

# Council Minutes April 5, 2023 Grace United Church

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<b><u>Executive:</u></b>		<b><u>Attendance</u></b>
Chair	Leslie Veldman	Present
Vice-Chair	Marion Staples	Present
Past Chair	Al Shaw	Present
Secretary	Cecily Chiles	Present
Treasurer	Wayne Pease	Absent
Ministry	Kenji Marui	Present
	Pat Morrison	Present

<b><u>Committee Representatives:</u></b>		<b><u>Attendance</u></b>
AOTS	vacant	
Christian Development	Shirley Willis	Present
Communications	Christopher Cooke	Present
Congregational Care & Growth (CC&G)	Bev Walkling	Present
Finance	Paul Cooper	Present
Region Rep	Kenji Marui	attendance noted Ministry
Outreach	Paul Cooper	attendance noted Finance
Ministry & Personnel (M&P)	John Cooke	Present
Planning	Jim Wicks	Present
Property	John Cooke	attendance noted M&P
Proclamation and Special Events	Bev Walkling	attendance noted CC&G
Trustees	Pete Melanson	Present
Worship	John Baxter	Present

The Meeting was held in person and via Zoom with 14 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 as amended.**

[ Jim / Al Shaw]- Carried

## 3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION: to approve the Council meeting minutes from March 1, 2023, as amended at item 4b.**

[ Paul Cooper / John Cooke] – Carried

## 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. Nominations committee continues search for regional rep. Thanks to Bev Walkling for posting it on social media page. Looking for a rep to attend the meeting in May.
- b. Review current Safety Plan (rev. 18). John Cooke reported on Masks While Singing discussion: 5 committees, the Choir and the Helen McKay Unit discussed the questions and provided feedback to me. I expect to hear from Planning and Worship in April, so I prefer to offer a final report at the May Council meeting. In the interim, I recommend we continue to support the Lambton Public Health recommended “basic actions to reduce the spread of respiratory illness” which are:
  - o Stay up to date with your vaccines
  - o Screen for respiratory symptoms daily
  - o Take a Covid Test
  - o Stay home when you are sick
  - o Always practice good hand hygiene and regularly clean surfaces
  - o Mask indoors (public settings), including schools and childcare settings

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The reality is that many people choose not to mask in public settings. The Grace community continues to be very respectful of those who choose to mask indoors.

Another reality is that organizations are rolling back mandatory mask requirements in many settings. Bluewater Health's rationale, for example, is "We have to plan to gradually and safely go back to normal, while we continue to focus on mitigating risk to vulnerable patients as we deal with this new respiratory virus for years to come".

I suggest we review our communications to ensure we forthrightly encourage worship attendees to "self-screen prior to arrival" and "stay home if unwell".

Recognizing the value of improved ventilation, the Sanctuary ventilation fans are now operated continuously during Worship services. This includes the Roof Top HVAC Units and the AC Unit over the stage which all circulate substantial air flow through return air duct filters.

Council will consider changes to the safety plan at the next regular meeting in May. Feedback from the remaining committees is expected in the interim. John Cooke will bring any new information and committee feedback to the next Council meeting.

- c. Deficit dilemma, Deficit Dilemma Workshop. [Deficit Dilemma Workshop Resources | Antler River Watershed Regional Council \(arwrucc.ca\)](#). Paul Cooper would be interested in hearing people's good ideas after hearing the message of this workshop.

## 5. Correspondence

The church office received an inquiry from a realtor regarding Grace Church property, the vacant lots on the NE part of the property. Suggestion that this should be forwarded to Trustees. Pete Melanson will reply to the realtor's inquiry. **Motion: that Trustees be directed to contact the realtor to determine what their interest is in the property [John Cooke / Jim Wicks] – Carried.** (2 abstentions)

## 6. New Business

- a. Election Vice-chair to slate of elected officers. **Motion: to elect Marion Staples to the position of Vice-Chair for the term April 2023 until the Annual Congregational Meeting in 2024 [Al Shaw/ Chris Cooke]. – Carried**  
Discussion: no other nominations were received. Marion is a member of the church, as required.  
Welcome Marion to the team!
- b. Category 3 Remit: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Kenji provided information on the Remit history and process. Each congregational council and region must remit its opinion as to whether it agrees or not to the amendment that is proposed by March 31, 2024. Any congregation that does not vote, will be counted as a vote against the amendment.  
It was suggested that there be information sessions for council members and congregation to understand the amendment. Sessions in the fall of 2023 were proposed. This topic will be on the agenda at the May meeting of Council with the focus to discuss education sessions in the fall. More information can be found at: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>

## 7. Ad hoc committee reports, Finance and Outreach

### Investment Policy ad hoc committee

No report.

### Short-term deficit reduction ad hoc committee

No report.

### Finance

- No significant issues with operating budget up to the end of February. Givings, rental and interest income are positive. Property costs are higher than plan and 2022. A detailed summary will be issued when the first quarter results are available.

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- Still looking for a replacement assistant treasurer candidate. Training will be provided.
- CRA report due by June 30th.
- Submitted feedback on Council survey to John Cooke
- Bring the numbers to council before sending out to the congregation.

Paul Cooper

## Outreach

- 98 clients served at the Inn meal on March 22nd.
- Updated committee on Canadian Foodgrain Bank information from meeting in Wyoming. Organization is doing great work, in 2021-22, helped 939,000 people in 34 countries.
- 105 pounds of food donated from food bank Sunday on March 5th.
- March 19th soup luncheon raised \$1580 for Literacy Lambton. Thank-you to Tracy Pound for her help to explain the work done by LL.
- Easter Thanks offering will support the UCC appeal for Türkiye and Syria earthquake support.
- Outreach is planning an activity to support the Circles organization on May 9th. The congregation will be asked to support this activity by preparing or serving an evening meal.
- Looking at fall soup luncheon schedule and beneficiaries. Late September tentatively booked for new Rebound initiative called "Refound".
- Submitted feedback on Council survey to John Cooke.

Paul Cooper

## **8. Pastoral Team Reports and Teaching**

### Pat's ministerial report

- Dates are booked for focus groups related to the topic of adolescent mental health. There are four different focus groups at this point: youth, parents, grandparents, and visioners. Each group will hear a thesis on root causes of adolescent mental health, explore and experiment with possible interventions, and debrief as a group.
- I will be away on study leave and holidays from April 24 - May 28. While on study leave, I will continue my focus on the adolescent mental health project toward moving discussions into the community.

### Kenji's ministerial report

- Last month was busy with Pastoral Care, hospice and hospital.
- Holy week events are being planned.
- Ventilation system interferes with quality of Worship services for those attending on Zoom. Working to find solutions.
- Housing Ministerial group, addressing homelessness, is working to understand an important issue in the city.
- General council business coordinator, nomination submitted for 2025 meeting.

## **9. Key Ministry Committee Reports**

### Worship

- Scott Woods Concert: The Scott Woods Band has requested the use of the Grace sanctuary for a second concert later in 2023. This concert is not a benefit or a fundraiser, so full rental fees will be applied for the event.
- Good Friday and Easter Services: As was noted at the last worship service, Grace will hold a joint Good Friday service with St. Bartholomew's congregation. The service will begin at Grace with several readings and then there will be a procession to St Barth's with a cross that they will provide. The service will end with readings in the St Bart's sanctuary. Those who are unable to walk the approximately 1 km will be encouraged to drive. The Easter Vigil will have a hybrid format with the chapel being available for those who want to spend time there during defined times over the weekend. Additionally, there will be a virtual vigil in which people can participate from their homes. Resources will be available in the chapel and on-line.

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- Bluewater Chamber Choir Concert: The Bluewater Chamber Choir has requested rehearsal space in May and June, and the use of the sanctuary for the concerts on June 23 and 24. An admission charge will be charged for the concerts, and the choir will be donating any profits to the Women's Interval Home. The committee supported waving of fees for use of the space as Grace has a developing relationship with the Women's Interval home, and two Grace members are members of the choir and will share the task of lock-up for the rehearsals.
- Rayjon Coffee: At the request of Council, the proposal from Joanna Catterson to coordinate sales of Rayjon coffee to Grace congregation members was discussed. As Rayjon is a long-term community partner and physical sales will not take place after services, the committee approved the endeavor.

John Baxter

## Christian Development

- No report
- Shirley Willis

## Congregational Care & Growth

- Confirmation, **Motion: that Elizabeth Veldman be approved for Confirmation in April 16, 2023. [Bev Walkling/Chris Cooke] - Carried**
- Baptism, pending the family meeting the requirements with ministry, that the baptism be approved. **Motion: that Vienna Beverly Giberson-Blanco be approved for baptism pending the family fulfilling the requirements of meeting with Ministry. [Bev Walkling/Marion Staples] – Carried**
- Marriage register, **Motion: that the wedding between John Simpson and Rosalia Parado, married March 25, 2023 at St. Joseph's Hospice, be approved by Council [Bev Walkling / Al Shaw]. – Carried.** The wedding was approved at CC&G committee special meeting.
- Fairwinds open house Apr 22. Opportunity to update Fairwinds community on reopening the Fairwinds building.
- Student letters went out.
- PIE day meeting was well attended, featured an excellent presentation and discussion with Ozhawa Anung Kwe.
- Grief support ideas are being discussed.
- Balance of Benevolent fund as of March 2 is \$2144
- Christine Wright of the Alzheimer's Society came to speak after worship, 19 people attended. A 2-hour lunch-time presentation, 11:30 – 1:30, will be held in Friendship room, registration will be required. The intention is to become a dementia-friendly church. CC&G would like a member from each Grace committee and Ministry to attend the workshop.
- Birthday Greetings to: Betty Waddell, Joan Guthrie and Ruth Kreibich.
- Easter flowers delivered to people in Landmark, and nursing homes.

Bev Walkling

## Proclamation and Special Events

- Pizza kit fundraiser raised \$390.
- Card making workshop is being planned.
- Looking for organizers and ideas for fundraising activities. Spring Garage sale, contact Bev Walkling if you are able to help.

Bev Walkling

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

### Ministry & Personnel

- No report

John Cooke

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## Planning

### March Activities and Plans

- No meeting this month due to lack of quorum
- Want to welcome Marion Staples to the committee in her new role as Vice Chair of Council
- Planning focus at this time is on growing the awareness and knowledge of what goes on at Grace
  - Committees encouraged to have a Minute session at worship to share info about their people and focus ... Suggest a "Did you know?" format for this
  - Communications has agreed to do the next one, April 16
  - Others? Members of Planning are able to assist.
- Committees to provide content for information slides to roll prior to the service
  - Worship to agree on this use of time
  - Planning will prepare the first one as an example
  - Other committees are encouraged to prepare for their group and Planning is willing to format if provided with the content
- Planning will provide support Dave Murray assistance in the proposed energy audit related to the Greening of Grace and whatever efforts follow the assessment.

Jim Wicks

## Communications

- Gym Painting: A quote was received from Sure Signs to mount the logo on the gym wall for \$1k. A pledge of \$500 was made by a council member for the gym painting project.
- Website: There was consensus to look for a small business that can support the website going forward.
- Logo: Consensus is to stick to current design without the "Resonate" key word for now.
- AV cleanup: Pat/Chris cleared out the antiquated AV equipment from the flower room. Chris to purchase an improved speaker for the projector cart. Pat to reconfigure the lectern/podium and provide a speaker that can be easily setup away from the mic to avoid the current feedback issue. A new projector screen is on order for the friendship room, and the old screen will be remounted in room 1.
- Pew brochure: Established a preliminary layout, redesign of the offering envelope. The committee would like a group photo of the congregation on Sunday, April 16th that can be added at the top of the brochure.
- Welcome kiosk: The committee further fleshed out the concept. Bev provided documentation from a historical conversation about the topic that could be incorporated.
- Electronic sign: Consensus is to wait until after the intersection construction is complete. The primary plan is to just update the top portion of the existing sign to include our new logo. secondary plan is for Chris to use the communications minute in April and/or purple folder to all whether folks would like to fundraise for an electronic sign (similar to Dunlop Central). Dunlop identified that their two-sided electronic sign cost \$34k. Next step would be to get a quote, but the committee would like to gauge interest from the congregation first.
- Clipboards: The committee developed questions to include in the pew clipboard the Sundays of April 16th and 23rd to gauge support for the electronic sign and gym painting, as well as seek volunteers to lead the welcome kiosk project and produce the pew brochure.
- Internet: The church has locked in for another term with Cogeco. Pricing has improved significantly, so the church has been upgraded to gigabit internet.
- Photo directory: The committee has been asked to consider producing an updated photo directory. We will discuss at a future meeting.

Chris Cooke

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## Property

- One of the boilers is not operational due a suspected gas valve failure. Work ongoing to diagnose and repair it.
- Decision made to discontinue 2 ball hockey rental groups in the fall due to negative impacts on the gym floor. One group will switch to basketball.
- Greening Gracefully – David Murray agreed to take on the task of getting an energy audit completed by a qualified 3rd party. He will start this work in May. We expect the audit will show the opportunities and a roadmap for reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Curtis will be on vacation April 10-14; coverage by Brett Hattat.  
John Cooke

## Trustees

- No report  
Peter Melanson

## AOTS

- No report

## Region updates

- Regional council May 12/13, format is hybrid in person and online, at Stoneridge Best Western south of London.  
Kenji Marui

Broadview subscriptions are due again, \$25 for annual subscription. E-transfer subscription fee to the office.

## **11. Closing**

- Next regular meeting May 3, 2023. 7 pm
- Closing prayer, Kenji.

## **12. Adjournment, Meeting closed at 8:55 pm**

**Motion to adjourn: [ John Cooke/Bev Walking ] – Carried.**

<u>2023 Devotion Responsibility:</u>	<u>2023 Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:</u>
JANUARY – Property	JANUARY – CD
FEBRUARY – Planning	FEBRUARY – CC&G
MARCH – Worship	MARCH – AOTS
APRIL – Trustees	APRIL – Communications
MAY – CD	MAY – Finance
JUNE – CC&G	JUNE – M&P
JULY - na	JULY – Outreach
AUGUST - na	AUGUST – Property
SEPTEMBER – na	SEPTEMBER – Planning
OCTOBER – AOTS	OCTOBER – Trustees
NOVEMBER – Communications	NOVEMBER – Worship
DECEMBER – Finance	DECEMBER – CD

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Leslie Veldman, Council Chair

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Cecily Chiles, Council Secretary