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Tuesday October 17, 2023



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held in the Fireside Room on October 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. with Julia Duffy as Chair.

**Present** Ron Allen (Trustees, non-voting), Robert Ashton (Member at Large), Kathy Beamish (Treasurer), Brenda Beattie (Worship), Rev. Cindy Casey, Jan Chanter (Ministry and Personnel), Robert Chanter (B&G), Sue Davidson (Children Youth and Families), Julia Duffy (Chair), Penny Gelinias (Outreach), Al Quirt (Secretary), Kathleen Turner (Member at Large).  
**Regrets:** Donna Caron

Julia Duffy welcomed KUC Council members and lit the Christ candle.

**Moved** by Al and **seconded** by Sue to make Penny Gelinias from Outreach a corresponding member for this meeting. **Carried.**

Kathleen Turner presented a reflection from the highly recommended special Indigenous issue of Broadview, on the challenges involved in being an Indigenous Christian. Our relationship must discard colonial ways such as the Doctrine of Discovery and must recognise our spiritual connection with the Land.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated, adding a B&G Report.

### **Outreach Update - Penny**

In 2020 and 2021 donations to Outreach via PAR were added to the Outreach budget and used for food cupboards because of special needs from COVID. This year Outreach are considering supporting many organisations, mostly ones we have supported in the past.

There was discussion about the whole principle of a Unified Budget, and how directed funds (not just Outreach but for example CYF and M&S) should be handled. It was agreed that there should be consistency, and the clarified rules should be communicated clearly to the congregation. There was consensus that we should not automatically treat directed amounts as over and above the budget. Instead if any area needs more money than is in the budget it should bring the special need to Council, who have the authority to adjust the budget by moderate amounts between annual meetings. Large unbudgeted expenses should be brought to the congregation. We can also explicitly state in the budget that a particular line item will consist of an amount from the General Fund plus designated amounts.

### **Guaranteed Living Wage**

This was discussed here back in 2020 but was not followed up through COVID.

What are we as a church called to do? Is this something where we belong, like Right Relations? As offered by the General Secretary of the UCC, each Community of Faith is not required to take on every issue, but instead to lead in some places and offer support to other Regional/Community of Faith in their work. Cindy offered to investigate what Living Wage initiatives are in progress in our Region so that we can decide whether there are any

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that we want to support.

## **We Review Past Business**

### **Minutes**

**Moved** by Robert and **seconded** by Kathy to approve revised minutes, as circulated, for the June 21, 2023 KUC Council meeting (updated M&P report). **Carried.**

**Moved** by Al and **seconded** by Brenda to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2023 KUC Council meeting. **Carried.**

### **Business Arising from minutes - Julia**

#### **Communications Received - Al**

- Bob Richards sent email after the May special congregational meeting, with worship ideas. It was passed on to Worship and was discussed there in June. It was decided that no additional formal processes were required.

## **We Grow in Faith and Consider Our Mission - a time for major issues**

### **Ministers' Update - Cindy**

- Cindy thanked Council for support during urgent family issues in recent weeks.
- Four funerals in recent weeks, two of them elderly gay men.
- Two baptisms coming up.
- Nov. 12 after the service will be our New Members' reception from 11:30 to 1:30. Cindy will send out personal notes to known new people from the last few years. Some support/activities for children would be welcome. Council and the new members will be invited. Council is asked to handle food.
- Annual Auction the first Friday in November. Donations solicited. Charlie Hobbs, Dick Murray, and Andrea will be auctioneers. Annie Gozzard's indigenous art works in the sanctuary will be offered by silent auction as part of our KUC auction, with all proceeds to go to an indigenous organisation chosen by the artist.
- Council Book Study continuation suggested Nov. 6 and Dec. 4 7-8:30 pm over Zoom.

### **Funeral Co-ordinator**

Council agreed with Cindy's assessment that the Funeral Coordinator role is no longer needed. During discussion, new streamlined procedures developed during COVID by our Office Administrator/Bookkeeper Andrea were presented. They are:

#### **Procedures Related to the Memorial Fund**

- The Treasurer/Finance Committee is responsible for managing monies deposited to the Memorial Fund in a prudent fashion. Designated gifts to the Fund must be so identified and accounted for separately. Donors will be provided a tax receipt for their gift. The approved uses of the Memorial Fund will be noted in the annual financial statements of KUC as part of KUC's Annual Report.
- The Office Administrator/Bookkeeper will ensure that KUC Memorial Fund donation

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cards are available for use at the time of bereavement as appropriate and will ensure that a written expression of gratitude is sent to each donor; they will also ensure that the bereaved family is notified that a donation(s) has been made in memory of their loved one with the name and address of the donor(s).

- The Office Administrator/Bookkeeper will ensure that a volunteer is available to make a notation of gifts to the Memorial Fund in KUC's *In Remembrance* book and provide the donor name unless confidentiality was requested by the donor.

**Moved** by Kathy and **seconded** by Bob Chanter that these Procedures Related to the Memorial Fund be approved. **Carried**.

### Truth and Reconciliation - Kathleen

A remit on The Indigenous Church has been circulated to all Pastoral Charges for vote by Councils. Its purpose is to remove obstacles (symbolized by pylons placed around our table) to the formation of an Indigenous Church within United Church of Canada. Links to documents and videos were circulated by email.

Canada's progress in indigenous relationships has been two steps forward, one step back. It took almost 25 years for the United Church to act on its promise to end its role in residential schools. The hope is that this process can be made smoother.

The remit has three parts, to be voted on together. The Region has already approved it. Failure to vote is a No vote. The essence is that a new independent Indigenous Church will be created within the United Church with no need for further remits to approve details.

Kathleen passed out copies of the remit. A Notice of Motion was made, and this will be voted on at the November 21 meeting of Council.

### Affirm Update- Robert Ashton

- The signage fundraiser reached its \$5000 goal. The lack of prominent vertical walls in our church makes design challenging. The proposed design for a sign over our entrance is based on the Pride flag, meets Affirm standards, and its location should deter vandalism. The sign by the road would be simpler, with aluminum construction.
- We have received a building permit for the new Centre33 portable.

### Financial Motions

Building Permit fees for the new Portable amount to about \$11000, some of which may be gifted back to KUC from the City, and some may receive funding through grant opportunities. There are requirements for a gravel base and footings, plus wheelchair ramp and steps, and firewall(s). The result is a further increase in cost to about \$75K.

- **Moved** by Robert Ashton and **seconded** by Robert Chanter that KUC Council approve the installation of two Pride markers for up to \$3,000 by: 1) modifying the front KUC sign and 2) installing a new sign over the main entrance portico on the roof. The balance of the funds raised for the initiative will be held for replacements, additional pride markers or for suitable 2SLGBTQ2IA charities in

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the local area identified by KUC Outreach **Carried**.

We need to repay \$40K of CEBA loan before Jan. 18, to get \$20K forgiven.

- Moved** by Kathy and **seconded** by Robert A to transfer \$50000 of investments to our bank account to cover CEBA repayment and other predicted expenses. **Carried**.

### **Succession Planning**

We hope that Council members who resign their current role will consider staying on Council as Members at Large, to support to our new Chair. We have potential people to handle Chair and B&G (with current responsibilities divided among several teams). To reduce load on the Treasurer consider hiring an accounting firm for year-end financials.

Ron pointed out that as Cindy is a member of Trustees there is no need for a Trustees representative at Council meetings. He is willing to consider becoming a Member of Large.

### **Stewardship Update - Cindy**

The plan is to evaluate last year's Stewardship campaign and do something similar. Christmas Letter will be out earlier than last year.

### **B&G Report**

Email was circulated. Cleaning contract starts next week. Excess pews will be offered online. Backflow prevention valve survey was submitted to city last January; it will require a building permit which with professional fees will cost about as much as the valve. Work will include an overflow tank for the water heater, which is old and needs replacement.

### **KUC Council Planning and Review - Julia**

- November 21: (Budget Submissions due by November 14, Remit vote, CYF, M & P Salary Review, Unified Budget discussion.)
- December 19 (AGM Prep, Remit vote)
- January 16 (AGM Prep)

### **We Steward our Ministries –administrative details and financial health**

#### **Other Business**

#### **We Go Out**

**Closing Prayer - Cindy**, followed by Adjournment at 9:25 pm.

#### **Schedule for future Meetings (Z=Zoom, IP=In Person)**

Nov 21, 2023 Z      Reflection: Bob Chanter

Dec 19, 2023 IP

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Julia Duffy

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Al Quirt

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Chair - Julia Duffy

Secretary - Al Quint