



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 2017
Proudfoot Hall, 7:00 pm**

Present: Linda Badke, Mike Bancroft, Audrey Coulthard, Barb Dalrymple, Michelle Down, John Eberhard, Steve Elson, Terry Head, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles, Bruce Moor, Merran Neville, Dale Pettit, Pat Pettit, Jo Ann Silcox, Bob Swartman, Heather Vouvalidis, Jane Westmorland, Katherine Wonfor

Regrets: Doug Gonder, Tara Gonder, David Knoppert, David Manness, Allyson Watson

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

1.0 Invocation: The Rev. Michelle Down opened the meeting with prayer.

2.0 Welcome Remarks from the Chair: Bob Swartman extended a warm welcome to Heather Vouvalidis in her new role as Church Administrator.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

The discussion regarding announcements during the Sunday service will be part of the Marketing and Communications Committee report.

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, February 21, 2017 be approved.
MOVED: By Linda Badke, seconded by Merran Neville. MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2017 be approved.
MOVED: By Jean Knowles, seconded by Linda Badke. MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 London Muslim Mosque

Bob Swartman wrote a letter to the London Muslim Mosque to offer condolences and support after the senseless killings at a Quebec City mosque. Bob has spoken with the Imam and he appreciated receiving the card signed by members of the congregation of FSA.

5.2 Proposed Cycle Track

Bob Swartman sent a letter to the City of London regarding a proposed cycle track on Queens Avenue. The installation of concrete curbs would eliminate parking on Queens Avenue.

5.3 Security Talk

Michelle Down circulated an invitation from Wesley-Knox United Church to attend a gathering with Officer Noel of the London Police Services Crime Prevention Unit on February 23rd. The meeting will cover building security, staff security, and how to be community supportive and safe. George Jolink, Tim Miedema and Bob Swartman will represent FSA.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Christian Development

Written report circulated.

The Lenten project will be kicked off on February 28th at the pancake supper.

6.2 Communications and Marketing

Written report circulated.

Communications and Marketing reviewed the Sunday morning announcements policy and delivery at their January meeting. Currently announcements are made by a slide show before the service begins and printed announcements in the bulletin. Verbal announcements are for late breaking items, such as a death in the congregation, or to highlight a change to the printed announcements.

Council discussed the importance of communicating with the congregation, announcements adding to the length of the service, and where announcements best fit in the service (at the beginning, before the offering). Support was voiced for discretion being given to the service leader as to what is important to share with the congregation.

The Worship Committee is conducting a survey and feedback on the announcements is requested. Worship requests that no decisions on a change to the announcements be made before the survey results are received. The deadline to return the survey is March 5th.

6.3 Finance – Mike Bancroft, Dale Pettit

A written report and Financial Statements to December 31, 2016 were circulated.

The 2016 financial results, subject to a review by the external accountant, report a deficit of \$6,400.

A preliminary 2017 budget was circulated. The budget includes:

- \$15,000 additional support from the Jean Brown Fund (totalling \$38,500)
- \$100,000 support from the trust funds
- a \$20,000 reduction in compensation cost from the elimination of the position of Minister of Visitation after the retirement of the Rev. Tom Hiscock in 2017
- \$4,000 additional expense for accounting support from January to May
- \$6,500 support from the UCW
- a \$2,383 deficit is projected

Finance reported that givings are declining and that FSA is fortunate to have the support of the trust funds. The Board of Trustees are concerned that in the future the capital of the trust funds will be eroded if this level of support continues or increases. Council considered that as revenue declines options for reducing expenditures will need to be explored.

A presentation and discussion regarding church finances will be held after the church service on February 26th.

MOTION: That the Rev. Michelle Down announce during the service on Sunday, February 26, 2017 that an important financial information meeting and discussion will be held after the service.

MOVED: By Mike Bancroft, seconded by Linda Badke. MOTION CARRIED.

6.4 Membership and Nurture – Audrey Coulthard

A draft document amending the Statement of Policies and Procedures for the Membership and Nurture Committee to include the appointment of a Clerk of the Roll was circulated. Membership and Nurture is reviewing the document to address concerns regarding privacy and scope of work and will report to Council in March.

6.5 Ministry and Personnel – Bruce Moor

The M&P Committee has received a letter of resignation from the Rev. Tom Hiscock, Minister of Visitation. Tom will be resigning at the end of May 2017. Pastoral care is an important part of the ministry of FSA and discussions will need to be held regarding how FSA will meet the pastoral care needs of the congregation.

A celebration of Tom's ministry will be held in May. If you would like to participate please contact Bruce.

M&P Policies and Procedures were reviewed at their last meeting. Some revisions are necessary and will be brought to Council.

6.6 MOE – Barb Dalrymple, Pat Pettit

Written report circulated.

The UCW was congratulated on being the top UCW contributor to the Mission and Service Fund in the London Conference.

6.7 Music – Merran Neville

- A successful "Winter Interlude" concert was held on January 28th.
- "Shakespeare Sings" will be held on February 3rd.
- The Friday Lenten Noon Recitals begin in March.
 - March 3 – choir from the Pearson School for the Arts
 - March 10 – Terry Head, organ
 - March 24 – The Laudamus Bells
- In the Lent/Easter Tidings there will be a request for donations to Friends of Music.

Terry Head reported that the Whitechapel Bell Foundry will be closing the end of May 2017. Whitechapel is the bells supplier for FSA. The bells have been examined and a list of replacement parts recommended to keep the bells in good working order has been compiled. The estimated cost of the replacement parts is \$1,800.

MOTION: To authorize the expenditure for replacement parts for the bells.

MOVED: By John Eberhard, seconded by Mike Bancroft. MOTION CARRIED.

6.8 Nominations – Jo Ann Silcox

No report.

6.9 Property – George Jolink

Written report circulated.

George Jolink informed Council that while the maintenance budget is approximately \$86,000, rental income per year is \$82,000.

FSA has a new renter. London Pro Musica will be using the Chapel as a rehearsal space on Monday evenings and will perform one or two concerts a year at FSA.

Fanshawe College film students have asked to film in our sanctuary. In return the students will produce a promotional video for FSA. Property has asked Communications and Marketing to work with the students.

Fundraising for the new exterior electronic sign has begun. The sign will cost \$40,000 and the Trustees have agreed to fund \$20,000. It was requested that all committees and groups discuss how they can support this campaign.

Saturday, April 1st at 7:30 pm FSA will be hosting a Cabaret Evening with the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. Proceeds from the performance will benefit St. Paul's Daily Bread (40%) and the electronic sign project (60%).

6.10 Stewardship

No report.

6.11 Trustees – John Eberhard

No report.

6.12 Worship – Jane Westmorland

Written report circulated.

7.0 Group Reports

7.1 Presbytery – Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles

Written report circulated.

7.2 UCW – Laurel Kenney

The World Day of Prayer will be held on March 3, 2017. The service was written by the women of the Philippines and the theme is "Am I being unfair to you?". Metropolitan United Church is the host church. All are welcome.

7.3 Staff – Michelle Down

The World Council of Churches is offering lawn signs with the words "No matter where you are from we are glad you are our neighbour" in English, French and Arabic.

MOTION: To purchase and display five lawn signs from the World Council of Churches stating: "No matter where you are from we are glad you are our neighbour".

MOVED: By Barb Dalrymple.

DISCUSSION: Council discussed displaying the message in Canada's two official languages to be inclusive of all cultures and nationalities.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: That Council requests the Marketing and Communications Committee look into the creation of signs in English and French with the message "No matter where you are from we are glad you are our neighbour".

MOVED: By Barb Dalrymple, seconded by Jane Westmorland. MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 New Business

8.1 185th Anniversary Committee – Bob Swartman

Written report circulated.

The 185th celebrations will be launched at the Annual Meeting on March 26, 2017.

8.2 Report from the Ad Hoc Planning Committee – Steve Elson

Written report circulated.

The Ad Hoc Planning Committee has developed five future planning scenarios for FSA to consider. The following scenarios are for discussion and engagement purposes:

1. Stay the course
2. Moving and moving on
3. Grow our visibility and membership
4. Seek out new partnerships
5. Collaborate with others

The Committee proposes a planning day to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. The planning day will give members of the congregation an opportunity to discuss the merits of the scenarios and to see what other scenarios surface.

Council discussed the importance of encouraging participation at the planning day and asked the Planning Committee to consider whether a week night would see better attendance.

Council expressed its support of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee and the proposed planning day.

8.3 General Council Remits

Michelle Down will lead a discussion at the March Council meeting on the 42nd General Council remits that require being voted on by the councils of pastoral charges.

1. Three-Council Model
2. Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
3. Office of Vocation
4. Funding a New Model

Ballots for the 4 remits must be received by the General Council Office by June 30, 2017.

Michelle made a presentation about the remits at the Bible Study group and it was suggested that she share this presentation with the congregation at the Annual Meeting to be held on March 26th. It was requested that information about the remits be distributed to committee chairs so they can share with their committees.

Benediction: The Rev. Michelle Down closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Bob Swartman, Chair

Katherine Wonfor, Secretary