

**WESTWORTH UNITED CHURCH**  
**70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Cathy Beynon, Ray Cuthbert, Grace Cuthbert, Bettina Nyman, George Nyman, Nancy Pinnell, Ed White, Wendy Martin White, Phio White, Denise Jones, Brett Lougheed, Marion McKay, Allan McKay, Wendy Moroz, Diane Riordan, Maggie Barnett, Sam Andrew, Merle Andrew, Kent Magarrell, Martin Robson, Christina Thanisch-Smith, John Erskine, Dorothy Reid, Garry Reid, Rochelle Baker, Allan Baker, Amanda Younka, Ava Dyce, Ron Bailey, Elaine Boris, Dorcas Windsor, Kirk Windsor, Olwyn Lewis, Dave Lewis, Debbie McLeod, Ruth Wiwchar, Dan Wiwchar, Janice Neumann, Jennifer Snyder, Norm Snyder, Kim O'Grady, Dianne Sjoberg, Dave Sjoberg, Alma Acheson, Joyce Gould, Earl Gould, Heather Robbins, Carol Wilkie, Kathy Wilson, Alan Wilson, Mel Finlayson, Barbara Wynes, Frank Wynes, Diane Riordan, Jenny Jeffers, Anne Love, Keith Love, Joyce Clouston, Nancy Williamson, Petra Thanisch, Shirley Watts, Walter Watts, Andrea Firth, Teresa Szabata, Bruce Tefft, Nancy Doern-White, Arlene Hintsa, Linda Paquin, Jan McIlroy, Sharon Stanley, ShirleyAnn Simkulak, Rhea Yates, Paul Chard, Eunice Pratt, Pat Stephenson, Barb Magarrell, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

- 1. Introduction:** Eunice Pratt, Acting Chair, opened the Annual Meeting at 11:35 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. A Zoom tutorial on voting was presented by Tammy Ernst to allow everyone the opportunity to participate. Pat Stephenson, Chair, added some opening comments.
- 2. Opening Prayer:** Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd led the congregation in an opening prayer offered by Eleanor Geib.
- 3. Motion Regarding Voting:**

**MOTION:** That all members and adherents in attendance shall have voting privileges at this Annual General Meeting, except for Motions dealing with Trustees, in accordance with United Church of Canada rules.

Moved by: Ron Bailey

Seconded by: Kent Magarrell

CARRIED

- 4. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Paul Chard

Seconded by: Ron Bailey

CARRIED



**MOTION:** That the reports under Sections a) and b) be approved as presented.

Moved by: Bruce Tefft

Seconded by: Keith Love

CARRIED

Point of Clarification. Jenny Jeffers reported that page 58, part of the Finance report, was incorrectly included. This page was from the report from a previous year.

## 8. Discussion & Motions Arising from Reports

**Affirming Ministry Report:** Rhea Yates provided some background and context to the report for the attendees. Rhea included information about the AFFIRM organization, and what the organization is working towards. Their goals are to offer education, action, and support.

Westworth has included a public and intentional commitment in our Covenant of Respect and Values Statement, and through our Action Plan with short- and long-term goals.

**MOTION:** THAT the congregation, having reviewed the revised Westworth Values Statement, the vision statement, called the Westworth Covenant of Respect, and the amended Affirming Action Plan, agrees to become an Affirming Ministry.

Moved by: Rhea Yates

Seconded by: Heather Robbins

Yea: 45      Opposed: 0      Abstention: 1

CARRIED

Amanda Younka offered reflections on growing up at Westworth, sharing how she looked forward to activities at the church and felt included. Ava Dyce then spoke about her experience and asked that the congregation offer a variety of depictions of Jesus to assist with providing a more inclusive example of who Jesus is.

Phio White requested that the congregation consider the expanded use of pronouns in our communications and requested that our name tags include pronouns, leading to a more diverse and supportive community for all at Westworth.

The following two points will be added by the Affirming Ad Hoc Committee to the Affirming Action Plan in response to these requests:

- Seek opportunities to include your pronouns in communications such as name tags, Zoom names and emails.
- Represent diversity in many ways, including through renderings of Jesus Christ that speak to the universal ethos Christianity strives to represent.



- **Joint Partnering Report**

Keith Love added some additional comments to the report, flowing from our conversation with St. Andrews River Heights investigating the amalgamation process. Following consultation with three groups of amalgamated congregations, St. Andrew's River Heights and Westworth met together as Councils. It was apparent that there are opportunities to offer joint programming for our youth, through adult study groups and the continuation/expansion of our joint services. There seems, at this time, to be a preference to maintain autonomy now and in the future.

9. Budget for 2021

Ron Bailey presented the budget for 2021, as included in the Annual Report. Comments included that the financial review was completed (p. 53 AR), highlighted the success of the windows project, and noted that the congregation has finished 2020 with a surplus, though a deficit is forecast at the end of this coming year. Our donations have risen approximately 2% and we have had federal government support. There was a small reduction in salaries and allowances because of our caretaker leaving our employ and a cleaning service has been engaged. It was noted that the Choir Fund is part of the overall financial picture, but in fact the Choir chooses how those funds are spent, not the Finance Committee.

Our future finances are uncertain, so we have taken advantage of a federal government CEBA loan in the amount of \$40,000.00. We have an obligation to pay back this loan. If we repay \$30,000 on time (December 30, 2022) we will be able to retain the balance of \$10,000 for whatever purpose we choose at that time.

Funds to support our online services have come from the Memorial Fund.

A bequest of \$8,000 was received specifically for Mission and Service.

We received two grants for the windows project: a grant from the Faithful Footprints program and a Bridge grant from the Province of Manitoba.

Refuge asked that the funds we have held in trust for this organization be transferred to the First Universalist Church for their refugee program and this has been done.

Ron Bailey offered his thanks to Jenny Jeffers, Heather Lavery and Committee members for their work to support the Committee.

**MOTION:** That the budget for 2021 be approved as distributed.

Moved by: Ron Bailey

Seconded by: Sam Andrews

CARRIED

10. Other Business:

- Remarks from the Chair: Thanks to Eunice and Barb, and to all the Council and Leadership Team members who have worked to support Pat Stephenson, as Chair, and continue the work of the Council.
- Remarks from the Minister: From Psalm 39: Surely your plan for us is written on our hearts! Surely your angels stand ready to guide us on our way! We have made the best of whatever comes our way. We will continue our livestreaming services and hopefully continue these through the Fall.

11. Leadership Team for 2021-22

Following publication of the Annual Report, Marilyn Anderson Corkum has agreed to become the Leader of the Christian Education Ministry Team. Heather Robbins has agreed to become the Chair of the Affirming Ad Hoc Committee.

**MOTION:** That the proposed slate of officers be approved, as amended.

Moved by: Ron Bailey

Seconded by: Paul Chard

CARRIED

**MOTION:** That the Council have permission to fill any open leadership positions prior to the next Annual Meeting.

Moved by: Ruth Wiwchar

Seconded by: Nancy Doern White

CARRIED

12. Acknowledgements

Leadership Team and Council:

Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd offered her thanks and the thanks of the congregation to those leaving positions on the Council and Leadership Team. Thank you to Barb Magarrell, Dianne Sjoberg, Jennifer Snyder, Spencer Newton, Tim Stephenson, Larry Strachan, Bettina and George Nyman, Gerald Davis, Bruce Tefft, Rhea Yates, Marion and Allan McKay (for their work with the West Broadway Community Ministry Board), and especially to Eunice Pratt, as she steps down as Past Chair.

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**February 28, 2021**

Staff:

Paul Chard, on behalf of the congregation, thanked and acknowledged the efforts of our staff, especially during this past year. They have offered their significant creativity in rising to the challenges through months of change and this has been a sign of their commitment to this congregation. They have done not only what they have been asked to do but also have contributed much on their own. Paul added our appreciation for the work that has been done to organize and support the presentation of this Annual Meeting.

13. Closing Worship with Dedication of New Leadership Team

Loraine conducted this portion of the gathering and offered a benediction.

14. Adjournment:

**MOTION:** That the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Westworth United Church be adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

**Moved by:** Keith Love

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Eunice Pratt, Acting Chair

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Barb Magarrell, Secretary

