

DOWNTOWN UNITED Project

Joint Meeting of Congregations

November 26, 2023 at St. Paul's United Church

This meeting was held to present the final report of the Downtown United Project Committee (DUPC) including recommendations for moving forward. Approximately 65 people from St. Paul's and Wilmot United churches participated in the meeting which was held following a joint worship service and a lunch catered by the UCW from both churches.

Appointment of Chair and Secretary: Shirley Cleave and Ann Krause were chosen to serve as chair and secretary respectively.

Moved by Dana Hanson. Seconded by Debbie West. Motion Carried.

Voting Privileges for Adherents:

In keeping with common practice, moved that voting privileges be granted to adherents.

Moved by Pam MacDermid. Seconded by Gil Keyser. Motion carried.

Presentation

Cathy Stewart & Marijke Strong, Credence consultants, provided an outline for the meeting and an overview of the Creative Tension model. The consultants and members of the DUPC then presented a summary of the report and the accompany recommendations. Following table group discussions and a whole group discussion, the recommendations of the DUPC were considered.

Recommendation 1 - Vision

That the congregations of Wilmot and St. Paul's receive the vision of Downtown United as a shared vision for their work together in Fredericton: "As Downtown United we share a commitment to live out Christ's ministry. We choose to create and seek opportunities to worship, serve and learn together, building on each other's strengths, together creating a community where love works."

Moved by Dana Hanson. Seconded by Mel McGuigan. Motion Carried

Recommendation 2 - Values

That the congregations of Wilmot and St. Paul's receive the following values as lens through which to discern future collaborations: (1) drawn by love rather than anxiety, (2) moved by the Spirit, (3) engaging youth, (4) radical, reciprocal hospitality, (5) encouraging growth and courage, (6) combining, conserving and catalyzing our energies, (7) of interest to both congregations, (8) of interest to multi-generations, (9) engaging with the larger community of Fredericton, (10) focusing upward/inward/outward movement.

Moved by Derrick Grant. Seconded by Hilary Drain.

Amendment: Moved that a value specifically addressing inclusion be added: (11) Inclusion of all forms of diversity including sexual orientation and gender identity

Moved by David Coon. Seconded by Lynn McKinnon. Motion Carried

Amendment: Underline the word 'youth' in value (3)

Moved by Norm Laverty. Seconded by David Coon. Motion Defeated

Amended Motion Carried

Recommendations 3 to 8

That recommendations 3 through 8 of the Downtown United Project Committee final report be referred to the Board of St. Paul's United and the Council of Wilmot United for consideration and that the Council and Board hold a joint meeting of the two congregations prior to April 15, 2024 to present their decisions for consideration by the congregations.

Moved by Craig Frame. Seconded by Mel McGuigan. Motion Carried

Proposal relating to Worship Services

Based on remarks during the whole group discussion, the following motion was made.

We recommend that the Board of St. Paul's and the Council of Wilmot investigate the possibility of joint worship services in the coming months.

Moved by Deb Bradbury. Seconded by Judy Coates. Motion Carried.



Shirley Cleave, Chair



Ann Krause, Secretary