

**Mill Woods United Church
Council Minutes
B 19/20 - Meeting #1
March 26, 2019**

We are a spiritual community where you can find your purpose and place

- Location:** Church lounge, 7:00 p.m.
- Present:** Rob McPhee (Chair), Carla Janzen (Past Chair), Randy Round (Finance), Darlene Hayward (Congregational Care), Rev. Ian Kellogg, Bill McGregor (Member-at-Large), Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward), Cathy Bayly (Worship), Karl Kropf (Property)
- Regrets:** Andrew Langstone (Member-at-Large), Carol Hickmann (Building Use), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Francisco Rico (Ministry & Personnel), Kathy Poechman (Building Use)
- Guest:** Robin Lane

1 Gathering time

- 1.1 Welcome by Rob
- 1.2 Prayer by Ian
- 1.3 Living our Purpose: Intercultural ministry
 - In what ways are we an intercultural ministry?
 - In our outreach projects: Bread Run, Food Bank, Clothing Bank
 - A workshop on intercultural ministry was held at Sherwood Park United Church two weeks ago, attended by several members of MWUC
 - How do we move beyond being a predominately white congregation?
 - The words “spiritual community” in our purpose statement include any culture
 - Do we need to remove the word “church” from our name?
 - How might we enhance our relationship with the Zimbabwe Congregation?
 - Invite them to join our church picnic in June
 - Set up an information session to learn about issues affecting the people of Zimbabwe

2 Housekeeping

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda - none
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of February 26, 2019
 - amendment: under item 5, Motion 18/19-64 “Background: in June 2018...”, not September
 - **Motion19/20-01**: That the minutes of February 26, 2019 be accepted as amended.
 - Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Bill McGregor
 - **Motion Carried**

2.3 Showing our Gratitude

- The 22 people who took part in the congregational work-bee on March 23
- Laura and Liliana for updating the message on the outside sign every two weeks
- All the volunteers who helped feed over 125 people at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Gary Boswell for arranging acoustic tile cleaning, floor waxing and the overall organization of the work-bee
- Evelyn Day and Dave Elliot for their leadership in the Sacred Indigenous Teachings series
- Laura Paquette and Heavenly Hospitality for the March 17 luncheon
- Nancy Siever and Carla Janzen for their leadership during worship on March 24
- Carla Janzen and Ian Kellogg for the resource package for the Lenten “Pay it Forward” project
- The 40 people who attended the Annual General meeting and those who provided leadership, lunch and presentations
- The 40 people who provided delicious food and participated in the Italian Progressive supper and the hosts for each course – Brian Hudson, Audrey Murray, Kathy and Paul Poechman, and Audrey and Randy Round; and the organizers Rob and Jennifer McPhee

2.4 2019 Church Leadership Manual (**Attachment 2.4**)

- Council information updates: please let Liliana know
- Council meeting dates: confirmed the suggested dates
- Paper copy and electronic updates: a paper copy will be available to Council at the April meeting; any additions or amendments after that will be electronic.

2.5 Council members’ welcome at the beginning of Sunday services: the sign-up sheet was passed around

2.6 Working together as a Council

- Agenda items, action items: motion and background
 - When submitting an item for the agenda that requires an action, we are asked to prepare a draft of any motion needed along with the background for the request
- Information updates, quick, not action items: keep updates brief; tell Rob if an action or discussion is being requested, so he can allot the necessary time.
- Taking initiatives and supporting others is encouraged.

3 Correspondence

Rob, as the MWUC Northern Spirit rep, will attend the Regional Council meeting in Valleyview May 23 – 26.

4 Join in – Reach out – Make a Difference

4-1 Our Clothing Bank: Cathy Bayly and Robin Lane

- Started 20 years ago by Pat Carr, who offered clothes to Food Bank recipients
- Has grown into a large operation
- Since September it is open only on Tuesdays, down from Tuesdays and Thursdays, due to a lack of volunteer workers; 2 workers at a time are needed for security
- Donations of many bags of clothes that must be sorted, which takes a lot of time; many in very good shape, many also not useable for the Clothing Bank
- Most people are very thankful, but a few take advantage of the free clothing
- Suggestions:
 - a sign could be put up at the Mill Woods Senior Center asking for volunteers
 - the Benevolent Fund could be used to buy some much-needed diapers and other supplies for the Clothing Bank

5 Committee Updates and Business Arising

5.1 Committee Updates

- Congregational Care:
 - Meeting on April 10
 - Newcomers' Lunch planned for October
- Building Use:
 - Have started to look what would need to be in place if we were ever to house a daycare in our building, as a backup in case we should lose our long-term renters
 - Suggestion to talk to other churches in our area that have a daycare regarding what works and what doesn't
- Worship:
 - Met on March 19
 - Palm Sunday – a baptism and communion
 - Good Friday service is planned
 - Easter service: many people will be serving lunch at the Bissell Center
 - April 28: baptism; Ian's last day before his Sabbatical
 - Weddings on August 4 and 24
- Ministry and Personnel: no report
- Finance: Randy
 - Financial Update: February 28/19 (**Attachment 5.1a**)
 - Utility costs (**attachment 5.1b**)
- Stewardship:
 - Meeting April 10
 - A public meeting on Stewardship is being held here on March 28.
 - Planning is underway for Stewardship for September/October
- Property:

- Getting a quote on replacing steeple lights inside and outside
- Looking at fixing the drywall cracks
- Forward Steps:
 - Meeting on March 29

5.2 Business Arising

- Annual General Meeting
 - Purpose statement: Confirmed and regular usage, e.g. on agendas, Morning Messenger
 - Chair elect position: let Rob know of any possible people; it is important to have this position filled
- Signage: Tobacco, vaping, cannabis products: signs have been put up at the front of the church
- Letters to long-term renters: January 1, 2020 increases; these have been sent out
- Sanctuary floor tile replacement: \$16,000-\$18,000 range; not needed now after the floor has been stripped and polished
- Church of Christ rental: Interest still there for a possible 12 hours per week
- Office 2019: looking at the overall compatibility of the computers used in the church by Ian, Liliana, and in the sanctuary
- Requests from the United Methodist Church:
 - To stay until 4 pm on Sundays for more social time; we agreed to this
 - Revival Conference July 5-7: they have permission to stay until midnight, if the noise stops at 10 pm
 - Garden plots at the front of the church (see 6.5 below)
- Moving Forward With Reconciliation agreement: the working group is closing down, so this agreement will probably finish at the end of May 2019
- Telus: phone and internet: new agreement has brought down the church bill from approximately \$400 to \$200 per month

6 New Business

6.1 Minister's Report: Ian

- Preparations continue well for the weddings of Shelley Boswell and Tim Sibbald on Aug 4 (off-site) and Amy-Marie Palmer and Stuart Christensen on Aug 24 (at MWUC)
- Laura Paquette's daughter Alex was baptized March 17
- Caitlyn de Jong, daughter of Simone and Bradley de Jong will be baptized on April 14
- Huxton Small, son of Jenna and Amanda Small, will be baptized on April 28
- A Celebration of Life for Kim's father, John Galanka will be on March 30
- Nancy Siever's and Carla Janzen's presentations on March 24 were inspiring
- Being in office Mondays to Thursdays is working well
- looking forward to Holy Week: Good Friday on April 19 at 10:30 am and Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 am
- The Zimbabwean United Methodist Congregation will be in Calgary Apr 19-Apr 22.

6.2 Investment of Special Funds: Randy

- **Motion 19/20-02:** That the “Investment of Special Funds Policy” be approved as presented.
 - Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Bill McGregor
- **Background: (Attachments 6.2a and 6.2b)**
- **Motion Carried**

6.3 GEA Membership: Carla

- **Motion 19/20-03:** That MWUC continue its membership in the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) under the condition that a member be appointed as delegate to attend meetings and report back to the congregation. We would review our commitment to membership annually each March.
 - Moved by Carla Janzen, seconded by Randy Round
- **Background:** Detailed information was presented at our February meeting and is attached (**Attachment 6.3**)
- The membership fees are a donation and are paid on our behalf by a donor.
- Jo-Anne Kobyłka is willing to be the MWUC rep
- Important to give regular feedback to the congregation
- **Motion Carried**

6.4 EPCOR backflow preventer:

- **Motion 19/20-04:** That the property committee be given approval to hire a company for the installation and testing of a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) backflow preventer as required by EPCOR/City Bylaw. The cost of this project is likely to be in the \$2000 to \$2500 range.
 - Moved by Bill McGregor, seconded by Carla Janzen
- **Background:** EPCOR Water Services letter (**Attachment 6.4**)
- **Motion Carried**

6.5 Community Garden;

- **Motion 19/20-05:** That approval be given to the men of the United Methodist Church to use and maintain the community garden area located on the southern portion of our property for the 2019 growing season.
 - Moved by Bill McGregor, seconded by Darlene Hayward
- **Background:** In November 2018 council approved the following two motions:
 - That Council acknowledge the great success of the community garden project over the past years and accept the recommendation from the committee that the community garden project be ended and restoration of the area be undertaken in the spring of 2019.

- That the funds remaining, approximately \$3300, from the Community Garden be placed in the church capital fund to be used for the restoration of the garden area and for other capital projects as required.
- On March 16, 2019 we received a written request from the men of the United Methodist Church to use this garden space for their summer vegetable garden project. They would take responsibility to make sure the garden is well maintained and clean.
- We would not use any MWUC funds for this project and ask the men’s group to do any minor repairs needed to the boxes, weed both the box areas and the spaces between the garden boxes, and maintain the compost bins and water tanks.
- **Motion Carried**

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 23, 2019 – 7:00 pm

- Carla Janzen will record minutes for this meeting.

Adjournment at 9:10 p.m.:

- **Motion 19/20-06:** That the meeting be adjourned.
 - Moved by Carla Janzen

Rob McPhee (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

Attachments are filed with a paper copy of these minutes in the church office:

- 2.4 Church Leadership Manual updated information
- 5.1a Financial update
- 5.1b Utility costs
- 6.2a and 6.2b Investment of Special Funds
- 6.3 Greater Edmonton Alliance
- 6.4 EPCOR backflow preventer

Further pondering:

The Children’s Program leader was describing that when Lot’s wife looked back at Sodom she turned into pillar of salt, when Liam interrupted. “My mommy looked back once while she was driving,” he announced, “and she turned into a telephone pole.”