health issues, booked the Chapel for meetings on the third Wednesday of the month.
- Seniors drop-in was held last week of April; another one being planned for May.
- Bank balance in Benevolent fund is \$467.98. Email blast reminder to please consider making a donation to the Benevolent fund.

Bev Walkling

Proclamation and Special Events

- Giresi's pizza sale, pick up May 15.
- Don Eastman making plant stand, proceeds being donated to Ukrainian refugee fund.
- On-line auction being started this Saturday. St. Luke's is also holding an auction this week.

Bev Walkling

Outreach

- Continue with the Inn of the Good Shepherd support. 105 lbs of food were contributed on April 3 foodbank Sunday, and 66 clients served at April 27th Inn meal.
- \$2790 raised at virtual soup luncheon for Canadian Food Grains Bank and Brigden United Church grow project.
- \$570 donated at Easter Thank Offering for Ukraine support

Paul Cooper

9. Ad hoc Committee Reports:

Re-opening

- The current Safety Plan was approved at the April Council meeting.
- The Committee recommends no changes be made to the current plan and the same protocols remain in place.
- The email blast will include wording to clarify that Proof of Vaccination is no longer required.
- The Committee will meet again on May 24.

John Cooke

Investment Policy ad hoc committee

- Continues to define options available. Meeting with key stakeholder groups to quantify appropriate financial boundaries/limits. Target is to have a recommendation for June Council meeting.

Short-term deficit reduction ad hoc committee

- No new report. 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.

Music Director Search committee

- Joanna Catterson has agreed to be the Chair of the Music Director Search Committee. She will be joined by Brian Eagleson (Grace Choir representative), Sheila Scott (Worship Committee representative), Jim Wicks (Planning Committee representative), and perhaps one more member. Joanna will call a meeting in the coming month to begin the process of collecting data from the congregation on the church's needs related to the Music Director position.

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Al Shaw

10. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

Finance

- Met with Investment Committee to help define parameters for potential options.
- Submitted operating budget report as outlined below:

Operating Budget Data			
End of March	2022	2021	Delta
Revenue	125.2	100.8	24.4
Costs	106.1	90.1	16
Surplus/Deficit	+19.1	+10.7	

- Revenue is higher in 2022 due to increased givings and rental income. Increased givings are related to one-time items that may not be repeated over the remainder of 2022.
- Costs are also higher mainly due to full staffing in 2022 and also some government grant income which offset some of the M&P costs in 2021.

Paul Cooper

Planning

- Planning discussions continue about how to define a vision for Grace with involvement from the congregation.
- Effort frustrated by the current lack of a “foundation” on which to build this vision primarily due to the uncertainty of how we will emerge from COVID.
- Have used in our discussion the Vision from the United Church of Canada that contains the foundational principles and will consider in our framework:
 1. **Deep Spirituality** – a church united in deep spirituality
 2. **Bold Discipleship** – a bold evolving church of diverse, hope-filled communities
 3. **Daring Justice** – a church that seeks justice and equity

Some Observations

- Christian churches have a PR problem among young people, churches were known to be judgemental, staid, conservative, and not accepting of certain groups of people.
- Many people’s connection to Grace is not through faith and worship services but through community activities and groups using the church as a meeting space.
- Need to ensure we are not spending all our effort trying to “fix” Grace, but to ensure we recognize that we are currently very much a part of the broader community and we should continue to look for opportunities to grow this presence.
- As we emerge from COVID gathering restrictions, it’s important to ensure we are doing things as a church where we provide opportunity for community.
- We recognize that there are several cohorts within the church, each who have unique ways in which they encounter Grace and the vision needs to include each.
- It is also recognized that not all cohorts need the same level of attention or energy at this time and since energy is finite, we may need to focus more on one group over another.

Succinctly, “Planning is looking for ways to support all groups who use the church as a gathering place, to help those groups reconnect with their members, and enhance the church’s engagement with community partners.”

Plans Going Forward

We will continue our discussions in May and define the efforts to define the cohorts within the congregation and how we might approach individuals for their views over the summer.

Jim Wicks

Communications

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- No report. Discussed the creation of a private Facebook group, a place for discussions within the congregation. Comments were made that we need to recognize that Facebook does not reach the entire congregation for communication. Youth members for example are not engaged through Facebook. Whatever social media platform is used; it will not include all members of the congregation.

Property

- Cathcart Driveway Repair – began May 4, 2022
- Pathways renting rooms 2,4&6.
- Narthex light fixtures were replaced as approved last month. 3 fixtures in the hall outside the Chapel were found without proper electrical boxes and will be retrofitted by the contractor.
- We are planning for vacation coverage for Curtis.
- We continue to seek another member for the Committee.

John Cooke

Trustees

- No report

Ministry & Personnel

- No report

AOTS

- No report.

Region updates

- A hybrid on-line and in-person meeting is happening next month, June 10-11. Two people are expected to be commissioned as diaconal ministers.

Concluding remarks

- Discussion of in-person or zoom meetings for next meeting. Consensus is to stay with Zoom meetings for now. After the June meeting, there will be a break until October.

10. Closing

Closing prayer – Kenji

11. Adjournment, Meeting closed at 8:14 pm Motion to adjourn: [Leslie Veldman/John Cooke] – carried.

Next regular meeting: June 1, 2022. 7 pm via Zoom.

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

Cecily Chiles, Council Secretary