



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2022; 7:00 pm
Zoom Video Conferencing**

Present: Marilyn Arthur, Linda Badke, Steve Elson, Kerry Hill, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, David Knoppert, The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence, Chris Lindsay, Heather Locking-Cusolito, Merran Neville, Jo Ann Silcox, Kathryn Skelly, David Wardlaw (Chair), Jackie Williams, Laura Wood

Regrets: Paul Cooper, Allyson Watson, Katherine Wonfor,

The regular meeting of Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by David Wardlaw, Chair. A quorum was present.

- 1.0 Welcome:** David Wardlaw welcomed Council to the October meeting. He thanked Merran Neville and Jackie Williams for taking minutes in Katherine Wonfor's absence.
- 2.0 Invocation:** Pastor Joshua opened the meeting with prayer.
- 3.0 Acknowledgement of the traditional territory on which we are meeting** – Pastor Joshua
- 4.0 Reflection on "Where Are We?"**

David Wardlaw gave his reflection on "Where Are We?" for this month.

- There are many questions and few answers, but in the "big picture" there are three elements: one that FSA is not in a good place in certain areas, another that it is in a good place in other areas, and lastly that the church is in a period of wide transition.
- This transition zone seems to be long-lasting and is an uncomfortable place to be.
- Other churches have declined in membership, and some have closed because of a failure to recognize trend lines and proceed with planning to mitigate these trends. Joshua has been leading us toward facing up to this transition period. We hope that FSA can transition in a proactive manner. The greater community needs our presence and our ethos.
- How do we exit this transition zone? This is not entirely clear, but there are a number of paths to explore, and by patiently and systematically exploring these paths we can reinvent FSA.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

The following addition was requested to the Agenda:

12D Discussion to have the Chair of M&P join the Executive Group

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, October 18, 2022 be approved with the above addition.

MOVED: By Heather Locking-Cusolito, seconded by George Jolink. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

7.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2022 be approved.

MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Jo Ann Silcox. MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 Correspondence – Letter from UCC re appointment of Jo Ann Silcox to a UCC committee [UCC letter and terms of reference for Remedial Committee distributed in advance]

9.0 Staff Report – Joshua Lawrence

A Pastor's Report was circulated. It has been a very busy month for Joshua. No staff issues to report.

10.0 Business Arising

None

11.0 Items for Decision Making by Council

[motion to approve or table, or decision to defer/withdraw, anticipated for each item]

11A. Tabling of report on Council-Staff workshop on Oct.4/22: next steps; and motion to endorse planning priorities identified in the report – Steve Elson (Please see the attached presentation "FSA workshop Oct 4th - updated Oct 5th".)

Steve Elson reported that this was a successful event and thanked all who had participated. He also thanked his fellow team members who planned the event; Marilyn Arthur, David Wardlaw and Pastor Joshua.

- The event began with a refresher on what had occurred at the previous planning workshop October 2021.
- Marilyn Arthur made a presentation on her role as the shared Minister of Youth and Young Adults with a title, "What's happening with young and middle-aged adults and families? Lessons learned and discussion"
- Attendees then formed small groups tasked with sharing ideas answering the question: "What do you see as being the major challenge facing the future of FSA?"
- Based on these discussions, three Action Priorities were identified for FSA, namely:
 - Focus attention on Service/Outreach
 - Promote and facilitate intergenerational Involvement
 - Promote and facilitate inter-congregational and interfaith collaboration

MOTION: That Council endorses these 3 Action Priorities going into the next year.

MOVED: By Jo Ann Silcox, seconded by Heather Locking-Cusolito

DISCUSSION: Steve Elson asked members of Council to send him any changes. He plans to take this to the congregation the week starting October 30th 2022.

MOTION CARRIED.

11B. Affirmation of decision by Antler River Watershed Regional Council on October 11, 2022 to grant a licence to perform the sacraments to Marilyn Arthur in her role as Shared Youth & Young Adult Minister – David Wardlaw

David Wardlaw introduced this topic as not all members of Council may have been aware of this requirement. Each church needs to authorize a new Minister to perform the sacraments of Baptism and Communion within their congregation.

MOTION: That FSA, via Council, endorse the decision of Regional Council and authorize Marilyn Arthur to perform the sacraments at FSA.

MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Steve Elson

Rev. Karen Low as an ordained minister also can perform the sacraments. This gives FSA three people who can do this.

MOTION CARRIED.

11C. Update on renting space in St. Andrew's Hall plus opportunity for a major tenant seeking long-term rental: report from Planning & Property Committees; and motion to establish a group authorized to negotiate terms of a draft lease for potential long-term rental –Steve Elson & George Jolink [Please see file entitled: Memo re pending long-term lease agreement Oct 2022]

The El Sistema Program of the Aeolian Hall (<https://aeolianhall.ca/esa>) is a non-profit charitable organization that currently operates out of the former Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church. Their lease in this building terminates at the end of 2022, and, due to a chance encounter between Clark Bryan (Artistic Director of the Aeolian Hall) and Pastor Joshua, the El Sistema Program is seriously considering FSA as a new home. Clark Bryan visited and toured FSA on October 7th, and then a board member and two staff (including Clark) visited and toured FSA on October 13, 2022. Details of the El Sistema Program are included in the submitted memo.

El Sistema would be long-term tenants who would require the entire second floor of FSA, and the current youth room on the third floor. as dedicated space. In addition, they would be looking to use the Chapel, the Sanctuary and Proudfoot Hall as shared space for rehearsals. These spaces would be used 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm Monday through Friday. Three evenings a week a meal is provided and for this they would be using the kitchen next to Proudfoot Hall and the hall itself to serve the meals. Meal preparation time would be in the afternoon before the children come to the program. Besides looking for suitable space, El Sistema is looking for value alignment within the host environment. FSA would become the education campus of Aeolian Hall.

George Jolink reported that a preliminary analysis of the existing space within St. Andrew's Hall was carried out and he believes FSA can accommodate the needs of El Sistema, but it would require fairly extensive relocation of offices and people. George plans to hold a meeting of people who would be impacted.

The Planning Committee would need the endorsement of FSA Council to further explore how to accommodate the El Sistema Program as a long-term tenant and to enter into a negotiation of the terms of a lease. This is a decision of some magnitude and should also go to the congregation.

Questions and Discussion

- It was asked if the young people at FSA would be able to collaborate with the El Sistema Program. George replied that the group would welcome such collaborations. It would multiply our youth and young family opportunities in music, arts, games, leadership training.
- The timing of the space requirements may clash with the times that Ark Aid needed at FSA last Winter. [In her presentation, see below, Sarah Campbell gave the times that

Ark Aid would need space as 10:00pm-9:00am.] Could FSA accommodate both programs? FSA might be challenged to accommodate both.

- Kerry Hill said the Planning Committee has not been searching for tenants over a long period of time, and perhaps FSA should not jump to accept the first offer of a tenancy before a Strategic Plan has been devised. He asked how come other churches can afford to carry out major renovations to their properties, and mentioned several examples, one being the Metropolitan United Church in London. George replied that these churches enter into partnerships with organizations that have access to Government funding that is not available to churches on their own. Metropolitan Church is a good example as they have partnered with London Symphonia. Partnering with El Sistema would allow FSA access to such loans and funding.
- George also pointed out that El Sistema would be prepared to move into FSA as is, without requiring extensive renovations up front.
- Several other members spoke in favour of the wonderful work done by El Sistema and the positive effect for young people.

MOTION: That the discussion on this issue be taken up by a small group formed to explore this opportunity as Council does not have sufficient information to agree to a lease at this stage. – David Wardlaw

MOVED: By Kerry Hill, seconded by David Knoppert. MOTION CARRIED.

George Jolink agreed to form this group and gather more information. There is a timeline to follow as the lease on the Bishop Cronyn building expires in December 2022.

Sarah Campbell joined the meeting.

12. REPORTS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL

12A. Ark Aid and FSA - Possible collaboration in winter of 22-23 and beyond – Sarah Campbell (Executive Director of Ark Aid)

- Sarah gave her sincere thanks for the effort of all the volunteers last winter. Special thanks were given to Allyson Watson for coordinating activities. The experience was very positive for the community with over a hundred nights that people were able to be indoors. There is a larger response from other groups this year because of our efforts last year and the example set by FSA members.
- Sarah then shared a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the Ark Aid proposal for this winter. 400 people are living on the street at this time in London. Ark Aid is receiving support from London Cares <https://londoncares.ca/>.
- Ark Aid is looking to support for 75 people using several locations. FSA will not be doing this alone as other churches are wanting to join the partnership. Serving others is critical to the life of a church and the program can be modelled on what FSA did last year.
- David Wardlaw will deal offline with the three chairs from Property, Planning and MO to form a small committee to prepare a proposal. Timing is important due to the approaching winter. It is hoped that a proposal can be ready in early November.

12B. Policies & Procedure document: item by item review of proposed changes – Steve Elson

- With time running out, Steve asked Council members to get back to him by the end of next week if they have any further changes to the Policies & Procedure document.

12C. FSA kitchen:

- Need for certified (by MLHU) food handlers – David Wardlaw
- New MLHU record keeping requirements – Kathryn Skelly

- Kathryn reported that there was an unscheduled inspection of the kitchen and the inspection passed. Receipts and information about food brought into the church need to be kept onsite for one year. Receipts and information should be given to Kathryn.
- How to manage a kitchen with multiple users including renters and subject to MLHU requirements & inspections – discussion to solicit approaches & ideas.
The concern is principally around health and food contamination issues. Property looks after large capital items in the kitchen. We were left with the question: Who is going to manage the kitchen? In the past it was the UCW but that is no longer the case.

12D. Request to have the Chair of M&P join the Executive Group:

MOTION: that the Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee be made a member of the Council Executive, effective immediately.

MOVED: by Kerry Hill, seconded by Merran Neville

MOTION CARRIED - With provisional approval by council for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2023 when the Policies & Procedures document is presented.

13. REPORTS AND TOPICS FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

A. Update on Children's Coordinator position – Jo Ann Silcox

Allyson asked to underline importance of moving ahead to find a Children's Coordinator. A Selection Committee has been established and will meet soon to move forward as quickly as possible. The search committee members are: Linda Badke, Katie Glaves, Chris Lindsay, Ann MacPhail, Allyson Watson, Kerry Hill – ex officio, Joshua Lawrence – ex-officio, Marilyn Arthur – ex officio.

B. Update on part-time pastoral care position – David Wardlaw

Steve will shepherd this through the various steps while David is away. Next step is to complete the position description. Approval sought from Council at November meeting. Then advertise. It is hoped to have someone in place in time to be approved at AGM. Will work into the 2023 budget. A significant donation to endow this position in perpetuity has been made, which is analogous to the terms of the Jean Brown Fund.

14. Other Business - None

15. CLOSING PRAYER – Linda Badke

- **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 – 7-9 pm**
(to be chaired by Steve Elson in absence of David Wardlaw)

David Wardlaw, Chair

Merran Neville and Jackie Williams,
On behalf of Katherine Wonfor, Secretary