

Minutes of the St. Paul's Congregational Board

Sept. 09, 2015

Present: Derrick Grant, Ron Naugler, Julian Walker, Rev. Richard Bowley

Regrets: Ann Krause, Kelly Simpson, Jack Simpson

- Derrick (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting. Best wishes went out to Ann Krause who was absent due to illness. Julian was named temporary, Secretary. The resignation from the board of Debbie Allison, an active volunteer in the church and a member of the Senior Choir, was noted with regret.
- Rev. Bowley opened the meeting with a prayer.
- The agenda, circulated electronically prior to the meeting, was adopted unanimously. The minutes of the June 9, 2015 board meeting were also adopted unanimously (Ron, Frank)

Committee Reports:

- **The Worship Committee** On behalf of the committee, Rev Bowley reported that there continues to be a need for more ushers, a key role which includes the taking up of collection. With many members of the church on PAR, the committee is suggesting that for a trial period, fewer ushers would take collection in any particular Sunday. These volunteers would cover a slightly wider part of the sanctuary. And, Rev. Bowley re would speak from the pulpit to emphasize the importance of this role within the church. The Worship Committee report also noted that there were be a joint Wilmot/St. Paul's service at Wilmot on Oct. 4. Rev. Lois Wilson, former moderator of the United Church of Canada will give the sermon. And, on St. Paul's anniversary Sunday, Nov. 1, Rev. Peter Short will deliver the message.

- **The Property Committee** has a number of projects that have advanced strongly. Improvements to the ramp at the church are now complete. The new video system for the sanctuary has now been installed. It is planned that the video screens will be in operation at the Sept. 13 Welcome Back service. Feedback from the congregation is invited to “work out the bugs.”
- **The Stewardship Committee:** Rev. Bowley reported that he and Rev. Bob Jones have formed a Pastoral Care Team which has been working well.
- **M & P Committee:** Care will be taken to ensure that all staff job descriptions are up to date.
- **The Finance Committee:** Ron Naugler, reported that church finances are in line with past years. Revenue normally is lower in the summer and then picks up in fall. It is expected the operating deficit will be in the order of \$10,000 by Nov. 1.
- **Joint Needs Assessment Committee:**
Derrick reported that the committee has reached a consensus and is now preparing a report. Options will be included in the report which will go to the Congregation. The Board members expressed the view that it is important to expedite the report release and discussion.

Correspondence:

- A motion was passed unanimously (Ron/Julian) that Lauren Ryan be awarded a Wark Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Lauren is a strong student, a member of the church and currently is employed at the security desk for St. Paul’s.
- With regard to the Laurie Harris request for keeping a cat at Apt. 2, 230 York St., the board passed the motion (Frank/Ron) as follows: “Be it resolved that we continue to endorse the no pet of any kind policy in the rental building.”
- Correspondence was also received that confirms Horizon Health assistance for the installation of a ceiling track for a lift unit in 230 York St., Apt. 2.

- Rev. Bowley informed the committee of the proposal to have local churches contribute funding for a Homeless Jesus Sculpture, which would depict Jesus sleeping on a park bench. It has not been determined at this point who would fund the project, and where the sculpture would ultimately be placed.
- Merle Blake, Presbytery Secretary, wrote that Revenue Canada is warning groups with charitable status, including churches, not to engage in political activity. The Board was in agreement that it is important for St. Paul's to comply with this directive.
- The committee agree to table a request from Leah Sullivan Re: Sun Shower Baby bundles.

Baptism/Wedding Requests:

- A number of baptisms and weddings are planned for the church. These are: Henry George Cooper, on Sept. 13; Emmett Alexander Briggs, to be baptized Oct. 11; Samantha Gallant and Jacob Andrews to be married, July 9, 2016; and Joanna Hoar and Donald Saul to be married Sept. 3, 2016

New Business:

- It was agreed that at a late fall service, date to be confirmed, Brent Bishop would offer a presentation on Prison Ministries.

Under the heading "Other Business", several topics were mentioned, and it was agreed that consideration be given to moving these types of late-breaking items to near the top of the agenda. Thus the "additions to the agenda" should become an important discussion.

These “Other Business” items for Sept. 9, included:**Syrian Refugees:**

- On Sept. 13, Rev. Bowley will again address the topic with the congregation. Meanwhile, an Inter-Church committee representing the local United Churches has been actively considering options for action on the refugee crisis.

Wedding policy:

- Rev. Bowley indicated that he intends shortly to make a brief presentation on a Wedding policy for the church. Subsequently he would do the same on a Baptism policy.

Nominations Committee Conversation:

- With the selection in the New Year of office holders for the church consideration needs to be given by the Nominations Committee for talent-spotting and recruitment. The role, if any, of the Stewardship Committee in recruitment also needs to be looked at.

Facilitation Committee:

- Work also needs to be done on the mandate of the committee and on finding more volunteers to help out.

Committees and how they report.

- For discussion at another meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9 pm (Julian).

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Walker, Temporary Secretary

We miss you, get well soon, Ann!