

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – Apr 14, 2021

In attendance via ZOOM: Rev. Richard Bowley, Bob Crowley, Diane Tonge, Sue King, Sally Allanach, Brion Crossman, Stu Baker, Bill Whittaker, Una Wilson, Dan Forret, Chris Young, Ruth Buckley, John Hill. Regrets received from Barb McBean.

Bob Crowley opened the meeting at 7:33 PM. Rev. Richard offered a prayer. Bob acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Dan Forret 2nd. Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Una Wilson moved approval of the minutes from Mar 10, 2021. Dan Forret 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the March treasurer's report. First time in 33 years that we have had a surplus at the end of March. Revenue was more than \$16,000, including more than \$1,700 in fundraisers. Tech upgrade fund spent \$6,000; Outreach spent about \$1,000. Brion moved acceptance of his report. Stu Baker 2nd. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

- 1) **Safe Church Committee** – Bill Whittaker reported that Sue stepped back from the committee because to too many other obligations. Hand out for Weddings, Baptism and Funerals being produced. COVID questions to continue to be asked on entry to the church. Family bubbles allowed fifty-eight people attended Easter Sunday. The capacity is being reduced from 50 participants to 43 (exceptions with bubbles).
- 2) **Tech team update** – Dan Forret reported ongoing work with acquiring cameras and quality of sound.
- 3) **Reality check for Governance**
Organizational Chart– Chris reviewed edits to the Org Chart. Updated chart will be posted on the website. Sue King suggested that a version of the Affirm committee continue even after a vote.
Council & Terms of Service - Chris presented a document with proposed Terms of Office for Council, as follows:
 1. 3-year terms for the Council positions of Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Region Representative
 2. 1-year terms for the Council position of Youth Representative
 3. Terms can be renewed up to three times with agreement between the member and the Council.
 4. Terms will be staggered to provide continuity (e.g., we would not plan to have the Co-Chair or Region Representative terms end in the same year)

Some other considerations:

5. Propose that nominations will be brought to the Congregational AGM to fill these positions.
6. Some roles are more difficult to fill (e.g., Treasurer), so we may need to have more flexibility on Terms of Office.
7. Transition plans, perhaps including 'shadowing' to learn the role/responsibilities, are recommended to help ensure continuity.

Chris will edit the document with the ideas discussed at the meeting.

Correspondence: None

New Business:

- 1) **Affirm Committee**
Marriage policy – Sue presented the proposed Inclusive Marriage Policy. Chris suggested replacing the words "Minister or Priest" to read "Faith Leader". All agreed. Sue moved acceptance of policy with the amended wording. Diane Tonge 2nd. Carried.

Congregation meeting to vote on becoming Affirming – Sue spoke to council looking for input on how a vote would be held and when it should be held. Following discussion, it was agreed that we must be sure that everyone in the congregation is comfortable that they know what they need to know to make a decision. The year of COVID has hindered the educational process. Further engagement with the congregation will continue to ramp up with a potential for a vote in October 2021

- 2) Summer operations – Rev Richard asked for direction on what the summer services will look like this year. Sally moved that we physically close the sanctuary from Sunday July 18 Sundays to Aug 8, returning to the sanctuary on Aug 15. Rev Richard and Stephen Alexander may prepare recorded virtual services to play during that time. Sue 2nd. Carried.

Committee Reports:

- 1) *Christian Life & Growth* – Una Wilson reported low participation in youth group. Wendy is creating a survey for the youth to try and find enough interest to continue.
- 2) *Worship Committee* – Covenanting service for Rev Richard planned for May 30 or June 13. Special service not during worship time. Sue will contact Region to find out how to do it.
- 3) *Property Maintenance* – The church organ was repaired. Pews will be refinished in the summer.
- 4) *UCWs* – Sally reported a Regional webinar Apr 19 Apr 24 bottle drive in church parking lot for Sanyu Orphanage
- 5) *Social Committee* – no report
- 6) *Outreach* – no report

- 7) *Pastoral Care* – Sue encouraged participation in Unconscious Bias on Monday Apr 19

- 8) *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – Sally reported that

- 9) *Finance & Trustee* – Brion announced a mulch sale scheduled for May 28, 29
- 10) *Youth Representative* – no report
- 11) *Affirming Committee* – no report

- 12) *Regional Representative* – Region is planning a Moderator Town Hall meeting for May 1, 2021.

- 13) *Minister's report* – Rev. Richard study leave next week. In person visits started, masked and socially distanced.

Next online council meeting is Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

Rev Richard closed the meeting with a prayer.

Bill Whittaker moved adjournment at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley