



**First-St. Andrew's United Church  
COUNCIL MEETING  
February 16, 2021  
4:00 pm  
Zoom Video Conferencing**

**Present:** Linda Badke, Barb Dalrymple, Steve Elson, Kerry Hill, The Rev. Tom Hiscock, George Jolink, Doug Jones, Erich Knapp, Heather Locking-Cusolito, Bruce Moor, Merran Neville, Jo Ann Silcox, Heather Vouvalidis, David Wardlaw, Jackie Williams, Katherine Wonfor

**Regrets:** Laurel Kenney, Allyson Watson

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

**1.0 Invocation:** The Rev. Tom Hiscock opened the meeting with prayer.

### **2.0 Review and Approval of Agenda**

The following addition was requested to the Agenda:

4.0 Correspondence – Letter from Mary Ann Hodge, Climate Action London

**MOTION:** That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, February 16, 2021 be approved with the above addition.

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

### **3.0 Approval of Minutes**

A correction was requested to the January 19, 2021 Council Minutes:

7B FSA 2021 Budget

- Clark Fund support for continuing education is budgeted lower than in ~~2019~~ 2020 due to staff vacancies and COVID-19 shut-downs.

**MOTION:** That the Council Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021 be approved with the above correction.

**MOVED:** By Bruce Moor, seconded by Jackie Williams. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4.0 Correspondence**

A letter was received from Mary Ann Hodge, Climate Action London. Mary Ann thanked FSA for its support of Climate Action London initiatives. Mary Ann asked Council to consider engaging with Faith and the Common Good (or an engineering firm) to commission an energy audit that not only addresses a replacement to the boiler, but assesses the church for conservation opportunities with the long-term goal of net zero emissions.

George Jolink commented that this is a timely suggestion as Property, along with the Planning Committee, has begun looking at a complete upgrade and modernization of the heating system at FSA.

## **5.0 Staff Report – Tom Hiscock**

Tom Hiscock reported that David McKane plans to return to his ¾ time position in March. With David's return, Tom will step-down from his role as Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

## **6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **6A Congregational Survey – Steve Elson**

A draft survey designed to give members of FSA the opportunity to give feedback on the work of Council was circulated. Steve Elson and Heather Locking-Cusolito developed the survey and tested it with four FSA members who found it easy to complete.

It was suggested that question 7 be split into 2 questions.

1. Do you see Council as being a barrier to change at FSA?
2. Do you see Council as providing important leadership to FSA?

Council agreed to proceed with the survey.

### **6B COVID-19 – George Jolink**

The Re-opening Task Team met Sunday, February 14, 2021. The Team discussed the move of the London area from grey lockdown to red restrictions and how this affects FSA. The consensus of the Team was that FSA should continue with virtual services only. Services are taped one week in advance and are following the liturgy for Lent. This decision will be reviewed after Easter.

When taping services, different elements are recorded at different time to limit the number of people in the sanctuary. Microphones are not shared among participants.

The staff have access to the building when necessary.

Steve Elson thanked the Re-opening Task Team for their leadership.

### **6C Collaboration in Children/Youth/Intergenerational and Family Ministries**

A letter from Catherine Glover, Chair, Siloam United Church Council was circulated.

Siloam is exploring interest in growing shared ministry for children, youth, intergenerational, and families.

At the January meeting of Council, it was agreed that FSA would take part in these conversations.

A Zoom meeting will take place on February 24, 2021 with participants from Siloam, FSA and other interested London congregations.

### **6D Proudfoot Month**

At its January 19, 2021 meeting, Council approved the designation of May as Proudfoot Month at FSA.

Doug Jones reported the Doug Proudfoot, a great-great-great grandson of the Rev. William Proudfoot, will take part in the Proudfoot Month events.

## **7.0 New Business**

### **7A Fundraising Proposal**

A proposal from Bob Peel to obtain financial sponsors for virtual services was circulated.

It was recommended that the proposal be reviewed by the Finance and Worship Committees with their recommendations being brought back to Council.

Steve Elson will clarify with Bob Peel if the proposal is based on the services being live-streamed. Currently the services are taped. Live-streaming would require trained staff and volunteers and additional equipment.

## **8.0 Reports and Topics for Discussion by Council**

### **8A Finance Committee – Kerry Hill**

Kerry Hill reported that FSA has received an additional \$20,000 loan from the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This brings the total loan to \$60,000 with \$20,000 being forgivable. The loan is to be repaid by December 31, 2022.

### **8B The Inviting Circle – Jo Ann Silcox**

Jo Ann Silcox is a member of The Inviting Circle. The Inviting Circle is a group of lay and clergy members in London who gather to connect, learn, worship, and support each other. The members discuss collaboration and sharing resources.

## **9.0 Reports and Topics for the Information of Council**

### **9A Search Committee – Kerry Hill**

Kerry Hill reported that the Search Committee is reviewing candidates and will be setting up Zoom interviews in March.

### **9B Worship Committee – Jo Ann Silcox**

Report accepted as circulated.

Jo Ann Silcox expressed gratitude to David McKane, Ann Corbet, Tom Hiscock, and Erich Knapp for their leadership.

### **9C Property Committee – George Jolink**

Report accepted as circulated.

The Property and Planning Committees have started discussions about the heating system. Repairs due to significant failures in December and January cost approximately \$15,000. As a result, the process to consider a complete upgrade and modernization of the heating system has begun.

Requests for Proposals from firms will be solicited to undertake a study of the options and requirements for a new heating system. This study will cost in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range and funding from the Trust Funds will be sought.

Due to the cost, approval from the Antler River Watershed Region will be required for the capital expenditure of a new heating system.

MOTION: That the Council of First-St. Andrew's United Church supports a study of the options and requirements for a new heating system.

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

**9D Mission and Outreach Committee** – Barb Dalrymple

During Lent, the Mission and Outreach Committee is sharing information about Indwell, a Christian charity that creates affordable housing for marginalized people. A link to the Indwell website is posted on the FSA website.

**9E Christian Development** – Allyson Watson

Report accepted as circulated.

**9F Membership and Nurture** – Heather Locking-Cusolito

Report accepted as circulated.

Erich Knapp was thanked for agreeing to offer leadership to the Affirm Committee.

A Zoom Coffee and Conversation is being piloted.

**10.0 Other Business**

**10A David Wardlaw**

David Wardlaw, Chair-Elect of Council, would like to visit Council Committees to learn more about their work. Please contact David to arrange a time he can meet with your Committee.

**10B Budget Surplus**

It was discussed at the January 30, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting whether year-end budget surpluses could be used to fund outreach projects.

The reviewed 2020 financial reports will be presented to the congregation in the spring. Trust fund support of operations covers the deficit. If all the budgeted trust fund support is not required, the funds stay in the trust funds and are not an operations surplus.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Council members shared what they are looking forward to in the coming months.

The Rev. Tom Hiscock closed the meeting with a benediction.

The February 16, 2021 Meeting of Council was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

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Steve Elson, Chair

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Katherine Wonfor, Secretary