



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2015
Proudfoot Hall, 7:00 pm**

Present: Linda Badke, Audrey Coulthard, Michelle Down, John Eberhard, Doug Gonder, Harold Jackson, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles, Heather Locking-Cusolito, David Manness, Brenda McManus, Paul Merritt, Bruce Moor, Jo Ann Silcox, Bob Swartman, Allyson Watson, Jane Westmorland, Katherine Wonfor

Regrets: Paul Cooper, Tara Gonder

The regular meeting of Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jo Ann Silcox, Chair. A quorum was present.

1.0 Invocation: The Rev. Michelle Down led Council in A Covenant of Faithful Leadership.

2.0 Welcome Remarks from the Chair: Jo Ann Silcox welcomed Council members to the December meeting of Council.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, December 15, 2015 be approved.
MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by Doug Gonder. Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015 be approved.
MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by Jane Westmorland. Motion carried.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Review of Eleven Point Budget Plan

George Jolink reported on the plans for fundraisers to take place in 2016.

- A dinner theatre production will be held on March 11, 12 and 13.
- George is in negotiation with the Petrolia Playhouse to partner with FSA for a performance in April. FSA would receive a percentage of the door receipts.

5.2 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 21, 2016. Committee and staff reports for the Annual Report are due by January 15.

A catered lunch will be offered before the meeting. A free will offering will help to defray costs.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Christian Development – Allyson Watson

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas pageant and contributed to its success.

6.2 Communications and Marketing – Doug Gonder

Written report circulated.

6.3 Finance – Harold Jackson

Financial reports at November 30, 2015 were circulated.

- Envelope givings of \$460,000 are projected for 2015.
- The surplus of \$8,000 is due to the implementation of the Eleven Point Plan which included additional trust fund support.
- A Christmas appeal envelope was sent with the fall Stewardship letter. To date 33 envelopes have been returned and \$5,200 in donations received.

Thanks were expressed to Friends of Music for their contribution of \$1,000 towards the operations of the church.

The preliminary 2016 Budget Forecast was circulated. Three scenarios were presented for support of the Mission and Service Fund. Local givings are budgeted at \$460,000 in 2016.

It was suggested that the Ministry and Personnel Committee develop a compensation policy. M&P reported that this matter has been discussed by the committee and no further action is being taken at this time.

6.4 Membership and Nurture – Audrey Coulthard

Membership and Nurture have discussed how to best communicate with members who do not attend church regularly. It was suggested that the mailboxes be cleared quarterly. An update of the member database will take place with information gathered from the fall stewardship mailing.

The Caring Caller list is being updated by the Committee.

6.5 Ministry and Personnel – Bruce Moor

A proposal for a search process for a new Director of Music was circulated. M&P is requesting input from every committee of Council for the needs of the church with respect to the Director of Music. An informal meeting of the congregation will be held on February 7 after the service to give the congregation an opportunity to share their ideas. The search committee will be approved at the Annual Meeting.

MOTION: To endorse the plan for the search for a new Director of Music.

MOVED: By Bruce Moor, seconded by Allyson Watson.

DISCUSSION: M&P will update the position guide for the Director of Music. It was suggested that the congregation be provided the opportunity to give written input.

MOTION CARRIED.

6.6 MOE – Linda Badke

Written report circulated.

MOTION: That the loose offering from the Christmas Eve Service be donated to the St. Paul's Daily Bread program.

MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Jean Knowles. Motion carried.

6.7 Music – Paul Merritt

- The Friday Advent Noon Recitals held on November 27, December 4, and December 11 were a great success. Many who attended are not members of FSA.
- The FSA strings and choir will provide music for the December 20th and Christmas Eve services.
- On January 31st a bluegrass hootenanny and luncheon will be held featuring the group Kevin Bacon's Train.

MOTION: That the Music Committee be granted permission to serve alcohol at the choir party being held January 10, 2016.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Allyson Watson. Motion carried.

6.8 Nominations – George Jolink

A preliminary slate of candidates for 2016 committee membership was circulated. Committee chairs were asked to review the report and send changes to George.

6.9 Property – George Jolink

Written report circulated.

6.10 Stewardship

Harold Jackson reported that 110 stewardship forms have been returned (approximately 1/3 of those mailed). Historically the return rate is 43% to 47%. A report on the results of the stewardship campaign will be presented at the January meeting.

6.11 Trustees – John Eberhard, David Manness

Written report circulated.

6.12 Welcoming Committee -- Heather Locking-Cusolito

The Welcoming Committee currently had three task teams: LGBTQ, families, and a general welcoming team. The Committee has consolidated families and general into one team.

6.13 Worship – Jane Westmorland

Written report circulated.

7.0 Group Reports

7.1 Presbytery – Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles

Written report circulated.

Council members were requested to keep our sister and brother congregations in our hearts and prayers as many congregations are struggling.

7.2 UCW – Laurel Kenney

It was requested that groups using the kitchen take home towels for laundering and return them to church.

7.3 Staff – Michelle Down, Brenda McManus, Paul Merritt

Michelle reported that the need to update the church's audio equipment has been discussed. It was suggested that a conversation about technology needs with representatives from Worship, Property, Finance, Trustees, Communications and Marketing and Christian Development would be helpful.

MOTION: To form an ad hoc committee to discuss FSA's technology needs.

MOVED: By George Jolink, seconded by Allyson Watson

DISCUSSION: The sound system requires immediate attention. The software control program that handles the microphones is currently not working. The speaker system is up to date.

MOTION CARRIED.

At the Town Hall meeting held in November, possible partnership opportunities with the Woodfield Community Association were considered. Michelle has spoken with a representative from the Association regarding sponsoring a refugee family from Syria. Michelle recommended they talk to Byron United Church to discuss the sponsorship process.

MOTION: To refer to the MOE Committee the consideration of possible partnerships with the Woodfield Community Association.

MOVED: By John Eberhard, seconded by Bob Swartman. MOTION CARRIED.

Notes from the town hall meeting held in November were circulated. The next town hall will be held on January 26th.

8.0 New Business

8.1 The Lunch Bunch

A written proposal was received from the Rev. Tom Hiscock. Tom proposes a noon hour gathering for older member of FSA with a program and a catered lunch. Three trial dates of March 8, April 12 and May 10 have been suggested for the program.

MOTION: To approve the program "The Lunch Bunch" for three trial dates.

MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by Doug Gonder. MOTION CARRIED.

The Rev. Michelle Down closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Jo Ann Silcox, Chair

Katherine Wonfor, Secretary