



**First-St. Andrew's United Church
COUNCIL MEETING
September 17, 2024
7:00 pm
The Chapel**

Present: Linda Badke, Steve Elson, Glenna Hall, Jan Hendry, George Jolink, Laurel Kenney, The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence, Merran Neville, Barb Ridgewell, David Wardlaw, Allyson Watson, Jackie Williams, Katherine Wonfor, Laura Wood

Regrets: Paul Cooper, Kerry Hill, Jo Ann Silcox

Guest Observer: Kathryn Skelly

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

1.0 Welcome: David Wardlaw welcomed members of Council to the September meeting.

2.0 Invocation: Pastor Joshua opened the meeting with prayer.

3.0 Acknowledgement of the traditional territory on which we are meeting -- Pastor Joshua

Pastor Joshua lifted up a march being held in Toronto on September 18 to demand environmental justice for the Grassy Narrows community.

At the 44th General Council of the United Church of Canada Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization was passed.

David Wardlaw informed Council that long-term, sustainable access to clean drinking water is coming to Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation with the construction of a new water treatment plant and distribution system.

4.0 Review and Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Agenda of Tuesday, September 17, 2024 be approved.

MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by Merran Neville. MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the Council Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2024 be approved.

MOVED: By Steve Elson, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

7.0 Correspondence

A letter from the London Community Chaplaincy was received thanking FSA for sponsoring children to participate in the summer day camps.

A letter of thanks was received from Ark Aid Street Mission in response to a donation received from FSA.

8.0 Staff Report – Joshua Lawrence

Pastor Joshua reported that the staff is working collaboratively and meeting regularly. Services have been planned to Christmas Eve.

Marilyn Arthur, Shared Youth and Young Adult Ministry, has accepted a call to Grace United Church, Tavistock. Pastor Joshua will meet with Marilyn to discuss the future of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and learn from her experiences.

There have been increased visits to the church from people seeking respite and assistance. It was suggested that water and snacks be kept on hand.

9.0 New Items for Decision Making by Council

9A FSA's Recent History of Planning for the Future – Steve Elson

A report was received from the Planning Committee and the Council Executive Committee summarizing historical discussions and planning regarding critical issues and proposed strategies for the sustainability of FSA.

The report outlines past planning initiatives and considerations for the future including our mission as a community of faith, our financial future, the future of our physical space, and the future of FSA leadership.

Five recommendations were made that include what committees and groups would take responsibility for the recommendations. The recommendations are specific and focussed and demand immediate attention.

MOTION: That the set of five recommendations on the future direction of planning at FSA put forward in the memo to Council from the Planning Committee and the Executive be adopted.

MOVED: By Steve Elson, seconded by Allyson Watson.

DISCUSSION:

- The United Church has information on models of governance. A change in governance would require approval by the Regional Council.
- It was recommended that groups responsible for the recommendations be accountable to Council. It was suggested that the groups report to the January meeting of Council.
- The redevelopment of the physical space requires long-term planning including feasibility studies. Commitments have been made to renters.

MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Elson will meet with the committees and groups identified in the five recommendations.

10.0 Item to be Received by Council

10A The Jean and Bill Knowles Outreach and Social Justice Endowment Fund – Jackie Williams

Terms of reference for the Jean and Bill Knowles Outreach and Social Justice Endowment Fund were circulated to Council.

Jackie Williams reported that the Board of Trustees worked with David Knoppert, the Knowles estate executor, to develop the terms of reference.

The terms of reference have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

On an annual basis, the Outreach Committee will bring a proposal to Council for the use of the available funds.

11.0 Reports and Topics for Discussion by Council

11A Finance Report – Laura Wood

A Finance Report at August 31, 2024 was circulated.

- After Trust Fund assistance, there is a deficit of \$12,300.
- Donations are over budget by \$16,500.
- Rental revenue is over budget by \$3,600
- Utility costs are under budget and projected to be under budget by year end.

The Finance Committee sees an opportunity to increase revenue from the gift card program. David Manness and Kathryn Skelly are working on initiatives to promote the program and partner with groups (such as ELUCO) that could use the cards for their purchasing.

11B United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary in 2025 – David Wardlaw, Linda Badke

Linda Badke met with the Rev. Kerry Stover, Calvary United Church, to discuss city-wide initiatives to celebrate the United Church 100th Anniversary. An intergenerational service with a massed choir has been suggested.

12.0 Reports and Topics for the Information of Council

12A Notice of Motion – David Wardlaw, Steve Elson

Proposed revisions are being recommended to the FSA Policies and Procedures document. An explanatory memo outlining the proposed changes was distributed. A motion to approve the changes is anticipated at the November meeting of Council.

12B New Long-Term Rental – George Jolink

A Nepalese Christian group is renting the Chapel and Fireside Room every Sunday afternoon as of July 2024.

George Jolink reported that if doors are kept closed, no noise from the Chapel is heard in the Sanctuary.

FSA's long-term rentals are at capacity. The office is referring potential renters to Dundas Street Centre United Church. One-time events can still be accommodated.

12C Nominations Committee – Steve Elson

Steve Elson is working with Linda Badke and Kathryn Patton to fill the nominating slate for 2025.

12D Afghan Refugee Project – Linda Badke

Linda Badke reported that three members of the family have arrived in London. Two members have started ESL classes. Other family members are awaiting visas.

13.0 Other Business

- Glenna Hall reported that the photo directories have arrived and will be placed in mailboxes.
- Drivers are required to bring people to church on Sunday morning. It was suggested that a notice for volunteers be included in the weekly eblast.

- After the service on October 24th Ministry and Personnel will celebrate Marilyn Arthur's ministry with FSA.

14.0 Benediction

Pastor Joshua closed the meeting with prayer.

The September 17, 2024 Meeting of Council was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

David Wardlaw, Chair

Katherine Wonfor, Secretary