

St. Andrew's United Church Community of Faith Board Meeting
Tuesday APRIL 20, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Present: Janis Peters, John Lennox, Lenore Lennox, Doris Coulter, Donna Dunlop, Bob Thomas, Laurie White, Cindy Juriga, Joan Brockway, Ken MacDonald, Alain Beaudin, Don Brockway, Tom Allin

Regrets: Cathy O'Neill

1. **GATHERING** - Ken opened the meeting in prayer.
2. **WELCOME** Janis welcomed everyone.
3. **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** - Janis lit the candle
4. **DEVOTION:** Doris Coulter – thank you.
5. **AGENDA REVIEW** – approved as distributed
6. **MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES – March 16, 2021**

MOTION was made by Nathan Best, that “the March 16, 2021 Board Minutes be approved as presented.” Seconded by Tom Allin Carried

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) SEARCH – UPDATE – Janis Peters

- **“MOTION**
- ***That the Covenant Commission of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for St. Andrews United Church, Hamilton, to begin a search for 1.5 ministry personnel positions, for a total of 60 hours/week up to category F. MOTION CARRIED”***

b) AFFIRMING CONGREGATION –BobThomas

St. Andrew's is an open, inclusive, and affirming spiritual home reaching out to the West Mountain community and beyond, putting our Christian faith into action through a dynamic, interactive, and welcoming ministry. We affirm the inclusion, diversity, and equity of people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, family composition, ability, health, and social or economic circumstance and we encourage participation in all aspects of the life and work of St. Andrew's United Church.

- ***Poll of the board was conducted to change the affirming mission statement and the 2nd statement was selected by a majority vote.***
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- ***Motion by Bob Thomas to select the second statement choice as the church's affirming statement, second by Alain Beaudin, carried.***
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- We will need to present the chosen statement to the congregation and voted upon by the congregation. We will also need to complete a vote with the congregation to confirm our church wants to be an affirming church.
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- **MOTION** made by Bob Thomas to “change the language in the marriage policy to change the word “everyone” to “couples of all gender combinations”. second by Alain Beaudin, carried
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- We will also need to form an affirming committee.

c) **RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION** – Report from Alain Beaudin. Audit came to the church and completed his audit. Results will take about 4 - 6 weeks to be received back. Alain also made his own notes on the audit and will compare them to the audit’s findings.

d) **ST. ANDREW’S STRUCTURE DOCUMENT REVIEW** – Previously sent - Board

- The current board structure needs to be reviewed and revisited as its been designed based on an old 2005 manual
- board needs to address but it was suggested a subcommittee be formed around this
 - Janis volunteered to be on this committee

8. **CORRESPONDENCE** – See Search above

9. **DEFERRED & FUTURE BUSINESS** (These items are either deferred or are ongoing pending future action)

- a. **Pew Cushions - Deferred**
- b. **HFRC Covenanting Agreement - Deferred**
- c. **St. Andrew’s Visioning – Pending**

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **MOUNTAIN MUTUAL AID NETWORK REQUESTS TO USE ST. ANDREW’S BUILDING** – Information previously sent out.

Paraphrased: Hamilton East Mutual Aid Network and the CareMongering HamOnt food delivery program. There is a huge lack of these grassroots programs upon the Mountain. One of the reasons mutual aid as a concept is preferred over a food bank - mutual aid does not require identification or proof of need, only the agreement that if you can also contribute (i.e. volunteer or donate clothing or food you don’t need the next time you can) you do (although this is not required). Mutual aid also operates with the understanding that the community takes care of each other, meaning there is no limit to what you can request in terms of support, whereas food banks often have restrictions.

CareMongering HamOnt, mentioned above operates out of the New Vision United Church with a similar, larger system using the Church three days a week to buy groceries, pack grocery kits, and then hand-deliver them through porch drops which are contactless and COVID safe. About 30% of their requests come from up on the Mountain, even though they have not been promoted up here. This illustrates a need for mutual aid work.

The Mountain Mutual Aid Network, founded by Kojo Damptey and Gachi Issa, will seek to fill some of these gaps in COVID friendly environment, through a simple donation pick-up and drop-off system. This would use the model of CareMongering HamOnt, but with a smaller volunteer base, and with donated goods only. This means we would not be buying inventory; we would only use what is provided by the community, for the community. This provides the ability for folks to have their basic needs met at no cost.

To use the St. Andrews Church, 2 times a week, four hours each for Spring and Summer as a pilot (May to August). We would use one room (whichever room is deemed reasonable by those responsible for the Church) and the main entrance to load materials in and out of the Church. Completely volunteer-run, be flexible, and pause any time the Church requests their space back during the decided dates and times.

Schedule:

Day One: Weekday (whichever day is best for the Church)

Kojo Dampthey, Gachi Issa, and a small team of volunteers would use this day to drop off donations that have been collected at the church, sanitize the donations using COVID-19 safe products, and sort, and repackage the donations so that they can be delivered to those in need. We would rely heavily on the successful model of CareMongering HamOnt, which has operated for over a year with no COVID-19 transmissions.

Day Two: Saturday (or Sunday if it works for the Church): Kojo Dampthey, Gachi Issa, and a small team of volunteers will pick up the donations from the Church and deliver them to residents in need. Any remaining inventory would need to remain in the church until the next delivery day (a weekday).

What we can offer St. Andrews Church: An honorarium for letting us use the space. Your logo on all of our materials We can cover insurance, or pay the church to cover however much it would be.

- *After deliberation with the board, we are currently unsure we can accommodate this in our church
 - *limited space for food storage due to other groups already using our space**
- *some issues were mentioned with respect to some of CareMongering's principles after reviewing their website*
- *no decision made yet -> we will need to dig deeper with the organization and chat more with the organizers*
- *Janis to reach to New Vision church to learn about their experience with CareMongering organization*

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds

- the replacement of existing indoor light fixtures with new LED fixtures is now complete. Thanks to Mark for painting the ceiling under the removed fixtures. An additional row of ceiling lights in the kitchen will be installed shortly. The outside sign is currently being re-upgraded to LED, requiring air vents

-a water tap has been reinstalled on the outside of the choir room washroom wall, providing more convenient water access for the "neighbour to neighbour" gardens

-otherwise, outside yard works, security checks, and other routine maintenance continues

Christian Development

1. Easter remembrances for the children & Youth were prepared and delivered

- *20 personalized bags of books were delivered, crafts/activities/Holy Week story to children (with parent's permission) (Books donated by Jennifer Harwood -- thanks to Book Depot.ca)*
- *34 bags of Easter eggs and treats for children & teens (with parent's permission) (thanks to Tee-Tee's Treats). 17 children/teens picked up their egg bags at the church as part of Scavenger Hunt -- rest were delivered*
- *Holy Week Scavenger hunt on the church property for all ages -- symbols and clues hidden to tell the Holy Week stories*

2. Tentative plans to resume the Niagara Youth Festival for this Fall (usually last weekend in October at Silver Spire United in St. Catharines). Laurie invited to a Zoom meeting on May 11 to discuss and will gather information to share with youth who might be interested. Several St. Andrew's adults have attended this so could easily step in and support youth who wish to take part.

Finance and Stewardship

2021 Budget Performance 1st Quarter

Budgeted Revenue was under by \$5,000 which was more than offset by under Budget Expenses of \$6,400 in B & G & Human Resources. Also, we have received CEWS subsidy payments of \$11,100 YTD. Plus we received a small business provincial grant of \$10,000.

Our 2021 budget called for a large deficit of \$45,000 & through grants we have liquidated approx. 1/2 of the deficit in the 1st quarter.

More Good News: *The Provincial Government has advised that they will be granting us another \$10,000 small business grant & we don't even have to apply - it is granted based on our first application.*

CEWS claims for Period 13 & 14 have been filed in the amount of \$3,292.30 & \$3,615.40. This brings our 2021 applications to \$18,015.53.

Surplus Cash

1) The \$40,000, 180-day Operating Fund GIC matures on April 28th. At the end of Q1, we have approx. \$80,000 in cash in the bank & make the following two motions:

Motion 1: That the Trustees be advised that the \$40,000 GIC maturing on April 28th be rolled over with interest into a new 180 day GIC. Motion by Alain, Seconded by Doris, carried

Motion 2: That a further \$40,000 of cash be entrusted to the Trustees to invest in a second GIC for \$30,000 & \$10,000 be deposited as cash to earn interest at the best rates available. Motion by Alain, Seconded by Nathan, carried

*Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
Upcoming events*

Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Events

see newsletter for details. <https://mailchi.mp/83310e430734/right-relations-indigenous-justice-events-in-april-may?e=0b80d3744c>

Ministry and Personnel - no report

Outreach - no report

Pastoral Care/Friendly Visitors

- The only activity was the Friendly Visitors sent out Easter cards to our elderly members and some phone calls.

Treasurer - YTD surplus \$12k, entirely due to govt support

Trustees

MEMORIAL FUND

Revenue for the 3 months totaled \$2,103 consisting of \$2,100 in gifts in memory plus \$3 in interest. Expenses were nil.

The balance in the fund is \$6,300.

The Board decided to use Memorial Fund monies to continue with the chair replacement in the Sanctuary but the project is on hold due to Covid.

TRUSTEES FUND

Revenue for the 3 months was \$6,043, consisting of \$6,025 in GIC interest & \$18 in bank interest. Expenses for the period were \$5,594, consisting of \$1,928 for insurance & the \$3,666 in Manse GIC income transferred to the Operating Fund

The balance in the fund is \$270,145, plus the Building Fund Entrusted Monies of \$146,429 plus Operating Fund Entrusted Monies for a total of \$456,575.

The Operating Fund GIC matures on April 28 & the Board is asked for guidance on re-investing for a further 6 months based on current cash flow requirements.

UCM - no report

UCW - books received from maria and signing officers have been changed for Phyllis to be the new treasurer. Alain received a cash donation to UCW and will send that to Phyllis.

Worship

We have just finished our second year of virtual services for Palm Sunday and Holy Week, and our ministry team and their technical supporters again came up with a stellar lineup of services for us to enjoy.

There were no palm branches this year, but Palm Sunday was blessed with a visit from Randy the donkey. We learned some interesting things about donkeys, and Ken's message drew some interesting observations about "borrowing" (things such as donkeys) and community interdependence in Jesus' time and culture.

Again, we could not indulge in a potluck dinner for Good Friday, but we maintained a modified theatre service with scenes directed by Laurie and acted by John and Marian Noonan, Jennifer and Spencer Harwood, the Bonner/Beaudin family, and the Ireland family. Music was provided by Cindy Juriga, Eva Jackson, Jennifer Harwood, Margaret Thomas, and Linda Clark, and Aidan Bonner. An excellent moving service all around.

Our Easter Sunday service included some old traditional Easter hymns, an excellent Easter message from Ken, a guided tour of the church gardens just coming back to life (being resurrected) with Edith and Jim Langfrey, and a lovely solo from Jennifer Harwood. We also celebrated a virtual communion.

Thanks to all who made this a meaningful time of year.

Paul Holder

12. MINISTRY TEAM

a. Laurie White

1. April Shower for Neighbour to Neighbour Apr. 17th, 11:30 am - 2 pm. Personal care items requested by N2N. N2N pick-up of items on Tuesday morning, Apr. 20.

2. Wesley's Case for Kids Walk -- tentative plans for June 6th. Likely something similar to last year when supporting households were invited to do their own walk and fundraise on their own.

FYI: For another consecutive year, Wesley was recognized as one of the top-rated charities in Canada based on financial transparency, impact, and cents to the cause!

3. Again this year, we will celebrate our graduates in online church. Laurie will invite parents to submit grad photos. (likely for June 13th online service)

4. Laurie will be sorting files and passing information documents to Josie to pass to a new ministry, for sake of continuity, as Laurie purchased her own computer when the pandemic hit.

b. Ken MacDonald - People's participation in Sunday service is important. Difficulties using the DropBox for some people so Ken and Laurie want to be recording people directly and Ken and Laurie will upload the footage. Nathan can create a folder for Google Drive for all the people that help with editing and putting together footage on his Google Drive.

Prayers and Benediction – Laurie closed in prayer.

Adjournment

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 18, 2021, 7:00 pm