

**Inaugural Church Council Meeting
St George & St Andrew United Church
Thursday, March 31, 2022**

The inaugural meeting of the Church Council of St George & St Andrew United Church was held Thursday, March 31, 2022 in the Jim MacIntosh Hall at 7:00pm.

Present: Stuart Jamieson – Chair Rosanne Peach – Secretary Barry Fletcher – Trustee

Linda Mac Charles – Ministry & Personnel Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings

Joanne Buckmaster Garry Freeman Sophia Oldford Rob Prosser Richard Wiles

Wendy Fletcher

Regrets: David Holborn – Region 15

Welcome:

Chair, Stuart Jamieson, welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of Church Council. This is a significant event as it is different from what we are used to but not radical different. All Council members expressed the hope that we would work together.

Call to Order:

Stuart Jamieson called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Each member introduced themselves and answered “what are you hoping to experience with this council?”

The Council will have some tradition, new ideas, work forward in a strong way, have disagreements while being respectful of others’ opinions, bring forth new ideas for regrowth and share information. There are just 2 more meetings before our minister retires.

Holy Manners, Opening Prayer:

This will be the opening each meeting. (Attached)

Quorum Confirmation:

Quorum was established.

Agenda Additions:

M& P requested time as well as Trustees.

Motion to Accept Agenda:

MOTION: By motion of Joanne Buckmaster and Garry Freeman, that the agenda be accepted as amended. Carried

New Business:

- 1) Appointment of Treasurer and Bookkeeper

MOTION: By motion of Richard Wiles and Sophia Oldford, that Wendy Fletcher be Treasurer and Barry Fletcher be Bookkeeper. Carried

- 2) **Meeting Times/Schedule:**

There will be more meetings at the start but will settle down as transition moves forward. The mandate is at least 4 meetings must be held. The 3rd Thursday evening of the month, at 7:00pm, has been agreed upon.

- 3) **Understanding Our Role as a Church Council:**

The role of the Council is spelled out in the Regional Church Manual – B.7 (Attached) Rev. Elisabeth highlighted the key points of the governing Body Structure. She spent more time going over the Responsibilities of the Governing Body – **Spiritual Matters** administering Baptisms and Communion and agreeing to marriages in the church; admitting people as full members or removing people as full members; granting certificates of transfer of membership; Public Worship, Christian Education for all ages; use of building Pastoral Care and Visiting; Outreach and Social Action. **Financial Matters** including fundraising, disbursement of funds; budgets and/or borrowing. **Sharing Reports with wider Church; Stewardship** were also highlighted.

We are grateful for our Volunteers. They and any member of the congregation may come to Council meetings to observe. If one wishes to speak on a topic they must first request a spot on the agenda. Some may be asked to speak at a meeting. All volunteer groups will be asked to present a report for the Annual Meeting and may be asked questions or ask questions.

- 4) **Structure of Future Agendas:**

- a) Standing Items - As the above but including Business Arising and Treasurer's Report after accepting the Agenda and then New Business.
- b) Announcing Meetings – The Chair and Secretary
- c) Timely Posting of Minutes – Unapproved minutes will be circulated to the council members for correction/omissions and approval within the week, then posted on the bulletin boards in the Church and the Web Site by 2 weeks.

- 5) **Current Matters:**

- a) Worship & Communion – Finding Pulpit Supply is the responsibility of Council; Easter to Pentecost – overview with communion dates was given out and accepted.
- b) Linda MacCharles, Joanne Buckmaster and Richard Wiles will work with Rev. Elisabeth to plan the final Sunday.
- c) Easter – The 2 early Services – Maundy Thursday – because of pandemic no the reenactment of the Last Supper, but service in sanctuary which Garry Freeman will decorate with trees as in past years. Good Friday Evening Vigil will be held in the Sanctuary. The main Easter Service will be held as usual Sunday morning, with communion.
- d) Coffee & Conversation will be revisited at a later date.
- e) Upcoming Congregational Meetings – The first of two meetings regarding the Affirm Program will be held April 24th. This meeting is an opportunity to ask a question or state an opinion. If one has a question but doesn't feel like asking in a crowd – there is a box at the back of the church to put your question or opinion in. They along, with those asked/stated in church, will be answered by Sophia Oldford (questions) or Stuart Jamieson (opinions).

The second being held May 1st when the voting will be done. Absentee Ballot is being allowed BUT one must call and request a ballot and have it back to the church by April 28th and will be opened and counted with the in house secret ballots. (Attached) The answer will be ‘approved’ or not. The vote is recommended to be 75% of those voting for a yes vote. Members and adherents may vote.

- f) Use of Sanctuary – This will be determined by Minister, Chair of Trustees and Andrea Boulding. There has been a request by the Theater to partner with them by having a concert performed by the Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir as they require an organ for the performance, on May 22nd, 2022. The theater will do all selling of tickets and give a donation to the church for the use.
- g) Ministry & Personnel – Our organist, Deirdre Morrell Ormerod, is sick but has no sick time built into her contract. The recommendation from the M&P is that we continue to pay her for the Sundays she is off due to this illness.

MOTION: By motion of Rosanne Peach and Rob Prosser, that the organist receive continued pay during her sickness. Carried

The Profile Committee has met 4 times by Zoom and many emails. We are looking at all aspects of the church, community, with the guidance of Ann Cameron, our liaison with Region 15 for this project. Once the Profile document is completed, it will go to Ann Cameron for reviews, then to Church council for approval, then to the Congregation for approval, then to Regional Council for final approval. Once approved, the document will be posted on the Church Hub for viewing by all Ministers that are interested or looking for a change.

On agenda for next month – Interim Minister

- h) Trustees – There is a need for a transfer of money from our investment. At present we have only \$3,200 in our account. We suggest \$15,000.

MOTION: By motion of Richard Wiles and Sophia Oldford, that \$15,000 be requested from our investments. Carried

- i) Signing Officers – It was suggested that Wendy Fletcher, Treasurer, be one, Stuart Jamieson and Richard Wiles volunteered to be additional signing officers.

MOTION: By motion of Sophia Oldford and Garry Freeman, that the signing officers will be Wendy Fletcher, Stuart Jamieson and Richard Wiles. Carried

New Creed and Leaders Prayer:

Next Meeting: April 21, 2022, at 7:00pm

By motion of Wendy Fletcher and Richard Wiles, meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Stuart Jamieson
Chair

Rosanne Peach
Secretary