

**Mill Woods United Church  
Council Minutes  
B 19/20 – Meeting #2  
April 23, 2019**

*We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place.*

**Location:** Church lounge, 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Rob McPhee (Chair), Carla Janzen (Past Chair, acting Recording Steward), Randy Round (Finance), Kathy Poechman (HH), Cathy Bayly HH & Worship), Ian Kellogg (Minister), Karl Kropf (Property), Darlene Hayward (Building Use Committee), Francisco Rico (M&P), Andrew Langstone (Member-at-Large).

**Regrets:** Elfrieda Penner (Recording steward)

**1 Gathering time**

1.1 Welcome by Rob

1.2 Prayer presented by Ian Kellogg (Emily Dickinson)

1.3 Living our Purpose: A Canadian Preacher Who Doesn't Believe in God (**Attachment 1**)

- From The New York Times  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/01/world/canada/gretta-vosper-reverend-atheism.html>
- What resonates with you in what you read? discussion
- What questions arise? discussion
- How might this article relate to Mill Woods United Church? discussion
- Rob shared Spong's definition of Theism.

**2 Housekeeping**

2.1 Changes to the agenda - none

2.2 Approval of minutes of March 26, 2019

- **Motion 19/20-07:** That the minutes of March 26, 2109 be accepted as presented.
  - **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Kathy Poechman**
  - **Motion Carried**

2.3 Showing our Gratitude

- Karl Kropf who organized our painting day and the painters who helped paint the interior of the church – Don Grabinsky, Sharron Lee, Rob McPhee, Brian Hudson, Randy Round, and Roger Webster; and Carla Janzen for providing a great snack
- Don Grabinsky for his coordination of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry lunch at the Bissell Centre, the volunteers who served lunch and the many people who made sandwiches and provided food.
- Audrey Ruff, who weekly provides the most amazing snacks for us to enjoy following our Sunday worship
- The Worship Committee for the special efforts to make the various services of worship during the Easter season meaningful and thoughtful.
- Rob McPhee for painting our sign
- To all those who led in the prayers of the people during Lent – Jo-Anne Kobylka, Ethel Ray, Carla Janzen, Rob McPhee, Darlene Hayward, Ian Kellogg and Lindy Mair

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

- Paper copy and electronic updates

- Future process: as updates are made Liliaana will send out electronic copies.
- 2.5 Council members welcome at the beginning of Sunday services
- 2.6 Council member mailboxes: Please check regularly

3 **Correspondence** - None at this time.

4 **Join in – Reach out – Make a Difference**

4-1 **Heavenly Hospitality:** Kathy P and Cathy B

- Hearing about the workings of our Heavenly Hospitality
- Can council support or assist in any way?

Kathy presented some history of the HH group beginning in 1995 with Jane Ward & Fern Warr and their love and dedication. Their motto was - friends, foods, fellowship, fun(d)raising. HH has contributed over \$11,000.00 since 2011. Memorial contributions have provided funds for needed equipment in the kitchen. Increased wear on tools and equipment and disappearance of tea towels and sundry items. Would like to have other groups be more invested in our kitchen regarding cleaning and upkeep. Have had people join after retirement. Happy that the kitchen is being well used.

5 **Committee Updates and Business Arising**

5.1 Committee Updates and Communication to Congregation

- Finance: Randy good news: no official report. Money transfer: timing of when PAR contributions a few days behind the Payroll which is higher than PAR. LOC would kick in so to manage that requested bank to move \$10K from reserve to local.
- Stewardship: Ian/Bill/Darlene Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> planning events for Stewardship.
- Property: Karl
  1. Request admin to schedule the annual required Backflow Inspection.
  2. three thermostats in building and difficult to change temperatures; will look at upgrading them.
  3. Would like to get a group together and paint Ian's office while he is away.
  4. Looking for solution to the multiple repeated nail holes in the building. Request that committees use the Command Hooks so no holes.
  5. Electrical quote: change all lights to LED's. In Sanctuary go to bright lights with dimmers on the wall.
  6. Would like to get a crew to help painting panels in the sanctuary.
- Congregational Care: Darlene- no formal report at this time.
- Building Use: Kathy P
- Worship: Cathy Bayly - 30+ people on Good Friday 80+ on Easter Sunday. Dave Faber leading our services May and July. Jo-Anne Kobylka for June. Will be actively looking for leaders for the August services.
- Ministry and Personnel: Francisco – no items to discuss at this time.

5.2 **Business Arising**

- Community Garden: Rob - Zimbabwe Men's group contacted and they are excited about this opportunity to take over the garden for 2019.
- Children's Program: Rob
  - Continuing until June 23 (exception May 19)
  - Planning for next year and funding

## 6 New Business

6.1 **Minister's Report:** Ian enjoyed 6<sup>th</sup> Holy Week. Bryan leading choir until the end of May. Looking for musicians for July.

- **Baptisms:** April 14, Caitlyn de Jong, daughter of Simone and Bradley de Jong was baptized \* On April 28, two more babies will be baptized: Huxton Small, the son of Jenna and Amanda Small; and Austin Kincaid, the son of Rachel and Sheldon Kincaid
- **Funerals:** a Celebration of Life for John Galanka happened on March 30
- **Music:** Bryan LeGrow will be here through June. He will try to schedule weekly anthems as long into May as seems doable with the choir. In June, he will schedule some solos, or duets, or perhaps a Sunday-morning pick-up choir or two.

## 6.2 Future Steps

**Motion 19/20-08:** That council endorse the following recommendations for implementation beginning September 2019 designed to make our purpose statement an active and living representation of who we are as a congregation.

- **Moved by Carla Janzen, seconded by Randy Round**
- **Carried**

### **Recommendations:**

1. Include in weekly Sunday services readings, video, poetry, etc which are not from the Bible but which are relevant to the message and theme. (Worship)
2. When scripture is included in the readings, use only passages which are relevant and will be highlighted in the weekly message. (Worship)
3. Get a group involved in re-writing the words to *The Jesus Prayer* set to music by Wendy Edey and *A Closing Prayer* by Don Besig, which are more current, aligned to present thinking and give one more option for use. This could be done through a series of Monday night gatherings and discussions. (Future Steps)
4. Include a short and concise monthly feature in *What's the Buzz* and *The Morning Messenger*, reflecting new ideas from articles, news items or other readings, which highlight current messages about spirituality and the place of churches today. (Future Steps)
5. Support financially, six people from our congregation to attend the Ever Wonder Conference from October 4-6, 2019 at SSUC. Cost is about \$125 per person, it fits criteria of Memorial and Legacy Funds, and the Memorial/Legacy committee will approve this expenditure if council approves the idea. (Council)
6. Choose a book, which we would invite the whole congregation to read during November 2019. We would advertise and promote this, make books available, focus on topics from book during worship, and provide weekly study sessions during that month for those who wish discuss issues further. We have not yet chosen the book but want it to be something that is relevant today, not too long, likely fiction and that moves quickly. Our hope would be to select a book that we could supplement the cost by a bit and make available to the congregation for about \$10.00. (Future Steps)
7. Congregational visit of every family by our minister during the 2019-2020 church year. This would be done in conjunction with work done by Congregational Care, to create an overall visitation plan and include more congregational visitors. (Congregational Care)

**Background:** Council formed a Baby Steps committee in November 2019 to look at ways to implement our new purpose statement. We have since changed the committee name to Future Steps and are working towards some bolder initiatives.

6.3 **Rental Agreement:** Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) \* see below

- **Motion 19/20-09:** That the lease between Mill Woods United Church and Iglesia Ni Cristo be approved for the period May 2, 2019 to May 30, 2020
    - **Moved by Kathy Poechman, seconded by Cathy Bayly**
    - **Carried**
  - **Background:** Highlights of the lease include:
    - Space included: sanctuary and main floor, lower hall washrooms, handicap lift and parking lot
    - Hours: Total of 12 hours a week.
      - Thursdays: 400 a.m. to 730 a.m. (Chairs would remain up and be taken down after evening service.
      - Thursdays: 630 to 930 pm. They are aware of Food Bank activity until 630 pm. They would have a choir practice at 645 pm and start service at 700 pm. We included a clause which says – depending how these schedules work for both parties, we may adjust these in the future.
      - Saturdays: 400 to 930 pm (exceptions May 11/19, July 6/19, November 30/19, May 9/20, and two more dates to be determined in December/19 and April/20. With the exception of July 6, they have been told they could instead begin at 600 pm
    - Rent: \$1200 a month until the end of December 2019, with a 2.5% increase as of January 1, 2020
    - Damage Deposit: One month rent
    - Insurance: They are responsible for their own insurance and they have this in place.
- Passed**
- ***Subsequent to the April 23 meeting, we were made aware of new information related to this proposed lease. After further study, research and input from all Council members we determined that a lease agreement with INC would neither be in the best interest of our congregation or consistent with our overall purpose.***
  - ***A motion to rescind this motion was passed at the May 28, 2019 council meeting***

6.4 **The Art of Living Foundation:** Rob

Information: Liliana is working with this group regarding a two hour a week rental either on Friday or Saturday evenings between 6-8pm in the basement for music and meditation. Trial evening: May 4th

6.5 **Personnel Issue**

- **Motion 19/20-10:** That the personnel issue as recommended by Ministry and Personnel be approved:
  - **Moved by Francisco, seconded by Kathy Poechman**
  - **Carried**

9:00 pm **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday May 28, 2019 – 7:00 pm**

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Rob McPhee (Chair)

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Carla Janzen for Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

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

1. A Canadian Preacher Who Doesn't /Believe in God

**Further pondering:**

*A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone.*

*"I went to get a haircut," was his reply*

*"But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"*

*"Because," the man said, "I didn't need one then."*