

## **Minutes of Trustees Meeting, St. Paul's United Church, April 28, 2015**

**Attendees:** Noreen Barwise, Jean Street, Royal MacDonald, Roland Krause, Frank Goddard, Andrew Steeves (All Trustees), Ron Naugler, Gregory Morton (Guests)

**Summary of Meeting.** The Trustees met at 12:00 pm in the Quilters' Parlour of the Church Hall. Andrew Steeves acted as Chair and recording secretary.

This was a regular meeting intended to provide the Trustees with updates on Church finances and the condition of Church premises. There were no special or pressing matters for the Trustees to consider.

Ron Naugler, St. Paul's Treasurer, reviewed the status of Church finances. He stated that so far in 2015 giving was on track. Regarding expenditures, fuel was on budget while those for electricity were down and those for plowing were up. For the first four months \$68,000 had been donated versus a budget of \$69,000 which was acceptable considering that bad weather had led to three (CONFIRM) cancellations in church services.

He stated that there were no major concerns at this point in the year but noted that the seasonal pattern of congregational offering and donations made forecasting challenging for the Finance Committee especially as a high proportion of giving occurred in the weeks before Christmas and yearend.

With the Treasurer, Trustees reviewed the merits of planned regular giving (such as monthly PAR – Pre-Authorized Remittance) in reducing financial uncertainty and fluctuations. Trustees then discussed ways and means of encouraging more members to use PAR and to review their PAR amounts regularly. In some cases members had not increased their PAR values for many years.

The Trustees also discussed the need to respect the opinions of members who did not want to use PAR for various reasons including privacy and commitment.

**As a consensus the Trustees supported a programme of appealing directly to members to review their donation level and to consider donations through PAR.**

Greg Morton, Chair of the Property Committee, reviewed with Trustees the Committees planned programme of repairs and upgrades for 2105. These projects included:

- replacement of the soffit for the Church Hall (approximately \$10, 000),
- replacing windows in the Hall (part of an ongoing programme which saw window replaced in the ladies' parlour in 2014),
- renovations and “sprucing up” of the Narthex (including refinishing the tables, painting the walls and the box for donations for the Pantry),
- repairing the wheelchair ramp at the Church entrance and
- Subject to approval by the congregation at the upcoming Congregational Meeting (May 17<sup>th</sup>), the installation of a projector screen in the Church (on the wall behind the Choir, approximate cost of \$17,000).

The Property Committee also had a wish list of extra tasks:

- tidying the Church basement (the Trustees discussed this matter and suggested that the Property Committee avoid possible health and liability risks by hiring a contractor to clean out the basement under supervision of Committee members),
- painting the Choir Room and
- Subject to funding and a discussion with Committee Members with Frank Goddard, starting an ongoing programme of repairs and reinforcement to the floor structure of the Church.

The Trustees supported the programme presented by Gregory Morton.

The Trustees also discussed a number of other matters including outreach to former members of the congregation. Several Trustees had talked to lapsed members and perceived a willingness to consider a return.

Another discussion point was improving the sound system for members with hearing difficulties. It was determined that the existing sound system (the “loop”) had a feature which could interact with hearing aids and thus enhance hearing.

The Trustees and guests completed the meeting at 1:20, agreeing that the discussions had been informative, productive and worthwhile.

