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Tuesday January 16, 2024



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held over Zoom on January 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. with Julia Duffy as Chair.

Present: Robert Ashton (Member at Large), Kathy Beamish (Treasurer), Brenda Beattie (Worship), Donna Caron (Outreach), Rev. Cindy Casey, Robert Chanter (B&G), Jan Chanter (Ministry and Personnel), Sue Davidson (Children Youth and Families), Julia Duffy (Chair), Clara Freire (Member at Large), Kathleen Turner (Member at Large). **Corresponding Members:** none. **Regrets:** Ron Allen (Trustees, non-voting), Al Quirt (Secretary),

Julia Duffy welcomed KUC Council members, introduced our new Member-at-Large Clara Freire, and lit the Christ candle.

Moved by Kathy Beamish and **seconded** by Jan Chanter to make Clara Freire an official KUC Council member, occupying the position of Member at Large. **Carried.**

Sue Davidson presented a reflection inspirational poem "The Shoeman". that called us to rethink how we judge, treat and connect with others.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated.

We Review Past Business

Minutes

Moved by Bob Chanter and **seconded** by Donna Caron to approve the minutes for the Dec.12 2023 KUC Council meeting as circulated. **Carried.**

Business Arising from minutes - Julia

- Update from Robert Ashton: January 5 an invitation was sent to meet Jan. 9 with Steve Free (and an observer), Rev Casey and Whit Strong from Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council on Guaranteed Liveable Income Program and with respect to communications and interactions with staff and volunteers at KUC. Response requested that the meeting be between Steve Free (and observer), Julia Duffy and Whit Strong. Also available to meet with Andrea and M&P rep. The original invitation is reiterated, and this is declined and indicated willing to meet with Robert Ashton. An acknowledgement of decision was sent January 8.

Communications Received - Al

- Several emails from Steve Free were received via the Correspondence to Council email address mostly on KUC participation in Guaranteed Livable Income discussions. Received for information.

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

Ministers' Update - Cindy

- This week on study leave with focus on preparation for sabbatical and preparing for supply minister Brian Copeland.

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- KUC Workplace Harassment Policy dates to October 2016 and should be reviewed and updated by M&P and presented back to KUC Council. Review should consider Canada Labour Code changes, duty of care for volunteers, and recent events experienced by volunteers and staff. Part of Minister responsibility is to ensure good order of congregation. KUC Council would need to approve any modifications and then updates be communicated to congregation. M&P asked to do this work for next month's KUC Council meeting.
- It was unfortunate to be unwell due to COVID-19 over holidays and thanked people who supported and reached out - tremendous goodness, care and concern.

2024 AGM Preparation - Julia

Drafts for AGM spotlight items

- B & G (Bob Chanter) - walked through draft points, around volunteers, custodial duties and responsibilities. As of September 1, 2024, Bob C will be stepping asideno one has stepped forward to do this work. Three options: 1) Could expand role of contractors to a regular time and basis and would still require some volunteers. 2) Hire a part-time custodian for 15-20 hours per week. Both options will require more funds. 3) Calling on more volunteers - option not seen as viable given the congregation has not responded to repeated requests. Costs for options 1 and 2 should be detailed in presentation. Names from stewardship campaign for those who have offered should be contacted first. Many people are willing to come in to clean, the coordinator role is hard to fill. Bob C will contact all on list. Julia will help with PowerPoint slides.
- Affirm (Robert, Cindy & Kathy) - no materials were shared before the meeting, PowerPoint slides will be circulated later for review. Focus will be on accomplishments, portable investment, Centre33 program highlights and areas for upcoming year aligned with Affirm journey approved by the congregation.
- Truth & Rec (Kathleen) - slides were shared in advance. Comments on the slides were shared. Important to lift up the commitment and journey we have undertaken. Title should be modified i.e. Acts of Truth and Reconciliation or Towards Truth and Reconciliation. Presentation will need to be clear for those who may not be familiar with United Church actions and steps. Should also be clear to let congregation know how they can become involved or learn more. Ensure what is planned or areas of focus for next year are included and also important to share.
- Financial Report & 2024 Budget (Kathy)
 - Income statement was shared before meeting. Good news is we show a slight budget surplus for the year. Some questions around fund balances. Main question will be how much money we have in the bank. Alignment with the growth journey and accomplishments should be clear. AGM should do a clear compare and contrast for where we exceeded or fell short. The numbers will become clearer with the review of accountants' year-end summary.
 - 2024 Draft Budget - a draft budget was circulated. Fundraising projections are low compared to what was raised previous year. It is hard for fundraising

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committees to know what to expect for who will donate or who will show up to support events. Fundraising should align with what was conveyed in the growth journey. Projected deficit needs to be realistic and demonstrate that we are good stewards and many program areas that require our financial support. Cindy provided comments on various line items. Costs for custodian or additional contractors not included in B&G budget request. Building rentals have increased; rates should be looked at and may be low in comparison to comparable market rates. Consider including booking rental information on the website. Cindy, Andrea and Kathy will work on updating from the comments received. Estimated deficit to be around \$20-25K which is in line with the growth journey.

- An update to the congregation on portable investment and rental information is being prepared for end of January and will be included in KUC This Week.
- Bank account balance. **Moved** by Kathy Beamish and **seconded** by Bob Chanter to transfer \$20000 of investments to our bank account to ensure sufficient bank balance for operating expenses. **Carried**.
- AGM & Growth Journey (Julia with Robert, Cindy & Kathy) - went through slides. Julia will update and seek input and review.

Slideshow: Celebrating Life at KUC

- This piece is being prepared by Andrea.

Book Fair Update (Donna)

Moved by Donna Caron and **seconded** by Robert Ashton that Council approve purchase of 50 KUC T- shirts for use at KUC events, at a budgetary price of \$750 plus tax, from a supplier to be selected by the Book Fair committee. Funds to be taken from the Memorial Fund. **Carried**.

Truth and Reconciliation (Kathleen)

Excited for the coming year. Three values - gratitude, nurturing and fellowship.

Three sisters soup to be prepared for Feb 11 thank you meal to Hospitality teams. Soup lunch for AGM and September Welcome Back Sunday. Details will be sent by email and volunteers required.

We Steward our Ministries –administrative details and financial health

Quarterly Council Planning and Review - Julia

- February (AGM Prep)
- March (AGM Retro, Strategic Planning for 2024/2025)

Other Business

Cindy - notice of motion from Trustees on insurance costs related to portable, will come as

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motion by circulation through email and will allow for the 2024 budget to be updated.

Pine trees will come down from front driveway circle. Joan Brown has some ideas on what to do with the space. Possibility of a memorial garden and some funds being taken from Memorial Fund. More information to follow.

We Go Out

Everyone exchanged positive comments on the positive aspects of our contributions, discussions and the meeting.


We agreed to end the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Important Dates for Council in February:

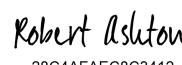
- Committee Reports Due for Annual Report 2023: February 9th (submit to Andrea)
- February Council Meeting: Monday February 12th at 7 pm ET on Zoom (revised date)
- Special Council Meeting to Prep for AGM (Placeholder likely the week of February 20th as this will likely be needed ahead of the AGM)
- AGM Final Presentation PPT Due: TBD, AI to confirm exact date for the presentation to be ready for final edits, but likely 1 week out from AGM
- AGM Walkthrough & AV Check: TBD, likely Saturday February 24th (Day before AGM) so we can prepare our space and ensure the AV is working

Schedule for future Meetings

February 12 2024	Reflection: Kathleen Turner
February 25, 2024	AGM, 2024
March, 19. 2024	Reflection: Brenda Beattie
April 16, 2024	Reflection: Donna Caron

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Chair - Julia Duffy

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Acting Secretary - Robert Ashton