

Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – June 14, 2023

In attendance: Rev. Richard Bowley, Diane Tonge, Bob Crowley, Barb McBean, Brion Crossman, Una Wilson, Stu Baker, Sally Allanach, Bill Whittaker, Rowena Anderson, Bruce Amey. John Hill, Sue King, Dan Forret, Don and Marilyn Robertson, Hally and Carolyn Kimball joined by Zoom. Regrets from Chris Young and Cindy Millican.

Rev Richard Bowley opened the meeting at 7:32 PM. and offered a prayer.

Rev Richard acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Approval of Minutes – Diane Tonge moved approval of the minutes from May 10, 2023. Bob Crowley 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the May 2023 treasurer's report. Givings were down a bit, mulch sale raised more than \$4,000. Unusual expenses included travel expenses for the regional meeting and pulpit supply. Surplus for the month is about \$2,200. YTD deficit is about \$1,800. **Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Stu Baker 2nd. Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **Safe Church Committee update** – *no report*

- **Reality Check on Governance** – *no report*

- **Where to from here discussion** – Change in Pastoral Relations. As per correspondence, the Region declared a vacancy at QUC effective July 31, 2023

- **Faith Profile Committee** – Bob Crowley reported that the committee met twice and are preparing a survey to distribute to the congregation. The target date for distribution is the end of June, with return of completed surveys in November. The committee has 6 members and would welcome more.

- **Retired Supply starting in September** – In depth discussion was initiated by Bob Crowley. **Bob Crowley moved that Rev Dr. Ian Manson be offered a ¾ time interim ministry position beginning September and ending in June 2024. Diane Tonge 2nd. Carried**

- **Church Directory** – Photos are available for pick-up in the church office

Correspondence:

- Letter from Region regarding our change in pastoral relations. The Region declared a vacancy at QUC effective July 31, 2023. Rev Kendall Harrison will assign a liaison as soon as one is available.

- Refugee Family Participation – A letter was received, acknowledging that the Board of St. David's United Church has agreed to sponsor the refugee family, for which we have agreed to contribute \$2,000.

Communities of Faith who agreed to participate can send money to St David's. Council will be prepared to review our commitment for presentation to the congregation after the September meeting.

- Letter to Premier and Education Minister re. Policy 713 from QUC – A letter was sent on QUC letterhead voicing our opposition to the proposed changes to Policy 713.

New Business:

Remit 1 - Establishing Autonomous National Indigenous Organization - Rev Richard opened discussion and encouraged members to read about the Remit, due by March 2024.

Committee Reports:

1. *Christian Life & Growth* – see attached report. Discussion about the Al Graham Award
2. *Worship* – see attached report - Sue King July reviewed highlights. *July 16th is Rev. Richard's End of Covenanting Communion Service.* Diane Tonge and Sally Allanach offered to serve communion

Rev Richard's final service will be on Zoom.

*The word **Maliseet** has been replaced by the more appropriate **Wolastoqey** in acknowledgement of territories.*

3. *Property Maintenance – see attached report* - Bill Whittaker announced that the Valley Girls Choir is meeting Thursday morning for a social gathering. YouTube link to the AED training video will be available to view. KidZone donated a new battery pack and pads for our AED. **Bill moved a letter of appreciation be sent to Janie and KidZone for her donation of battery and pads for AED. Bob Crowley 2nd. Carried.**
Brion asked to offer ideas about the very poor lawn around the church.
4. *Social Committee – no report*
5. *UCW – no report*
6. *Outreach – see attached report.*
7. *Pastoral Care – see attached report.* Sue highlighted that the Pastoral care meeting on June 28th at 1:30 pm will be at Sue King's residence.
8. *Ministry & Personnel Committee – see attached report.* Bob commented on the positive exit survey with Rev Richard.
9. *Finance & Trustee – no report*
10. *Youth Representative – no report*
11. *Affirming Committee – Sue King reviewed the (attached) report.* Questioned if the new Affirm Banner could be hung in the side entrance. It was clarified that social media posts can be sent to Leslie, if they are ready to post and don't require editing.
12. *Region – see attached report – Bob reviewed the report items.*
13. *Minister's report – Rev. Richard referred to the (attached) report*

Next council meeting will be in person at the church on Wednesday Sept 13, 2023, at 7:30 PM

Rev. Bowley closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Life & Growth -

CLG had a good discussion about Kyle DeLong's application for the Al Graham Memorial Award, but the committee could not reach a decision. Although Kyle certainly works hard on community and environmental issues, he has not been active in the church since his confirmation in 2018. Therefore, we are seeking input from Council. It was declined because of lack of participation in the church community.

The group also discussed the June 11 Celebration service and has finalized plans for it. The congregation fully supported the event and quickly completed the Items Needed List.

Now, CLG is looking ahead to the fall. If the number of children remains low, we are going to have one teacher prepare a lesson and then deliver it when there is a child present. Currently, teachers are preparing a lesson and then not having the opportunity to use it.

The committee thanks the Council for all your support and wishes you all a healthy, restorative, and fun-filled summer.

Worship Committee

Recent services – The music of Valley Woodwinds and Jammers received many positive comments. Summer Kick Off service June 11th last week at Hammond River Angling Association was a huge success. Team effort and well done.

We do need to note that Stephen Alexander requested not to plan an event outside of his "work" place again without discussion. His preference is to stay in QUC sanctuary for services.

Upcoming Services of note:

July 2nd, 2023, Canada Day - O Canada Anthem will be sung. There will also be a hymn sing.

July 16th. Reverend Richard's End of Covenanting Communion Service.

Could two Council members offer to do Communion serving that day please?

Would we like to plan a lunch in MacDonald Hall?

July 23rd Rev Richard's final service will be on zoom.

August services:

Sue will cover the Shannex Services August 15th , 2023.

August 20th Return to Sanctuary Stephen Alexander pulpit supply and Angela Murphy on piano

August 27th Rev Audrey Louder Pulpit Supply

Change in wording in Acknowledgement of Territories

The purpose is to reflect a more appropriate language of inclusion and respect.

It was:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIES

"As we gather to worship let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people."

It will now read:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIES

"As we gather to worship let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples –

predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people."

The choir is now in recess until September. People have been encouraged to offer special music.

Property Maintenance Committee

- Through the generosity of Janie and Kid Zone we have a new battery and pad pack for our AED.

- Barb and I researched and selected an instructional video on YouTube for our AED that can be shown to Council and the congregation.

- Purchased an 8' x 1" wooden dowel and repurposed a 10' x 1" PVC conduit to use with the two new banners.
- Purchased and installed a 6 volt 4 / amp hour battery for the emergency light outside the double classroom downstairs.
- Took 5 church fire extinguishers to L. E. Whittaker Co. Ltd for inspection and recertification. Servicing was done at no charge.
- Cindy Dutton had her piano recital in our Sanctuary on Friday June 16th.
- Together with Debbie and Lorie from Kid Zone sorted items in the fridge and freezer.

Outreach Committee

OUTREACH REPORT FOR COUNCIL JUNE 14/23

We have prepared Welcome Bags for 105 Newcomers this year.

On behalf of Outreach, Rose Martin bought \$150 of dental products from the ever-generous dental office of Dr. Ron Buckley.

Rose Martin and Jane Barefoot continue to prepare School Weekend Food bags for at-risk children at Quispamsis Elementary. The cost per bag is now \$15.56 and they prepped 8 bags in May.

Stacy Blois now has our Excel sheets for overall Outreach, School Food and Newcomers such that if you have any queries as to specific spending, we can find those numbers.

Our Outreach Committee will meet June 13 to discuss ongoing plans for 2023 and forward.

Respectfully submitted-

Barb McBean

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Council Report June 14/23

M&P met has now with all 4 of our staff for initial 2023 interviews. Nothing of concern to note and good interviews overall.

M&P has done an exit interview with Rev. Richards. It was positive overall and nothing requiring M&P or Council follow up. Richard has enjoyed his 2.5 years with QUC and us with him.

We are always open for feedback on staff but any concerns must be in writing but will be kept "Confidential".

Respectfully submitted

Bob Crowley

Pastoral Care Committee

Visits Continue - One person remains in hospital and would really like phone calls and visits.

Pastoral care meeting at Sue King's residence June 28th at 1:30 pm

Affirming Committee

One year anniversary June 11th service at Hammond River Angling Association was a huge success. Excellent update given by Cindy on what had been done in the year.

Rainbow baking was incredible!

QUC Banner arrived in time for this service. Many thanks to Bill who took the initiative to find dowels to carry it. We hope to use it on August 8th for Pride Parade in Saint John. Where can we have the banner in the church, so it is visible?

Next education session: Talk of summer gathering with First Nation Storytellers. Early evening date July 13th. Possible venues: Riverside Park or Meenans Cove or Sue and Wendy's property

OR choose an existing tour they are offering in Saint John on Wolastoq River and

advertise it to congregation and go together. Sue will contact David and Ellis at First nation Story Tellers
Rainbow candle It was suggested that the Rainbow candle was burning down too low. Terri-Lyn McNicol donated the Affirming candle, which is under the pulpit, and Rev Richard used this at the Anniversary service.

Social media - Recent discussion on how to raise our presence on social media platforms like Facebook and website. Others?

Whose responsibility is to advertise events like last Sundays Anniversary service - Summer Kick off? Education sessions?

Do we need a communications committee and who would be on it -Staff? tech team? or wizards?

Regional Reps Report

FSLDW AGM

On May 27-28 Brion and Bob attended the AGM of Fundy ST. Lawrence Dawning Waters at UPEI in Charlottetown. Rev. Richard was also there.

There were over 200 people in attendance from South Gaspe, PEI and NB.

There was a lot of table discussion, sessions on Justice, Mission and Outreach, Indigenous speakers (*and song*), faithful footprints (*environment*), reports from Atlantic School of Theology and Ecumenical guests.

Several tables outside for book, M&S, Social Justice, etc. I did request some info on Action for Climate Justice.

There were 3 motions reviewed and discussed:

1. Indigenous right to self-governance within the United Church, “Remit 3 -Establishing an Autonomous National organization”. This was passed by Region and is now before all Communities of Faith. QUC will have to review and vote by March 2024.

2. Approved annual reports including audited financial statements and budget (2023-2024). These are on the FSLDW website.

3. Approved plans for next 5 years for AGM of Region, being a mix of in person and zoom. Hotter topic than most might think...geography matters!

There were several workshop choices:

Bob attended the following:

-Then Let Us Sing-new access coming to all Communities of Faith (“CoF”) with all music from Voice United and More Voices plus approximately 150 new songs we will have access to. Planned for fall 2024.....and yes we did get to sing.

-An Introduction to Self-Assessment which is a new program where all communities of Faith will record their statistical and financial information along with other queries on activities and plans. It is meant to replace the Presbytery Review and will eventually be required updating every three years, Initial roll out fall 2023 with 10+CoF. Some of the questions will require us to look inward as well. Meant to be a living summary of who we are.

Brion attended Collaborative Ministry which is a program under development on possible future ministry whereby the congregation may take on more of running the church and worship and the minister acts in a guidance role. Region hopes to have more information available later this year or early 2024.

We also elected a new President, Rev. Elizabeth Stevenson and said farewell to past Presidents (Rev. James Kennedy and Sheila Gallant)

On Saturday night Youth did a worship service with readings and great music. There were 14 Youth from old Presbytery area and overall, 33 youth. Wonderful to see them back.

Minister’s Report – May 2023

May was a relatively quiet month for me as I was away for 2 of the 3 Sundays following our last council meeting. I did lead worship on May 14th. The following week I was away on study leave. During that time I attended (*virtually*) the Festival of Homiletics. This is a gathering that happens in various places in the states and focuses on preaching and strengthening preaching. I found the speakers to be very engaging, weaving scripture and life in ways that were compelling. I feel that attendance at these conferences has strengthened and enhanced what I have to offer in my own preaching.

During the last weekend of May I attended the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional meeting in PEI. The report from the regional reps captures much of what I would share about the experience, though I had a different perspective as I was working at the business desk for the duration of the meeting. The theme was Looking forward in Hope, and I feel like this is a theme that we can all live into as a community of faith. June has already been filled with wonderful opportunities for worship and fellowship. We are doing a run of Isaiah readings as our focus scripture for this month. Worthy of note is the worship we had at the Hammond River Angling Association where we had a summer kick-off, a celebration of our Sunday School, grads, and our 1st anniversary as an affirming community of faith!

An exit interview was conducted by the M&P committee. I have also continued with regular visits, with a focus on the hospital as of late.

Plans for the coming weeks:

With the last few weeks of my time with QUC ahead, there will be a lot of focus put on ending well.

In particular I am working on the early drafts of my last 2 services (July 16, 23) to mark the end. My last service will be on the 23rd of July and it will be a Zoom service. I thought this was very appropriate considering the amount of time that we spent together on Zoom in those early months of my call here.

Visitation will continue in June and through July (if you want a visit before I go, please reach out).

Closing Words:

I want to say that I have treasured what we have shared and created together over the last two years. I have changed and grown in ways at QUC that I had not expected and am glad for who I have become while serving with all of you. I pray for the continued work and service of this community of faith, and I know you will continue to make a significant impact on one another and the wider community! May God bless you on your journey.

Prayerfully submitted.

Rev. Richard Bowley