

**Mill Woods United Church
Council Minutes
B 19/20 - Meeting #3
May 28, 2019**

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

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

1 Gathering time

- 1.1 Welcome by Rob
- 1.2 Opening reflection by Ethel from the book Indian Horse
- 1.3 Living our Purpose: Sharing a few reflections from the first meeting of the Northern Spirit Regional Council:
 - Sandra Beardsall, St Andrew's College, Saskatoon shared:
 - The meaning of being church – journeying on in an ecumenical way
 - Acting together in all matters except where deep differences of conviction compel us to act separately
 - Reaching out to all around us – seeing others as brothers and sisters in a mysterious human family (Jean Vanier)
 - A small-town experience of Christians and Muslims working together
 - **Motion Carried** at the meeting: That Northern Spirit Region commit to becoming an Intercultural church – that is Welcoming, Relational, Adaptive, Justice-Seeking, Intentional, and Missional; wherein Intercultural means living together with a respectful awareness of each other's differences. We do this by examining ourselves, building relationships, and distributing power responsibly and equitably.
 - Future of Intercultural Ministry and Moving Forward
 - About 200 people attended

2 Housekeeping

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda – none
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of April 23, 2019
 - ***Suggested addition to April 23, 2019 Council meeting minutes after item 6.3:***
Subsequent to the 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 (see item 6.1 below).*
- **Motion19/20-11: That the minutes of April 23, 2019 be accepted as amended.**
 - **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Karl Kropf**
 - **Carried**

2.3 Showing our Gratitude

- Karl Kropf for painting various sections of the sanctuary walls
- Jan and Gord Hodge for hosting the Great Western Barbecue
- The organizing group for the Spring Craft Market – Cathy Bayly, Dave Borynec, Linda Baker, Donna Pickle, Enid Oldham, Mary-Anne Janewski, Elfrieda Penner and all the many volunteers who helped make the day a big success
- Lindsay and Andrew Langstone for a great travel night featuring Chile, Portugal and Morocco
- David Faber for his inviting and meaningful worship during the month of May
- Liliana Angel and Daniela Cardona Angel for the work they did moving furniture so the sanctuary floors could be re-waxed
- Carla Janzen for looking after the minutes of our April council meeting
- The choir and Bryan LeGrow for an exceptional year of music and music leadership
- Rob McPhee for representing MWUC at the Northern Spirit Regional Council meeting
- All the speakers for This Is Us
- Carla Janzen for dealing with Council matters while Rob McPhee is away
- A huge thank you to all the organizers and workers who enable the Bread Run to continue to serve our community

3 Correspondence

4 Join in – Reach out – Make a Difference

4.1 Bread Run:

- Don Grabinsky and Francisco Rico shared the work and a brief 15 year history of the Bread Run. There has been a very positive impact to our church and community since it has operated in our church over the past 5 years, especially with the volunteer church community coffee team who create a very warm and welcoming atmosphere. It began at Richfield Community Hall (now Family Futures) with food coming only from Safeway. Now food is sourced from COBS, Sobeys, SPUD Organics, Punjabi Foods and the Food Bank creating more variety and healthier food options. The addition of the cooler has made it possible to keep

perishables. The Bread Run has more than 20 volunteers from the clients who have seen self-confidence and growth through this experience. There is a core church volunteer group of approximately 20 people with new volunteers from the Zimbabwe Methodist United Church.

- The volunteers pick up the food on Fridays and on Saturday mornings, set up and distribute the food on Saturday mornings.
- Open to all people, with no registration needed like with the Food Bank.
- A large concern for the future of the Bread Run is volunteer burn-out, and aging affecting people's ability to lift heavy boxes and do the driving to collect food from the sponsors.
- Brian Sampson made a video on the Bread Run, which could be shown in the This Is Us time to heighten awareness and the need for volunteers.
- In 2007, on the request of a City of Edmonton social worker, David Baker and Francisco approached Garneau, Knox Metropolitan and St. Paul United churches and trained them to start up another Bread Run program in Garneau (Whyte Avenue & University area); this started operation in 2008 and is still running.
- Contact Don or Francisco with questions about the Bread Run or to volunteer.

5 Committee Updates and Business Arising

5.1 Committee Updates and Communication to Congregation

- Finance: thanks to Randy for all the work he has put into this report.
(Attachment 1)
- Stewardship: Bill/Darlene: nothing new to report
- Property: Karl
 - Property is working on getting the equipment needed to check the smoke detectors and change the lights
 - Painting is ongoing
 - Flashing: a piece near the steeple is loose
 - Outside water was turned off when the work was done on the backflow valves
- Congregational Care: Darlene – nothing new to report
- Building Use: Kathy P/Carol
 - New rental group on Sunday afternoons: see item 6.2
 - New rental: Art of Living Foundation, a yoga meditation group
 - Many inquiries stem from people finding us on our website
- Worship: Cathy B/Ethel
 - Received positive feedback on David Faber leading the May services; he will be back with us for July
 - Jo-Anne Kobyłka will lead the June services

- Most Sunday services in the summer are covered for leaders and musicians
- Ministry and Personnel: Francisco
 - Ian is sending monthly reports to M & P regarding his work during his sabbatical. He has attended services at 4 different churches so far.
- Forward Steps: Next meeting is June 12 to take next steps on proposals passed at the April Council meeting

5.2 Business Arising

- Weight Watchers' lease agreement renewal for 2019-20: Carol/Rob
 - This agreement has been signed and includes a 2.5% increase as of January 2020
 - All our long-term renters have been notified of the 2.5% increase in Jan. with no complaints from them.
- Retaining Wall Update:
 - Rob let us know that this likely will not happen this summer
- Garden Project:
 - The men of the Zimbabwean congregation have planted the garden boxes

6 New Business

6.1 Rental Agreement: Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ)

Motion 19/20-12: To rescind the April 23, 2019 motion which read: That the lease between Mill Woods United Church and Iglesia Ni Cristo be approved for the period May 2, 2019 to May 30, 2020

Background: See minutes of April 23, 2019 Council meeting

- **Motion moved by Carol Hickmann, seconded by Darlene Hayward**
- **Carried**

6.2 Lease Agreement: Jesus Healing Satsang Ministry Canada:

Motion 19/20-13: That the lease between Mill Woods United Church and the Jesus Healing Satsang Ministry Canada for the period June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020, be approved

Background: This is a very small congregation that wishes to use the main floor of the church on Sunday's from 2:30 to 5:00 pm for worship. The agreement is for \$400 a month. Both our church administrator and our Building Use committee chair have worked with this group on a trial basis for three weeks and feel comfortable with the proposed lease. The group has the needed liability insurance.

- **Motion moved by Carol Hickmann, seconded by Lindy Mair**

- Carried

6.3 Ventures In Mission Loan Restructuring: Randy

Motion 19/20-14: That council give approval to our Finance Team to proceed with the updating and registering of our VIM Loan as required by the United Church of Canada at an approximate cost of \$1200.

Background: The National Church holds the mortgage on our church and as of 2013 there has been a moratorium on future payments. However, the loan will increase each year by 3% to a maximum of \$714,314 (twice the December 2012 outstanding balance). At this point we are being asked to update and register this mortgage. This does not affect the payment agreement. Randy will provide further information as needed at the meeting.

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

6.4 Connections Newsletter:

Motion 19/20-15: That the Connections Newsletter not be produced for the next 12 months and that this decision be reviewed in May 2020.

Background: At present we produce both What's the Buzz and the Morning Messenger each week, the Connections Newsletter twice a year, an Annual Report once a year and provide oral updates to the congregation both at the Annual Financial Meeting in November and the Annual General Meeting in March. This motion would be one way of streamlining our work and lessening the work of both volunteers and staff. Data from our Administrator shows the following:

- Between November 29 and December 20, 2018 an average of 92 people weekly opened What's the Buzz
- During that same period a total of 27 people accessed the link to Connections. As well 30 print copies were made and 25 were picked up (likely some overlap between this group and those who accessed it on line)
- Between April 4 and May 16, 2019 an average of 90 people weekly opened What's the Buzz or about 48% of the 206 emails that are sent out each week
- On the average between 45-50 copies of the Morning Messenger are printed each week
 - **Motion moved by Lindy Mair, seconded by Carol Hickmann**
 - **Carried**

6.5 Sharing of Committee Responsibilities and Discussion (Attachment 2)

We took time to share revised committee responsibility outlines and look for overlaps, gaps, or additions needed. Thanks to all committee chairs who have written these up over the past few weeks.

- This is intended to aid in succession planning; when a new person takes over, it is imperative that they know who is responsible for what and what structures are in place.

- Any changes to attachment 2 need to be sent to Rob by June 15, so the descriptions can be updated and be presented at the June Council meeting

6.6 Notice of Discussion for June Council meeting: Planning for the 2020 budget as related to staffing levels, children’s program, drawing from reserve, etc.

- The current budget ends on December 31,2019

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.:

- **Motion 19/20-16: That the meeting be adjourned.**
 - **Moved by Darlene Hayward**

Rob McPhee (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

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

1. MWUC Financial update, May 28, 2019
2. Sharing of Committee Responsibilities and Discussion

Further pondering:

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. “Mama, look what I found,” he called out.

“What have you got there, dear?” his mother asked.

Wish astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”