



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
February 19, 2019
Proudfoot Hall, 4:00 pm**

Present: Barb Dalrymple, Michelle Down, Terry Head, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, Heather Locking-Cusolito, David Manness, Bruce Moor, Merran Neville, Pat Pettit, Jo Ann Silcox, Bob Swartman, Katherine Wonfor

Regrets: John Eberhard, Steve Elson, Kerry Hill, Heather Vouvalidis

The regular meeting of Council was called to order at 4:00 pm by George Jolink, Chair. A quorum was present.

1.0 Invocation: The Rev. Michelle Down shared a reading from "How to be a Bad Christian . . . And a Better Human Being" by Dave Tomlinson. Michelle opened the meeting with prayer.

2.0 Remarks from the Chair: George Jolink welcomed Council to the February meeting.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

The following addition to the agenda was requested under New Business:
7.3 Start Time of Council Meetings

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, February 19, 2019 be approved with the above addition.

MOVED: By Jo Ann Silcox, seconded by Bob Swartman. MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2019 be approved.

MOVED: By Merran Neville, seconded by Barb Dalrymple. MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1 Ad Hoc Planning Committee

No report.

5.2 Faith Development – Jo Ann Silcox

Written report circulated.

The Rev. Michelle Down reported that the Lenten focus will be on the themes identified at the November 2018 Community Round Table on Service and Social Action: housing, food security and mental health. Michelle is reaching out to speakers with expertise in these areas.

David Manness requested that the Faith Development Committee appoint a representative for the Jean Brown Fund Committee. The 2019 budget for the Jean Brown Fund has been set with input from the Board of Trustees.

5.3 Finance – David Manness

David Manness reported that he and Kerry Hill have met with Zomaron Fundraising (formerly Givepoint) to negotiate terms for a one year lease of a donations kiosk. The Board of Trustees has agreed to support the \$250 per month rental of the kiosk. Transaction fees are based on the number of gifts.

David and Kerry have spoken to Holy Family Parish in London and Riverside United Church who have donations kiosks to learn about their experience with Zomaron.

MOTION: To enter into a contract with Zomaron for a donations kiosk for a trial period of one year.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Merran Neville. MOTION CARRIED.

5.4 Membership and Nurture – Heather Locking-Cusolito

Written report circulated.

- The Membership and Nurture Committee is looking into starting a Newcomers Friendship Group. This social group would meet four times a year and would provide an opportunity to get to know people new to FSA. M&N has been contacting people who identified in the Time and Talent survey that they would be interested in helping with this activity. Tentative plans are for the group to have its first meeting in May.
- Representatives from Colborne United Church have been invited to attend the next M&N meeting to share their experiences hosting an Open Sanctuary.
- A supplemental list to the photo directory which would include new members, address changes, etc., is being discussed by the Committee. Kathryn Skelly, Church Administrator, has offered to assist M&N with this project. David McKane, Visitation Minister, gave advice to the Committee regarding who on his visitation list should be included in the directory. George Jolink expressed Council's appreciation to all those who worked on the photo directory.

5.5 Ministry and Personnel – Bruce Moor

No report.

5.6 Mission and Outreach – Pat Pettit

Written report circulated.

A donation has been made by Mission and Outreach to Beth Emmanuel Church in support of their work with the Out of the Cold Program discussed at the January Council meeting.

5.7 Music – Merran Neville

Written report circulated.

Terms of Reference for the Dr. Elmer Butt Shekinah Fund were circulated.

MOTION: To accept the Terms of Reference for the Dr. Elmer Butt Shekinah Fund.

DISCUSSION: The principal of the fund is \$140,000.

MOVED: By Merran Neville, seconded by David Manness. MOTION CARRIED.

5.8 Nominations – Bob Swartman

The Nominations Committee has been meeting and is working on the list of nominations for the Annual Meeting. Please continue to forward to the Nominations Committee any changes to Committee membership.

Steve Elson has agreed to stand as Chair Elect of Council.

Communications and Marketing have requested to no longer be a Committee of Council but be a working group. This change requires approval at the Annual Meeting.

The Worship and Christian Development Committees have been working together as the Faith Development Committee. The Committee will continue to explore this new model during the next year and a motion to formally merge the Committees may be made at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

5.9 Property – George Jolink

Written report circulated.

- As a result of the work of the Arts sub-group, FSA will be hosting art shows during 2019. The Wearable Art Show and Sale will be held March 15, 16, 17.
- Meals On Wheels will be renting the Fireside Room kitchen Monday to Friday mornings to use to warm meals. This new rental will generate income of approximately \$400 per month.
- A new refrigerator has been installed in the Proudfoot Hall kitchen. The larger capacity and deep shelves will hold trays of food for receptions and events. The new fridge was funded by the receptions group.
- George Jolink recommended the rental policy be reviewed to ensure it accommodates FSA's focus while maintaining an income stream. If you are interested in being part of the review, please contact George.

5.10 Trustees – David Manness

- The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 14th. The meeting will focus on new trustee orientation.
- Trust fund performance: 3.4% rate of return in January. The value of the trust funds increased by \$140,000 in January.

6.0 Group Reports

6.1 UCW – Laurel Kenney

A Tea Tasting will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 2:30 pm. All are welcome to attend and learn about the various flavours and kinds of tea.

6.2 Staff – Michelle Down

- Michelle Down reported that she has had conversations with Julie Ryan from Indwell. Indwell is a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities that support people seeking health, wellness and belonging. Indwell has projects in Hamilton, Woodstock and Simcoe. In London Indwell is developing the former Embassy Hotel site in the Old East Village. Julie Ryan has agreed to be a Lenten speaker so the congregation will have an

opportunity to learn about this supportive housing project and how FSA can support this community.

- Michelle has asked the organizers of the Out of the Cold Program discussed at the January Council meeting to keep FSA informed about what they are learning during their pilot project.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Syrian Refugees – Anne Cummings

Anne Cummings introduced Wendy Valhoff to Council. Anne and Wendy are part of a group of six individuals in London, named Ahalen #3, who have joined together to sponsor Mohamad Feras Aldakkak and his wife Waad Al Sawas, who are Syrian refugees living in Lebanon.

A letter was circulated to Council concerning the sponsorship.

- The couple have family in London, Ontario.
- Sufficient money has been set aside by the London Aldakkak family to sponsor this couple.
- A job is available at the family towing business.

Syrian Refugees who are living in Lebanon can only be sponsored in Canada by an agency that has been designated by the Canadian government as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) who then work with a Constituent Group, such as a church. Ahalen #3 has found an SAH called World Renew (formerly named the Christian Reform World Relief Committee of Canada) who is interested in partnering with a local London church as a Constituent Group. Ahalen #3 is requesting that First-St. Andrew's United Church be co-sponsors with them.

The Mission and Outreach Committee has met with representatives of Ahalen #3 and are in favor of FSA becoming co-sponsors.

MOTION: That First-St. Andrew's United Church applies to World Renew to become a Constituent Group with Ahalen #3 as co-sponsors for the purpose of sponsoring Mohamad Feras Aldakkak and Waad Al Sawas as refugee immigrants to Canada.

MOVED: By Pat Pettit, seconded by Bob Swartman. MOTION CARRIED.

Anne thanked Council for their support and promised that Ahalen #3 will stay in communication with Council.

7.2 Capital Requisition Form: Garden Project

A Capital Requisition Form requesting funding of \$12,450 to complete the Garden Project was circulated.

The funding will provide for:

- The cost to build a stage at the front steps
- An Organ Pipe Sculpture
- Three signs: one to describe the garden, one to honour the First Nations' Lands, and one to inform visitors about the Chimney Swifts

This Capital Requisition has been approved by Trustees, Finance and Property.

Council discussed the Garden Project:

- The completion of the Garden Project is a capital project and the \$12,450 will come from the trust funds.

- Barrie Evans continues to submit grant applications and if further funds are raised they will be returned to the trust funds.
- Barrie has applied to the United Church of Canada for a grant to cover programming costs for the garden.
- Heather Locking-Cusolito reported that the Time and Talent Survey has identified people willing to work on garden maintenance.

MOTION: To approve the Capital Requisition Form requesting funding of \$12,450 to complete the Garden Project.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Bruce Moor. MOTION CARRIED.

7.3 Start Time of Council Meetings – George Jolink

The January and February Council meetings were scheduled to start at 4 pm. Council members have expressed interest in continuing with the 4 pm start time.

MOTION: To change the start time of Council meetings from 7 pm to 4 pm.

MOVED: By Bob Swartman, seconded by Heather Locking-Cusolito. MOTION CARRIED.

7.4 Annual Meeting of the Congregation – George Jolink

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, March 24th. Motions to be made at the Annual Meeting are required to be circulated to the congregation three weeks prior to the meeting.

8.0 Adjournment

The Rev. Michelle Down closed the meeting with the poem “Storage” by Mary Oliver.

The February 2019 Meeting of Council was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

George Jolink, Chair

Katherine Wonfor, Secretary