

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – April 13, 2022

In attendance via ZOOM: Rev. Richard Bowley, Diane Tonge, Stuart Baker, Una Wilson, Dan Forret, Bill Whittaker, Chris Young, Sally Allanach, Brion Crossman, Bob Crowley, John Hill. Regrets from Sue King, Barb McBean.

Bob Crowley opened the meeting at 7:32 PM. Rev Richard offered a prayer. Bob acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Chris Young 2nd. Carried.

Approval of Minutes –Stu Baker moved approval of the minutes from Mar 9, 2022. Dan Forret 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the March 2022 treasurer report. Slightly higher revenue due to salmon fundraiser. No unusual expenses. Year to date deficit is about \$5,200. Brion reviewed the reduced numbers of monthly contributors in March 2022(68) vs March 2021(87). Bill commented that Easter envelopes were not included in the Easter letter. Shortage of envelopes to blame. Bob read a letter to council from Carolyn Kimball, asking that all the congregation be made aware of the financial situation. Bob suggested a mail out. Rev Richard suggested not to be shy about saying what we need and why we need it. Chris, Una, John and Richard volunteered to draft a letter from council to be sent out in the next few weeks. Rev Richard suggested a "Season of Easter" fundraiser. Envelopes will be numbered 1 to 50. Participants can pick one and donate the numbered amount on the envelope. The details will be in the announcements this week.

Re:Mulch sale – request was sent to Irving for mulch, awaiting the reply. Tentative dates are May 27 and May 28. Photocopy machine lease is up for renewal. Brion recommends entering a lease for a new machine. Brion moved acceptance for his report, Stu Baker 2nd. Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Safe Church Committee update - Bill reported the committee met Mar 28 and agreed to continue the current protocols for the foreseeable future. Will review again at the end of April.

Reality Check on Governance - no report

Regional action on Ecological Justice - deferred

Correspondence: none

New Business:

1) **Music Director Search** - Sally Allanach made a motion, on behalf of M&P, to hire Stephen Alexander as Director of Music Ministry, effective September 1, 2022. Diane Tonge 2nd. Carried.

2) **New Members** – Rev Richard presented a motion to accept three new members to the congregation; **Caroline Elizabeth Hossack, Bridget Claire Winchester and Luke Xavier Murphy. Bill Whittaker 2nd. Carried.** The three confirmands will attend the Easter Sunday service for the confirmation ceremony.

Committee Reports:

1. **Christian Life & Growth** – Una Wilson reported that a congregational virtual retreat entitled, "Open Your Eyes & Mind through Visual Thinking, Art, & Music" will be presented by Wendy and Sue on May 14. There is no cost to attend. Plans are in place for post-pandemic activities for youth in the sanctuary.

2. *Worship* –Easter Sunday worship will be in the sanctuary and on Zoom. On May 22 and also July 31, Layton Peck will conduct the service and provide the music. Worship committee recommends closing the church building for 4 weeks in August. Possible collaboration with St David’s for online services during that time. **Sally Allanach made a motion to close the church building for sanctuary worship on July 24, 31 Aug 7 and 14, offering online worship services only. Diane Tonge2nd. Carried.** The committee recommends a spring cleanup of closets. Worship recommends that M&S videos be reinstated on a monthly basis. Rev Richard commented that M&S now provides only eight M&S videos per year.
3. *Property Maintenance* – Bill reported the kickboxers have found another location. Valley Girls will re-evaluate use of the sanctuary in the fall. Knitting group are staying on Zoom. KV quilters will use the church on Apr 21. **Bill Whittaker moved approval of the Quilters use of the sanctuary for their meeting. Rev Richard 2nd. Carried.** Front stairs have been repaired.
4. *UCWs* – no report
5. *Social Committee* – no report
6. *Outreach* – Diane reported 6 more welcome bags are ready for a family arriving next week.
7. *Pastoral Care* – (from Sue King, in absentia) This past month the pastoral care volunteers have enjoyed the opportunity to visit with some people and report that the people in nursing homes really enjoyed the visits. There are only a handful of people on the list now, but volunteer’s respond quickly to needs as they arise. Cards are sent to those who are known to be unwell or hospitalized. There will be an official meeting in May when gathering outdoors at Sue’s place is an option.
8. *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – no further report.
9. *Finance & Trustee* – no report
10. *Youth Representative* – no report
11. *Affirming Committee* –(from Sue King, in absentia) The talk by two guests from AA on March 21 was excellent. Thoughtful stories of their journey to sobriety. The next educational Zoom session will be May 9 presented by Therese Trofimencoff, the anti-racism and equity coach for the school district. The topic is Privilege. The Inclusive sign is now adorning the front of the church. Thanks to Cindy Milligan on her lead with this and installation assistance from Bob Crowley, Bill Whittaker and John Hill. This is a visible step towards opening our doors of welcome.
12. *Region* – no report
13. *Minister’s report* – Rev Richard is recovering from COVID. He commented that those people he visited prior to his illness appreciated his visits. Bible study has about 16 regular attendees. He has been leading confirmation classes for the last 6 weeks. Looking forward to visits again next week when he is COVID free again.

Next online council meeting is Wednesday May 11, 2022, at 7:30 PM

Rev Richard closed with a prayer.

Bob declared meeting adjourned at 9:08.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley