

## Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – Feb 14, 2024

**In attendance:** Bob Crowley, Bill Whittaker, Bruce Amey, Diane Tonge, Brion Crossman, John Hill.

**On Zoom:** Sue King, Rev. Ian Manson, Barb McBean, Una Wilson, Carolyn and Hally Kimball, Chris Young, Cindy Millican.

Bob Crowley opened the meeting at 7:31 PM. Rev. Ian offered a Reflection on Lent and a prayer. Bob acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

**Approval of Agenda** - Diane Tonge moved approval of the agenda. Bill Whittaker 2<sup>nd</sup> Carried.

**Approval of Minutes** - Brion Crossman moved approval of the minutes from Jan 24, 2024. Bruce Amey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - Brion presented the January 2024 treasurer's report. Although givings were down by about \$400, the expenses were down by about \$3,400. No unusual expenses. The month ended with an \$800 surplus. **Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Bill Whittaker 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- **Safe Church Committee update** – Bill reported concern about the continued risk from COVID, seasonal flu and the potential of a measles outbreak.
- **Reality Check on Governance** – no update
- **Where to from here discussion - Faith Profile Committee** – Bob Crowley reported plans for the committee to discuss recommendations in a closed Council meeting on Feb 27, 2024. A congregational meeting to vote on presenting the final recommendations to Region will be scheduled for March 10, 2024. The final report will be available for all to read well in advance of the congregational meeting.

**Correspondence:** None

### **New Business:**

- 1) **Accessibility** – Bill reported on a meeting with a representative from Lawtons Home Health Care, an authorized distributor of Accessibility Lifts. The cost for purchase and installation of a 2-floor lift (*elevator device*) was quoted at more than \$38,000. Additional costs to renovate the building to allow installation are estimated to be more than the cost of the lift. Bill will contact Bellebay Construction and one other contractor for an estimate of construction cost. Sue King reiterated the urgency of finding a solution, suggesting 18-months as a timeline. There was a recent injury sustained on the wheelchair ramp, and other members of the congregation are unable to access the sanctuary due to mobility restrictions. Cindy Millican supported the timeline and the urgency in addressing the matter. It was suggested that we immediately install a handrail alongside the wheelchair ramp as a stop-gap measure, to prevent a recurrence of another ramp-related injury. Bill and the maintenance committee will address the handrail installation,
- 2) Dalhousie Medicine NB requested use of the sanctuary on April 26, 2024 at 4 PM for their annual Memorial Service, with a reception in MacDonald Hall, provided by QUC, to follow. Bill will advise Kidzone of the dates. Diane Tonge acknowledged that the food for the reception will be prepared.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. Christian Life & Growth – *see attached report.*
2. Worship – *see attached report.*
3. Property Maintenance – *see attached report.* Thanks again to those involved with installing the window covering in the Choir Room. Thanks to Sherry and Jim Kiervin for the wonderfully successful Pancake Supper, about 91 plates were served.
4. Social Committee – *no report.*
5. UCW – *no report.*
6. Outreach – *see attached report.* Barb McBean also reported that the Blessing Bags were delivered to Avenue B Harm Reduction (formerly Aids Saint John) and were graciously received.
7. Pastoral Care – *no report.*
8. Ministry & Personnel Committee – *no report.*
9. Home Mission Council – *no report.*
10. Finance & Trustee – *no report.*
11. Youth Representative – *no report.*
12. Affirming Committee – *see attached report.* Sue announced that we have agreed to provide pies for the PIE DAY Celebration at Harmony United Church on March 16
13. Region – *see attached report.*
14. Minister's report – Rev Ian reported on upcoming services planned for Shannex. He also reminded us of the two Study Group sessions; World Religion Study on Tuesday mornings at the church and a 3-week study on Zoom of Kate Bowler's book "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved".

Rev. Manson closed with a prayer. Diane Tonge moved adjournment at 8:27 PM.

Next council meeting will be in person at the church and on Zoom on Wednesday Mar 13, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Ian Manson

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Region** (Submitted by Bob Crowley)

- no interest in the “Reimagining Church” course being offered. I did a follow up and no replies. Perhaps if reoffered later.
- 2024 AGM is May 31-June 2 in PEI. No other details yet.

### **Home Mission Council**

No report

### **Faith Profile Committee** (Submitted by Bob Crowley)

Faith Profile-looking to meet with closed council before end of February and tentative date for congregation Mar 10/24.

### **Christian Life & Growth** (Submitted by Una Wilson)

CLG is busy planning for 2024. Two highlights are as follows:

- The January Zoom Broadview Banter was very successful with 13 participants. The next one will be on February 21 at 10 a.m.
- Planning for the Spring Wellness Retreat on April 27 is going well. Tania Margeson will give a presentation on Anxiety and Karen Young will lead a chair or mat yoga practice. A third presentation will be on nutritious cooking. Sobeyes will provide sandwiches and dessert for lunch.

### **Worship Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

Upcoming services

- Communion this week 11<sup>th</sup> February Servers Leslie Reid and Cindy Millican
- 13<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Shrove Tuesday and Ash anointing in sanctuary. There will not be a service in the sanctuary -instead a " Lenten walk" idea will be offered featuring personal questions for people before and after the anointing of ashes.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Feb Romero House service Doug and Ruth reported that they are preparing this service.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> Jammers are present.
- 17<sup>th</sup> United Church PIE DAY Celebration <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/national-affirmingpie-day>. Have Pies for coffee?
- 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday -
- 28<sup>th</sup> A Maundy Thursday Communion service will take place in sanctuary at 7 pm with choir present.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday will be at St David's in the morning. More discussions ensuing.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday 6:45 Sunrise Service. Sunrise is 7:00 am Meenan's Cove. Bring a chair if you want to sit.
- 10 am Service Easter Celebration
- Discussion re Community Connections: it was determined that Reverend Ian will not take a week off in March as it is the season of lent, and he would prefer to be present to it and maintain its Reports

### **Property Maintenance Committee** (Submitted by Bill Whittaker)

- the Clearance Certificate for the Fire Alarm System arrived and was forwarded to the Fire Marshal
- thanks to Marilyn/Don Robertson, Carolyn/ Hally Kimball, and Carolyn McIntyre the Choir Room has attractive new window coverings.
- the Property, Affirming and Worship Committees are investigating ways to make the building more accessible.

**Outreach Committee** (Submitted by Barb McBean)

Our Blessing Bag total was 50! They will be delivered this week to Avenue B, to the delight of Julie Dingwell. We are now looking at next steps for Spring.

**Ministry & Personnel Committee**

No Report

**Pastoral Care Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

**Affirming Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

- **Chroma NB How to be an ALLY and what is PIE DAY?** Education afternoon is now confirmed March 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in Harmony United, Saint John. QUC are providing Pies for afternoon tea. All local United churches welcome.
- Recent incident of congregant sustaining injury on ramp has led to immediate discussions regarding accessibility - meeting with Justin States Lawton's Home Health care with Property management and Affirming chairs and Rev Ian. We will report verbally on out come of quotes regarding chair lift or Porch lift on Wednesday night.