

Westworth United Church

Council Meeting 260 Minutes

October 25, 2022 Time: 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05

2. Present: Chair, Dianne Sjoberg, Chair; Pat Stephenson, Vice-Chair; Ron Bailey, Treasurer; Sharon Stanley, Ministry and Personnel; Bruce Tefft; Keith Love; Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd; Joyce Clouston, Secretary.

3. Regrets: None

4. Opening prayer: Led by Dianne Sjoberg.

5. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Keith Love

Seconded by: Pat Stephenson

that the agenda be approved as amended to include:

9.c. email addresses, Community Profile Team

9.i. Buddhist study request

9. j. hiring process for Director of music

10.a Organ repair

Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by: Joyce Clouston

Seconded by: Keith Love

that the minutes of Council of September 27, 2022 be accepted as circulated.

Carried

7. Business arising from the minutes:

a) Brochure: Do-wah representative has been ill. Our brochure will be top priority when he is back on his feet.

b) Custodial Fees: Community Care is aware of funds available for funeral set up and is incorporating the possibility into planning.

c) Sound System/Rental Possibilities: Ron Bailey has been instigating meetings. This will be given time at the retreat.

8. Correspondence:

Request from Buddhist Community (Addressed with Loraine's Report)

9. Ministry Team and Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

- a) Affirm (Liaison Dianne):* Minutes attached
- b) Archives (Liaison Dianne):* Attached
- c) Chair:* Attached
- d) Christian Education (Liaison Bruce):*
- e) Communications (Liaison Joyce):*
- f) Community Care (Liaison Keith):* Attached
- g) Finance:* Attached
- h) Health Advisory: (Pat Stephenson)*
- i) Minister:* Attached
- j) Ministry and Personnel:* Attached
- k) Music:*
- l) Outreach (Liaison Bruce):* Minutes attached
- m) Property (Liaison Keith):* Attached
- n) Regional Reps:*
- p) Trustees: Kent Magarrell:* Attached
- q) UCW (Liaison Joyce):* Attached
- r) Visioning (Liaison Dianne):*
- s) Worship (Liaison Bruce):* Minutes attached

Moved by: Bruce Tefft

Seconded by: Pat Stephenson

that the reports be accepted as circulated.

Carried

9. Business arising from reports:

- a) Affirm (Liaison Dianne):* None
- b) Archives (Liaison Dianne):* The laptop that is in use is second hand and is lacking in capacity. It was determined that the music director and choir executive, along with the Minister also need computer capacity.
Action: Dianne Sjoberg will let Paul Chard know of these needs for budget planning purposes for Property

c) Chair:

- i. Generic email addresses: Christine Strike has carved out capacity for eight email addresses.

Action: Dianne Sjoberg will present possible teams/committees for the generic addresses the at retreat, then develop ongoing plan with Christine.

- ii. Community Profile Committee:

Moved by: Sharon Stanley.

Seconded by: Bruce Tefft

that in response to the acceptance of the letter indicating Loraine Mackenzie Shepherd's intention to retire as of June 30, 2023, the council of Westworth establish an ad hoc

“Community Profile Committee” comprised of Amanda Younka, Barb Magarrell, Dianne Sjoberg and Keith Love, that will accommodate the needs of the Prairie to Pine regions process in a change of Pastoral Relations, retroactive to October 1, 2022.

Carried.

Action 1: Council Members are asked to contact their liaisons to encourage completion of the congregational survey by all their team members.

Action 2: A special email is to be forwarded to Westworth community members reminding of the survey and requesting completion.

Action 3: Communication with and amongst Westworth congregants to keep them informed of important issues related to the church is an ongoing challenge and is on the agenda of the November 5th retreat.

d) Christian Education:

e) Communications (Liaison Joyce):

f) Community Care (Liaison Keith): Greeters have expressed a concern about Sunday attendance. This is an ongoing challenge and is on the agenda of the November 5th retreat.

g) Finance:

i. Stewardship Campaign is in full swing. Please note that while there is a significant surplus this year, we can't anticipate such a surplus to recur. Council is cautioned to consider this surplus short term due to the unusual circumstances of this past year, which included lapses in staffing, grants that will not be available in the future, and a one-time large contribution to the close the gap campaign.

Action: Council and members are asked to remind friends, family and acquaintances of the Stewardship Campaign/Pledge Drive.

Action: Finance committee members will contact members to encourage return of pledges.

Action: Ron Bailey will be making personal calls to folks whose pledges have not been honoured thus far as a gentle nudge but also as a means for Pastoral Care to be initiated if requested.

ii. Audio Visual Project: This project was budgeted to include congregational fund raising. This effort fell short by \$7,000.00.

Action: The 7000.00 deficit for the AV installation will be revisited in February, pursuant to the Stewardship Campaign final information and the 2023 budgeting process

iii. Community Profile: Finance requests a meeting with the Hiring Team, when it is constituted, to discuss salary negotiation possibilities.

iv. Audio Visual Equipment Upgrade costs:

Moved by: Ron Bailey

Seconded by: Keith Love

that the motion of the Council meeting of September 27th, 2022 to have microphones for the AV system paid for out of the Memorial Fund be rescinded and that Council accept the suggestion of the Finance Committee to have the General Fund pay for the microphones.

Carried.

h) Health Advisory:

i) Minister:

Special Buddhist Request

Loraine has been meeting with Sensei Tanis Moore and Sensei Fred Ulrich from the Manitoba Buddhist Temple to plan our fall study on Inner Peace and Earth Peace. The purpose is to give a spiritual foundation and sustenance for our social justice and environmental advocacy.

The Buddhist community “ordained” a tree outside their Buddhist temple as a symbol of their desire to care for the planet. See Winnipeg Free Press article Sept. 27, 2022

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/2022/09/26/buddhist-temple-new-member-is-direct-from-nature>

They have offered this ritual to Westworth as a ‘co-blessing’ of a tree outside our church, asking that Loraine also offer a Christian blessing or anointing of the tree. A yellow ribbon will be tied around the tree. This request appears to be: 1) a symbolic statement being offered as a joint, interfaith commitment to environmental protection; and 2) an initiative that may be a first step in creating a ‘sister’ relationship between the Manitoba Buddhist Temple and Westworth.

Discussion: The proposed tree is one of the large elms on the boulevard immediately across from the main entrance. This yellow ribbon is not indicating a possession of the tree or commitment to the care of this particular tree, but a symbol of a wider commitment to care for creation. It recognizes that Creation, including trees, are just as important beings as human beings and deserve care and respect. It also recognizes that nature and humans are interdependent for their survival and sustenance. The health of nature affects the health of humans.

Loraine will write an educational piece about this for our congregational email. It may also be carried in the Free Press.

Action: Council supports this action, with Loraine to provide educational context.

j) Ministry and Personnel:

i. Director of Music Position: An outstanding candidate is available for September of 2023.

M&P are determining how to fill the position until this candidate is available.

ii. Relationship with Region: The process of advertising for positions raised the role of the current “Prairie to Pine” region in supporting congregations. Three issues were noted:

1. The rigidity and lack of support of the process for changes in Pastoral Relations
2. The pulling back of permitted topics in the Regional Newsletter
3. the lack of development of a Directory for the region, even after repeated requests from Loraine at the Regional annual meetings.

k) Music:

l) Outreach (Liaison Bruce):

m) Property (Liaison Keith):

Extra pews: Pews were removed to make room for the AV booth.

Action: These will be made available to congregants. Should they not be picked up, they can be donated to Re-store or some such entity.

n) Regional Reps: concern was expressed about relationship with Prairie to Pine.

Action 1: Dianne is to meet with regional representatives to express concerns about communication difficulties within our Region.

p) Trustees: None

q) UCW (Liaison Joyce):

Congratulations to the whole Timeless Treasures and Tea Team on a very successful new venture. The UCW is able to submit \$2,000 more to the bottom line of the congregation than they had anticipated.

Council commends the excellent work of all of the organizing committee and the volunteers.

r) Visioning (Liaison Dianne):

s) Worship (Liaison Bruce):

10. Old Business:

a) Music Team: Tabled

b) Nominating: Persons have been suggested for positions. Names were suggested and considered. Council members are to connect with those suggested.

c) Retreat: Council members are asked to to contact Dianne Sjoberg directly with any suggestions regarding the DRAFT agenda.

11. New Business:

a) Organ Repair Bill: Dorcas Windsor requested information regarding which Team or Committee budget covers cost of organ maintenance.

Action: Dianne Sjoberg to let Dorcas Windsor know that these costs be covered within Property Budget.

b) Annual General Meeting:

Moved by: Ron Bailey

Seconded by: Sharon Stanley

that the annual general meeting be held **Sunday, March 19th.**

Carried

12. Other:

13. Important Dates:

a) Retreat: November 5th- 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Reception hosted by Loraine to follow.

b) Next Council Meeting: November 29th, 2022.

14. Closing Prayer: Led by Loraine.

15. The Meeting was Adjourned at 9:25 pm with a motion by Keith Love.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Joyce Clouston,
Secretary of Council

Dianne Sjoberg,
Chair of Council