



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2022
7:00 pm
Zoom Video Conferencing**

Present: Linda Badke, Paul Cooper, Steve Elson, Kerry Hill, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, David Knoppert, The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence, Heather Locking-Cusolito, Merran Neville, Kathryn Skelly, Allyson Watson, Jackie Williams, Katherine Wonfor, Laura Wood

Regrets: Jo Ann Silcox, David Wardlaw

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

1.0 Welcome: Steve Elson welcomed Council to the November meeting.

2.0 Invocation: Pastor Joshua opened the meeting with prayer.

3.0 Acknowledgement of the traditional territory on which we are meeting

4.0 Reflection on "Where Are We"

Steve Elson offered a reflection on the three pillars of FSA: Faith, Service and the Arts.

Faith is an expression of our core values and how they shape our lives. Service is our faith in action. The Arts are an expression of how we connect to the divine.

Steve sees FSA as a vibrant community, alive, engaged, innovative and creative, as we act to live out our faith.

5.0 Review and Approval of Agenda

The following additions were requested to the Agenda:

11C Mask Mandate

13B 2023 Nominations

13C Coffee and Conversation

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, November 15, 2022 be approved with the above additions.

MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Heather Locking-Cusolito. MOTION CARRIED.

6.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Paul Cooper informed Council that as Chair of the Board of the Aeolian Hall Musical Arts Association he will not vote on matters regarding FSA's lease with the Aeolian El Sistema program.

7.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2022 be approved.

MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Heather Locking-Cusolito. MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 Correspondence

No correspondence was brought to the attention of Council.

9.0 Staff Report – Joshua Lawrence

A Pastor's Report was circulated.

Advent and Christmas are very busy seasons in the church calendar. The staff are willing and able to support the work of FSA, but please be conscious of conflicts on their time.

10.0 Items for Decision Making by Council

10A Ark Aid and FSA

A draft lease agreement between First-St. Andrew's United Church and The Ark Aid Street Mission was circulated to Council.

George Jolink reported on behalf of the Ark Aid working group.

Ark Aid proposes to run an out of the cold night drop-in centre program in Proudfoot Hall from December 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Ark Aid has received a grant from the City of London to fund the program.

Program details include:

- FSA will host 30 beds
- Entry point east Narthex door
- Exit point west Narthex door
- Doors open at 10 pm
- Ark Aid will be running multiple sites during winter 2022/2023 and guests will be asked to pre-register for a bed
- On extreme cold weather nights additional emergency beds will be opened, including up to an extra 15 beds at FSA
- Guests with a history of behavioral issues will not be allowed to register for a bed
- The program will not run Christmas Eve or Christmas night
- On nights when FSA is hosting an event additional security may be hired

FSA has met with neighbouring businesses to discuss the program. The neighbours shared their concerns regarding garbage and the potential for people to be found sleeping at their properties. Ark Aid has been asked to ensure that neighbouring porches are clear and garbage is cleaned up each morning.

MOTION: To approve the program lease agreement between First-St. Andrew's United Church and The Ark Aid Street Mission to run an out of the cold program at FSA during the winter of 2022/2023.

MOVED: By George Jolink, seconded by Allyson Watson.

DISCUSSION:

- George Jolink will be the liaison regarding property matters. Allyson Watson offered to work with George.
- Allyson is working with Ark Aid regarding volunteers. Thirty-two London churches have contacted Ark Aid asking to be involved and volunteers will be drawn from FSA and these churches.
- It was recommended that a fixed time be set when donations can be received to ensure there is someone available to accept the donations.

MOTION CARRIED.

Council thanked the members of the Ark Aid working group: George Jolink, David Knoppert, David Manness, Allyson Watson.

10B El Sistema and FSA

A memo from the El Sistema working group (George Jolink, David Manness, Joshua Lawrence, Steve Elson) was circulated to Council.

El Sistema is a program of the Aeolian Hall Musical Arts Association. El Sistema is an after-school music education program for elementary and high school students that operates Monday through Friday.

El Sistema is searching for a new location and through a contact made by Pastor Joshua has expressed an interest in FSA. A tour of FSA has been conducted and El Sistema is interested in leasing the upper two floors and using the Chapel and Sanctuary for ensemble work. A meal program is offered to the students.

MOTION: That First-St. Andrew's United Church commits to enter into a partnership with the El Sistema program of the Aeolian Hall Musical Arts Association subject to the negotiation of a lease agreement.

MOVED: By Jackie Williams, seconded by Allyson Watson.

DISCUSSION:

- A partnership with El Sistema is in missional alignment with the FSA pillars of arts and service.
- FSA and El Sistema will have the lease agreement vetted by lawyers.
- There will be a disruption to staff as Pastor Joshua and Tim Miedema will have to move offices.
- The Archives will need to be relocated.
- El Sistema requires the space by January 1, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.0 Items for Decision Making by Council

11A Pastoral Care Position – Steve Elson

(i) A document from the Antler River Watershed Regional Council was circulated that lists steps to follow when preparing to search for ministry personnel.

(ii) The FSA Community of Faith Profile document has been updated and shared with Council. FSA Council approval is required before the documents can be sent to the Regional Council for review.

MOTION: To approve the FSA Community of Faith Profile document as presented to Council at its November 15, 2022 meeting.

MOVED: By Heather Locking-Cusolito, seconded by Merran Neville.

DISCUSSION: The Region requires that the congregation be able to fund the position for at least three years. Jackie Williams reported that the Board of Trustees would discuss funding at their November 17, 2022 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

(iii) Position Description: Minister of Pastoral Care

A position description for a Minister of Pastoral Care was circulated to Council. The Ministry and Personnel and Membership and Nurture Committees have reviewed the position description.

MOTION: That the Position Description: Minister of Pastoral Care be approved by Council.

MOVED: By Kerry Hill, seconded by Allyson Watson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11B FSA Gift Policy – Jackie Williams

Jackie Williams, Co-chair, Board of Trustees, presented the FSA Gift Policy to Council.

The FSA Gift Policy is an amalgamation of the FSA Legacy Gift Policy, the Proudfoot Tree Gift Policy, and the Proudfoot Society Benefactor Policy.

MOTION: That Council accepts the FSA Gift Policy as circulated.

MOVED: By Jackie Williams, seconded by George Jolink.

DISCUSSION: The Policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

MOTION CARRIED.

11C Mask Mandate

With the increase in COVID-19 infections in the community, Council discussed re-instating a mask mandate at FSA.

The Middlesex London Health Unit recommends mask wearing in indoor settings but it has not been mandated by any level of government.

MOTION: That First-St. Andrew's United Church introduces a mask mandate effective Sunday November 20, 2022 for FSA services and activities.

MOVED: By Heather Locking-Cusolito, seconded by Jackie Williams.

DISCUSSION:

- Masks may be removed when eating or drinking.
- Physical distancing should be encouraged.
- Masks will be available at the entrance to the Boutique Bazaar being held November 18 and 19.

MOTION CARRIED.

12.0 Reports and Topics for Discussion by Council

12A Property Committee – George Jolink

Three Capital Requisition Forms were presented to Council.

1. Replace custom cut window coverings on the Reid window (\$3,856.69)
2. Repair and replace lightning cables plus add protective coverings (\$5,386.03)
3. LED lights installed in Upper Room and Fireside Room to replace failing existing lights (\$2,782.06)

MOTION: That the three Capital Requisition Forms listed above be approved by Council.

MOVED: By George Jolink, seconded by Merran Neville.

DISCUSSION: The Capital Requisition Forms will be brought to the November 17 meeting of the Board of Trustees for approval.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Property Committee is investigating lighting upgrades for the Sanctuary. Live streaming requires brighter lighting. Grants are available for energy efficiency projects from the United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints fund.

Meals On Wheels has expressed an interest in renewing their lease with FSA for a further three years.

13.0 Reports and Topics for the Information of Council

13A Children's Coordinator Position – Allyson Watson

Interviews for the position of Children's Coordinator will take place in the next two weeks.

13B 2023 Nominations – Steve Elson

A list of committee members will be circulated to committee chairs. Please inform Steve Elson of any changes.

13C Coffee and Conversation – Heather Locking-Cusolito

Instructions for the set-up of Coffee and Conversation can be found in the kitchen cupboard labelled Coffee and Conversation. Chairs of committees will be sent the instructions. Please forward them to any committee members volunteering for Coffee and Conversation.

If a committee is planning an event on a Sunday morning, please advise Heather Locking-Cusolito or Glenna Hall so they can communicate with the Coffee and Conversation volunteers.

14.0 Benediction

Jackie Williams closed the meeting with prayer.

The November 15, 2022 Meeting of Council was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Steve Elson, Past Chair

Katherine Wonfor, Secretary