



Kanata United Church

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Kanata United Church (KUC) held at the church Monday June 17, 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), Donna Caron (Outreach), 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:** Marc Caron and Janet Maslin.

Regrets:

Julia Duffy welcomed Council members and lit the Christ candle.

We agreed to make Marc Caron and Janet Maslin from the Book Fair committee corresponding members so that they could present results and plans. Some key items:

- Publicity included an article in the community paper and new signs.
- Fewer volunteer hours were needed because of streamlined culling and reduction from 4 to 3 days for the sale. 60% of volunteers were from outside KUC. We welcomed help from two special needs volunteers.
- In 2.5 hours with help from a hockey team and many others we packed up books, other charities picked up their books, and volunteers took garbage books home
- Despite smaller stock (963 banana boxes) proceeds were \$42,500 including \$900 from a volunteer's employer.
- Need more folding tables. Can purchase some each year and may try for a grant.
- With new city rules on putting books in garbage we may need to rent a dumpster.

Robert led us in a prayer from the United Church web site, on getting to accept God's offer of companionship.

We agreed on the agenda as circulated.

We Review Past Business

Minutes

Moved by Clara, **seconded** by Sue to approve the minutes of the May 20 Council meeting. **Carried.**

Business Arising from minutes - Julia

Communications Received - Julia

Moved by Kathy and **seconded** by Kathleen to remove Owen Wagner from the KUC roll of members, at his request. **Carried.**

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

Minister's Update - Rev. Brian Copeland

- Thanks for the KUC staff who have been amazing in their support.
- Survey today from UCC on pay policy. Always controversial because of difficulty of assigning a living-cost location zone. Much pressure by congregations to reduce paid hours though not always actual hours expected.
- A Congregational Covenant can be a worthwhile exercise and can help with the process of re-establishing trust after conflicts.
- Clergy conflicts are usually the result of differing expectations.
- See the UCC web site for plans for the 100th anniversary of the church.

Financial Update (As of May 2024) - Kathy

- Reports were circulated. Issues with the transition from Sage to QuickBooks are being corrected and our situation looks better. Inputs are correct but some balances have been incorrect.
- Fundraising has been excellent but may not reach annual target.
- Donations are down 6% (PAR and online). Expenses seem to be as expected.

Moved by Marilyn and **seconded** by Jan to allow transfer of up to \$10K from reserves if necessary. **Carried.**

UCC Stewardship Course - Review of Week 3 Fundamentals

Guided Discussion on Stewardship Course Week 3 - Julia

- Reflection Questions :
 - How do you interpret the statement: "Happier churches are more successful"?
 - What are some ways we have shown gratitude in the past year?
 - How has the act of giving and receiving thanks strengthened our community?
- **Ted Talk:** What key points stood out to you from Laura Trice's TEDx talk on saying thank you? How do her ideas resonate with our goals of creating a culture of gratitude within our church?
- **Creating a Culture of Gratitude:** Thinking ahead to our Fall Congregation meeting, how can we elevate gratitude to deepen our connections with new and existing members? What are some meaningful questions we can ask to understand and appreciate their involvement? What steps can we take to ensure that gratitude flows in all directions within our congregation? (from leadership & peer to peer)
- It's easy to come to church when you like the people there. Long time members have many relationships. How can we bring new people inside the circle?
- Giving should be anonymous not to gain praise. But in our campaign people need to know where they stand, without knowing who is in each giving range.
- Like any healthy congregation there are discussions some of which might lead a

newcomer to wonder about congregational conflict.

- It's OK to come to church just to come to church. Not everyone wants deep involvement.

Covenant Discussion- Jan

Healthy conflict is good, but not the toxic kind. A covenant is not about rules with consequences. It is an agreement among members to treat each other in a caring way.

The info circulated included an example of a recent covenant.

The process (several weeks) does not require a facilitator but having one allows all leaders to participate with the advantage of professional and experience. The cost (\$1000 to \$2000) is modest compared with other similar training. Possible subsidy from EOORC.

Moved by Al and **seconded** by Donna that Council supports a congregational covenanting process as a continuation of our growth journey and authorizes M&P to continue planning with consultant Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw, at a cost not to exceed \$2500. **Carried**.

Fall Congregation Meeting Planning:

This meeting will kick off the Congregation's part of the Congregational Covenant process.

- It should also have a financial update component.
- Dreams and wishes of the congregation are important and a regular visioning process could help. For example can we make our Labyrinth more visible and more of a community asset?
- We have taken on many new things; it is time to take stock and adjust if necessary.
- We need to have materials available to the congregation in advance so they can participate effectively.
- Food could set the atmosphere as in our successful New Members lunch, which benefitted from having a majority of new members, and no clumps of Council members.

Other Items

- 85 applications for custodial position, many weak.
- Flea Market process is well along for early September.
- Need to clarify Welcome Back Sunday, and its timing relative to Flea Market.
- Ed and Al are installing a network cable to the portable for WiFi to Centre33.

We Steward our Ministries –administrative details and financial health

Quarterly Council Planning and Review - Julia

June

- June 23 grad day in church planned.

September

- Quarterly Finance Update

Fall (Oct/Nov)

- Prewrite & Set Date for Session with Congregation

Future Meetings

Sept 17, 2024 Reflection: Kathi Campbell

We Go Out

Brian led us in closing prayer.

We agreed to end the meeting at 9 pm.

Chair - Julia Duffy

Secretary - Al Quirt