

Westworth United Church
223rd Council Meeting
October 29, 2019
7:30 pm in the Church Library

Attendance: Paul Chard, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, Eunice Pratt, Alma Acheson, Keith Love, Norm Snyder, Ron Bailey, Bruce Tefft

Regrets: none

1. **Call to order:** at 7:34 pm by Eunice Pratt
2. **Opening Prayer and Check In:** led by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd who also led us in quiet meditation
3. **Approval of Agenda:**
MOTION: That the Agenda be approved as circulated.
Moved by: Keith Love **Seconded by:** Norm Snyder
CARRIED
4. **Big Picture Items:**
 - **Thriving United Church Report** – Thoughts, reflections, and implications for Council were discussed. Many positives and several new ideas were brought forth at the table discussion at the Thriving Churches Presentation in September. The concept of the Interfaith Centre for Spirituality and Advocacy was thought to be a good idea but not at this time. Some actions have already been taken such as the training sessions for “Welcomers” which will be starting December 1, 2019. There was discussion about improving the website. The area of Donations is one area where Finance committee would like to see some enhancements but in order for this to be accomplished it would require additional resources that the Communications Team does not have at present. Some of these new ideas should be spearheaded by the Teams who should first communicate with each other and devise proposals to be brought forth to Council. There was a wealth of information and a plan needs to be devised as to how to address these. Council should be the group that decides which initiatives are of highest importance. It is important not to take on more than can be successfully handled. It was suggested that at the Fall Retreat a dot matrix exercise be done to identify what the priorities are, then identify the groups and individuals who would be prepared to work on these, and how it can be done.
 - **DRAFT Covenant of Respect Document** – As a follow up to practices as described in the report, it is suggested that a Covenant of Respect be posted in a prominent location in the Narthex and on the website, and available for other publications if required. A draft based on our Missions and Values Statement and using the ideas developed in the Manual (Westworth Mission p. 10) is circulated for input. The addition of becoming an Affirming Church should be added as well.

Page 2
223rd Council Meeting
October 29, 2019

- **Fall Leadership Retreat** – The Agenda has been circulated. The issue of decision making for time sensitive issues will be raised at the retreat. There was discussion on whether we want to institute a “reflector person” for the retreat and meetings to provide feedback on how the meeting reflects on our Mission and Values Statement. It was decided to forgo this as it would limit that individual’s participation in the discussions.

5. **Approval of September 17, 2019 Minutes:**

MOTION: That the minutes of September 17, 2019 be approved as distributed.

Moved by: Keith Love

Seconded by: Norm Snyder

CARRIED

6. **Correspondence:** None at this time

7. **Business Arising:**

- **Grants:** Update to current grant applications for North Sanctuary windows as related to United Church Faithful Footprints Grant and a second application to Building Sustainable Communities needs to be in by December, 2019. Donations have been received for the window replacement since it was raised during the service 2 weeks ago. This will be done next spring. Frank Wynes has accepted the position of grant writing and submissions.
- **Recruitment for Council positions** – Current open positions as well as those that will be open after the next Annual Meeting include Chair, Secretary, and Regional Reps.
- **Property** – nothing to report at this time.
- **Finance** – Ron Bailey explained the higher water expenses due to a leak and lower revenue is due to a delay in receiving opera bookings for next year—it should appear on next month’s financial statement. The new photocopier is in place.
- **M & P** – Heather Lavery is still on reduced hours.
- **Christian Education** –
 - Request for support of a Youth Retreat (February) – Council discussed this at length but there were many questions and unknowns. While we support encouraging and expanding the interest of youth in the greater church and in the growth of their own spirituality, it was felt there needs to be more investigation as to the resources needed both within the building and volunteers. Other considerations such as insurance, supplies, transportation etc. also need to be clarified. It is not the role of Council to coordinate such events.
 - Removal of several pews in the back of the sanctuary to make worship more family friendly – which already has the support of Worship and Property. There was discussion about how this would be accommodated. This will be brought up at the retreat.
- **Worship** – Question about fees for funerals. This is outlined in the brochure done by the Worship Team. This is available in the Narthex. While there is no charge for use of

the sanctuary for funerals, a donation is suggested. We do charge for the use of the gym & hosts for a reception, as well as fees for all staff involved.

- **Minister’s Report** – Worship has several items that will be brought up at the retreat. Taize services will be happening more often. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd explained what her proposed Lenten Challenge entails. She will present this at the retreat. The need for facilitators for small group sessions was discussed. There was discussion about the date of the Annual General Meeting which may need to be earlier.

8. New Business:

MOTION: That Council approve the serving of wine at a reception for Church Leaders following the Fall Retreat.

Moved by: Paul Chard

Seconded by: Bruce Tefft

CARRIED

9. Important Dates

- Next Council meeting November 19, 2019; 7:30pm
- Councilmeeting Wednesday, January 22, 2020 – Norm Snyder to chair in absence of Eunice Pratt.
- November 3, 12:30-6:00 Westworth Leaders Retreat and Reception at Westworth.

10. Closing Prayer: by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

11. Meeting Adjourned:

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 10:06

Moved by: Keith Love

Eunice Pratt, Chair of the Board

Alma Acheson, Secretary

