

18/2024

Tuesday April 23, 2024



Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held over Zoom on Tuesday April 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. with Julia Duffy as Chair.

Present: Robert Ashton (Co-Chair-Elect), Kathy Beamish (Treasurer), Brenda Beattie (Worship), Kathi Campbell (Trustees representative, nonvoting), Jan Chanter (Ministry and Personnel), Rev. Brian Copeland (Supply Minister), Sue Davidson (Children Youth and Families), Julia Duffy (Chair), Clara Freire (Co-Chair-Elect), Ed Goodridge (B & G), Al Quirt (Secretary), Kathleen Turner (Member at Large), Marilyn Wong (Member at Large).

Corresponding Members: Bob Chanter. **Regrets:** Donna Caron (Outreach).

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

Moved by Robert and **seconded** by Kathy to make Bob Chanter corresponding member. **Carried.**

Jan Chanter led a reflection on *The Weight of the Glass*. A glass of water feels heavier and heavier the longer that you hold it up. If you find a weight becoming excessive, it's time to put it down and take a rest.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated.

We Review Past Business

B&G Motion

Moved by Al **seconded** by Marilyn that the budget for completion of the permit application (Backflow Preventer), installation of the city-required Back Flow Prevention Valve, and the replacement Hot Water Tank be approved with costs not to exceed \$7500 (plus taxes). Payment is to come from the Reserve Fund. **Carried**

Minutes

Moved by Al, **seconded** by Robert to approve the minutes of the March 19 Council meeting. **Carried.**

Business Arising from minutes - Julia

Communications Received - Al

- Two emails from Stephen Free were received and were discussed in Council. On the passing of the Indigenous remit, a verbal announcement was made on Sunday and it was featured in KUC This Week. On the AGM budget presentation, this email appears to have been sent when the KUC email system was broken. Detailed responses will be sent promptly for both emails.

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

Minister's Update - Rev. Brian Copeland

- Impressed by the powerful spirit of the congregation in a time when many congregations are in agony.
- The moderator Carmen Lansdowne will be in Ottawa on May 22 and has invited all to join her in a march about Gaza. Details TBA.
- June 9 is the 99th anniversary of the United Church and a special service will be live-streamed as we embark on our 100th year.

Quarterly Finance Update - Kathy

- Quarterly income statement, summary, and proposed attachment for distribution to the congregation, were circulated.
- In our transition from Sage to QuickBooks, some fund balances have not carried across properly. Marilyn will try to help Andrea fix this.
- Discussion of how to better welcome newcomers and provide information to bring them up to speed on the congregation. Suggested that we have a welcoming package prepared by Stewardship, in print and online versions (QR code). Among other things this package could explain KUC acronyms such as CYF for Children Youth and Families.
- Discussed Communications to include in KUC this Week, bulletin and during services.
- On the portable, we saved some fees and plan to use that approved money for a series of modest physical fixes required by the engineer. Some could be done with volunteer labour.

UCC Stewardship Course - Review of Week 1 Fundamentals

- Several people, including Julie and Kathy, participated in a United Church Stewardship Course. A fine course. This month we are concentrating on Week 1.
- Two main lessons for Kathy: 1. Don't be afraid to ask, and 2. Concentrate not on money but on who we are as a church (our Call). For example the Book Fair is a major form of community outreach not just a way to raise funds.
- Stewardship in action transforms us and our whole community. Many are surprised to discover from the Book Fair how KUC supports the community.
- This conversation is positive and affirming, and fits with our Growth Journey.
- Start during the summer to lay the groundwork for a Covenant in the fall.
- People are still returning from a COVID mind set. How can we support them?
- Are there any additional Stewardship initiatives that we want to lean into in 2024 (and 2025) to strengthen our Call and growth journey?
- This includes initiatives to Claim our Mission, Cultivate Giving, Create a Culture of Gratitude, Stewardship is Discipleship.
- Recapped part of our Growth Journey presentation from the AGM: Increase, Ignite, Monitor. An emphasis on keeping our congregation sustainable.

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- Are there one or two initiatives that we as a Council should assist and thus encourage others to follow our example and assist other initiatives.
- Good news that Annie's Beading Workshop was a great success, and with event-planning help from Janet and Susan Maslin there will be another in the fall for the wider community. And Brenda's art classes are another "side door" to KUC.
- We have predicted an increase in offerings. We must be prepared in September to take action if that revenue stream fails to meet our predictions.
- We have room for a few more rentals.
- Welcoming new people is key.

We Steward our Ministries –administrative details and financial health

M&P Updates - Robert

Our 2016 policy on Harassment has significant gaps. The new draft that was circulated is mainly a workplace policy, but extends more broadly, and covers new areas such as bullying and the online environment. Staff comments have been incorporated. It keeps us legally compliant as an employer and emphasizes our support for any potential victims.

- Accolades to those who created it with such care.
- Some discussion around proper response to micro-aggressions that accumulate (for example exclusion or "jokes" that are not appropriate).
- Communication and training are important. Have an easy soft introduction explaining key changes before any formal training. This could be part of our Covenant that we can work out in consultation with the congregation.

Moved by Jan Chanter, Chair of M&P and **seconded** by Robert Ashton that the updated KUC Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Policy be approved, and the next steps be carried out by M&P. **Carried.**

The AGM approved hiring a custodian. Bob has worked with M&P to finalize a job description which will soon be posted, with M&P managing the process.

Climate Change Update - Al

We have continued exploring Solar Panel options as reported last month.

- Ottawa Solar has been reminded but has not delivered their proposal.
- We are now registered with Ottawa Hydro as a potential solar installation.. They have responded and it is our turn now. There may still be delays for approvals.
- Very productive video call with Stephen Collette of United Church Faithful Footprints fund. He said we are very likely to be approved for a grant of \$20K for a solar project costing \$30K or more, subject to continuing with high-value inexpensive measures such as improved weatherstripping and caulking.
- We also have a good chance to be approved for a grant from the Region's Church Extension fund for 50% of the remaining cost after the Faithful Footprints grant. So our payback-period should be much shorter than typical, perhaps only 5 years.

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- Isolara has been very responsive and suggests having their structural engineer evaluate how panels could be attached to our unique sanctuary roof. If the project goes ahead with them as supplier, the engineer's fee will be included in it. If not, KUC would be billed for engineering fees on the order of \$700.
- Al will circulate the energy audit document and the Isolara proposal. An email vote will then be held on whether to authorize the potential engineering expense.

Quarterly Council Planning and Review - Julia

May

- Strategic Planning for 2024/2025, Ministry Updates TBD
- Set Date for KUC BBQ in June perhaps June 9. How can we invite Gratitude into this experience?
- Indigenous Day of Prayer service June 16, and Pie Day in June (supporting Operation Come Home) postponed from March.

June

- Strategic Planning for 2024/2025, Ministry Updates TBD

September

- Quarterly Finance Update

Fall (Oct/Nov)


- Prewrite & Set Date for Session with Congregation

Future Meetings


- May 21, 2024 Reflection: Clara Freire
- June 18, 2024 Council Team Dinner at Church & End of Year Meeting
Reflection: Robert Ashton
- June XX, 2024 (TBD) Picnic
- Sept 17, 2024 Reflection: Kathi Campbell

We Go Out

Brian led us in closing prayer.
We agreed to end the meeting at 9:20 pm.

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Chair - Julia Duffy

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Secretary - Al Quirt