

**Mill Woods United Church  
Council Meeting  
B 19/20 -Meeting #6  
October 22, 2019**

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

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

**1 Gathering time**

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Prayer: Ian
- 1.3 Discussion and Motion: Proposed agreement with 4Point Taekwondo
  - **Motion 19/20-24: On the basis of the draft agreement presented, Mill Woods United Church proceed in negotiating a lease agreement with 4Point Taekwondo.**
    - **Moved by Darlene Hayward, seconded by Kathy Poechman**
    - **Carried**
  - **Background:** Liliana Angel and Carol Hickmann provided background information and clarification on this proposed agreement.
  - A copy of the proposed agreement is attached (**Attachment 1**)
  - Liliana shared some potential ideas for use of building and rentals for the first five months of 2020, stressing the importance of balancing the needs of the congregation and those of renters.

**2 Housekeeping**

- 2.1 Changes to the agenda - none
- 2.2 Approval of minutes of September 3, 2019 (Attachment 2)
  - **Motion19/20-25: That the minutes of June 25, 2019 be accepted as presented.**
    - **Moved by Darlene Hayward, seconded by Randy Round**
    - **Carried**

## 2.3 Showing our Gratitude

- Cathy Bayly for making the arrangements to enable six congregational members to attend the Ever Wonder conference
- Carol Hickmann, Kathy Poechman and Darlene Hayward for creating the beautiful Thanksgiving display
- Len Penner and Gary Boswell for taking a lead on the fall grounds clean-up
- Bill McGregor, Darlene Hayward, Nancy Siever and Ian Kellogg for their leadership in our fall Stewardship work
- The choir for their wonderful worship leadership on September 15, 2019 and to Elfrieda Penner who took a lead in planning
- Darlene Hayward, Cathy Bayly and Ian Kellogg for planning a hugely successful new-comers luncheon on October 20, 2019
- Liliana Angel and Carol Hickmann for the exceptional amount of time and expertise put into drafting the proposed agreement for a new renter
- To the entire congregations – long-time, new, in-between – who have joined us each Sunday with enthusiasm, friendly spirits and a desire to care for and get to know each other. Amazing!!
- Heavenly Hospitality for providing refreshments after the services in September
- Audrey Ruff for providing refreshments after most services
- Jean-Cecile Oliver of Catholic Social Services for offering to sing at a service

2.4 Council member mailboxes: Please check regularly

2.5 Sunday morning Welcome Schedule for November 2019 to March 2020: Council members were asked to sign up. The schedule was completed up until March 2020 and Liliana will send out schedule to all those who volunteered.

## 3 Correspondence

3.1 United Church Round Table Event (**Attachment 3**)

- on November 13 at Spirit of Hope United Church

3.2 We offered to cover the small cost for Mary-Anne Janewski and Nancy Siever to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Conference October 25-26 and then report back to the congregation

## 4 Committee Updates and Business Arising

4.1 Committee Updates and Communication to Congregation

- Stewardship: Ian/Bill/Darlene
  - November 7 meeting to review the Stewardship campaign
  - Nov.10 This Is Us will follow up on the campaign
- Property: City of Edmonton is privatizing commercial garbage collection; will give us ample notice to make other arrangements
- Congregational Care:
  - The newcomers' lunch on October 22 was very successful

- Heavenly Hospitality prepares casseroles to freeze for congregational care needs
- Worship:
  - November and December will be very busy with extra services and meetings
- Ministry and Personnel:
  - Audrey Murray is working with Liliana to update the janitorial job description
- Forward Steps:
  - Homes book discussions in November
    - Professor Junaid Jahingar will do a presentation on Islam
  - Discussions on the article “What Is God?”
- Building Use: Working on a Fire Evacuation document
  - Plan to meet with Property Committee

## 5 New Business

### 5.1 Minister’s Report: Ian

- Ian is here until Christmas Eve. His fifth and final week of vacation will be between December 25 and January 3, 2020
- At the Newcomer's lunch this past Sunday, we had 16 newcomer adults (six from 2018 and ten from 2019), two infants, six children, and 11 established members
- A Transfer of Membership is planned for November 17
- Future Steps is meeting on October 23
- Guest speaker, Junaid Jahingar, to speak about Islam on November 17
- Two Christmas eve services are planned for 7 pm, and for 10 pm with communion
- Northern Spirit Region Council (NSRC):
  - On Sunday October 20, 2019, we had a formal covenanting ritual, which made explicit the link between MWUC and NSRC
  - We are anticipating an approach from a NSRC Committee to help us fill out our first-ever annual Self-Assessment of Ministry Form, which is like an ever-up-to-date "Joint Needs Assessment Report."
  - Two weeks ago, I joined a monthly Spiritual Direction group that is made up of me and three of my United Church of Canada colleagues. I feel lucky to be a part of it.
  - I attended two UCC learning opportunities since September 3: Revitalize at St. Paul's UC Sept 26-27, and Ever Wonder, Oct 4-6 at SSUC.
  - Beverley United had its final worship service on Oct 20 \* Its ministers, Rev. Deborah Hoekstra, has been called to be in team ministry at St. Albert UC with Rev. Mervin Gallant
  - Spirit of Hope (formerly United on Whyte) has called Rev. Blaine Gregg from St. David's UC in Leduc as of January 1, 2020
  - There is still no NSRC website 10 months after it was formed

## 5.2 Mortgage Amending Agreement: (Attachment 4)

- **Motion 19/20-26: That Council request Trustees, the Minister and Council Members to execute any and all documents required to meet United Church of Canada and other legal requirements related to the Mortgage Amending Agreement.**
  - **Moved by Randy Round, seconded by Bill McGregor**
  - **Carried**
- **Background:** We have been asked by the United Church of Canada to update and revise our longstanding mortgage agreement with them. We entered into our current payment-free arrangement in 2013. Terms were supported by correspondence, but no formal Loan Agreement or Mortgage was prepared. UCC has for some time been asking us to prepare and register a mortgage. In lieu of a new full mortgage, we have agreed on a new document called a Mortgage Amending Agreement to meet UCC requirements. There are four other documents to meet Land Titles and our lawyers' requirements. This motion gives our Finance Team the go ahead to finalize the new agreement. The new agreement does not alter the present understanding we have as related to our mortgage

## 5.3 Financial Update and Budget 2020 discussion:

- **Financial Update: (Attachment 5)**
- **Budget 2020 Discussion: (Attachment 5)**
  - **Background:**
  - Our June 2019 Council budget discussion led to the following considerations as we plan and budget for 2020:
    - We felt that it was important to maintain our present staffing levels for 2020 to ensure the positive momentum we see in the congregation is maintained and enhanced.
    - We felt that our Sunday morning children's program is an important part of our work and that funding for it should be included within budget.
    - We deferred the discussion on the use or non-use of reserves in the 2020 budget until our October 22 council meeting when we will have the results of our stewardship work to consider.
    - Finally, council felt it was important during our stewardship work in late September and early October that we share with the congregation financial information clearly showing the costs of both supporting the work within this congregation and the outreach work in which we are involved.
  - Our projected deficit for 2019 is approximately \$8,000. This is in addition to the one-time \$8000 withdrawal from our reserve, to cover sabbatical costs. This leaves approximately \$51,000 in our reserve account.
- The proposed 2020 budget is projecting a deficit of approximately \$16,200.

- The following options are available to us:
  - Present and support a 2020 budget with a deficit of approximately \$16,200 and maintain our present staffing and programming levels. This would reduce our reserve by the end of 2020 to approximately \$35,000.
  - Maintain our present staffing and programming levels and seek further sources of revenue
  - Reduce our present staffing and programming levels and present a balanced budget for 2020
  - A bit of both: reduce the deficit projection by a lesser degree and reduce staffing and programming by a lesser degree
- These options were discussed freely without any conclusions; this will be addressed more closely at the November Council meeting.

**Next Meeting: November 12, 2019 – 7:00 pm**

- We will finalize what we will present at our Annual Financial Meeting on November 17, 2019 regarding our 2020 budget.

**Adjournment at 9:35 pm:**

- **Motion 19/20-27: That the meeting be adjourned.**
  - **Moved by Bill McGregor**

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Rob McPhee (Chair)

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Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

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

1. Proposed agreement with 4Point Taekwondo
2. Minutes of Sept.3 Council meeting (already in Council Minutes binder)
3. United Church Round Table Event
4. Mortgage Amending Agreement
5. Financial Update and Budget 2020

**Further pondering:**

A dialogue with a ten-year-old with their mother went like this, according to an epigraph of the book, *“The Children of Israel,”*

“Mom, asked the ten-year-old, “can anyone write a Bible?”

“Hmmm...that’s an interesting question. Why do you ask?”

“Because I have some important things to say about God, and I think I’d like to write a Bible.”

“Well, I suppose you could write one. The real question would be, would other people want to read it?”

“Why wouldn’t they want to read it? I know a lot about God and the way people ought to treat each other.”

“Do you think your perspective on these things would be significantly different from that of the Bible we read in church?”

“Mom, really! Just how many ten-year-olds do you think helped write that?”