



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church held on Zoom on Tuesday March 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with Julia Duffy as Chair.

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

Julia Duffy welcomed Council members and lit the Christ Candle.

Kathleen led a brief prayer for guidance.

Julia led a round of introductions with each person briefly explaining their roles for this first meeting of our new Council. Our two new members are Brenda and Ron. Cindy pointed out that a minister must be present to have a valid Council meeting but has no vote. The Trustee representative is also non-voting.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated noting that there is some correspondence.

We Review Past Business

Minutes

Moved by Al and seconded by Jan. to approve the minutes for the Feb. 21 Council meeting. Carried.

Moved by Al and seconded by Sue. to approve the minutes for the Feb. 23 special Council meeting for budget discussion, with Kathleen Turner who moved corresponding members. Carried.

In agm Robert was Affirm ask Donna

Business Arising from minutes - Julia

Process Update on Received Council Communications from Congregation (Julia)

- We receive a large volume of feedback from the members of the congregation, mostly constructive but some unpleasant. Suggested that we have a special feedback-to-Council email address. Senders will receive an auto-response saying that the item will be brought to the next Council meeting as Correspondence.
- Reduce the strain on staff and volunteers.
- Cannot prevent use of CC on emails sent. But most can wait for process to unfold.
- The congregation should be made aware of what kinds of issue are appropriate for emails to Council.
- KUC Office will ensure that all these emails are attached to a single general email with an indication of which require a response and which are for information only.

Book Study Outline (Cindy)

- Most on Council and M&P have been lent a book on Antagonists in the Church.
- After all have read it, Sean who has led workshops here will lead one on this.

Communications Received

Robert A and Kathy made preliminary responses to a request for additional budget details. Budget details were distributed at the AGM, well beyond the summary presented on slides in the meeting, and will be sent out again. Another email was received for information.

We Grow in Faith and Consider Our Mission - a time for major issues**Ministers' Update - Cindy****AGM February 26, 2023 review**

- Julia shared a "Jamboard" and invited additional "sticky notes" to add to it.
- Tricia & Andy - Hybrid experience was very strong both in-person and online.
- Feedback from Norm, Diane & Lynn-Question on who is on Council? Should we have a service to covenant them & thank them?
- Suggested that the Council list be on the website and shared in KUC this week.
- Positive reaction to AGM presentations. Suggested that they be on the web site.
- Suggested to have a meal not just cookies between service and AGM. Sandwiches?
- Create a finance team to support budget and AGM preparation.
- Some in congregation were "hit like a brick" by our financial situation and it would be good to have more warning. More frequent financial updates through the year.
- Hard to properly explain how much income arrives at year-end.
- Keep sharing good news of funds raised through events like Murder Mystery.
- A monthly section at end of the weekly bulletin about what is going on at Council.
- Everyone would benefit from having a firm proposed budget sooner so the Council can have responses ready in the AGM rather than having to devise it afterward.

Strategic Planning - Growing our Church through Stewardship

- Starting from UCC Course *Called to Be the Church* which 4 KUC people attended.
- Julia shared some slides from the 4-part UCC course that Cindy, Julia and others took: Claim Your Mission, Celebrate Generosity, Create a Culture of Gratitude, Stewardship IS Discipleship.
- How can we continue to engage/bond our current community in our Vision & Mission to support the growth of our Church (time, talents & treasures)?
- What work can we do externally to attract new membership through our Vision & Mission to help us grow?
- The course will be given again and is worth attending, for some from the general congregation not just Council.
- Start perhaps with wall signs and brief presentations suggesting that people 'Claim Your Mission' from among our 5 identified mission areas. (new wording needed)
- In our April Session we will map out Short-Term, Mid-Term & Long-Term Actions

- We went around Council adding many sticky notes under the four headings.
- More than 10 fundraising possibilities have been raised by members.
- We will need a meeting to bring forward our plans to the congregation. Present some specific plans and be clear that we want and will use ideas from members.

Climate Change - Al

Going Green is Win Win Win [reducing our carbon footprint]

- Doing our part for Climate Change is a key part of our stewardship of Creation
- Reduce ongoing operating costs, by spending some money now (assisted by grants)
- A good news story to share with congregation and community on a regular basis

Book Fair Support starts April 1st-

- Sign-up sheet was circulated to request volunteer support from Council

B&G Report - Bob C.

His report outlined expected B&G costs (capital and operating) over the past winter and in the near future. We need to stay aware that we have long-planned capital expenditures that are not part of the deficit shown in the budget the congregation agree to. And look for ways to cut costs such as less expensive cleaning.

Council Planning and Review

- April (Strategic Planning for 2023/2024)

We Steward our Ministries –administrative details and financial health

Other Business

From Cindy three brief items:

- Nick is preparing an ambitious monthly concert series and applying for a grant.
- Suggested that Council covenanting be Sunday April 16 after Easter
- Proposed that the requirement for masks be relaxed as of Easter. The congregation seems OK with coffee time after the service. Choir has been polled.

Moved by Kathy and **seconded** by Bob C that masks no longer be required for worship services in the sanctuary as of Easter. **Carried.**

We Go Out

Closing Prayer - Cindy, followed by Adjournment at 9:15 pm.

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

Apr. 18, 2023 Z Reflection: Donna Caron Snack: N/A



Chair - Julia Duffy



Secretary - Al Quirt

