

Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – Nov 8, 2023

In attendance: Bob Crowley, Bill Whittaker, Stu Baker, Bruce Amey, Hally Kimball, Chris Young, Brion Crossman, John Hill. **On Zoom:** Rev. Ian Manson, Cindy Milligan, Rowena Anderson, Marilyn Robertson, Dan Foret, Barb McBean, Leslie Reid. Regrets from Una Wilson and Sue King.

Chris Young opened the meeting at 7:34 PM. Rev Ian offered a prayer and Chris acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Approval of Agenda – Bob Crowley moved acceptance of the agenda. Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Brion Crossman moved approval of the minutes from Oct 11, 2023. Hally Kimball 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the October 2023 treasurer's report. Nothing unusual. Expenses are less due to not having a full-time minister. Surplus for October is about \$3,829. YTD surplus is about \$7,883. M&S givings are only about \$8,000, not on track to meet our \$12,000 commitment. **Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Stu Baker 2nd. Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **Safe Church Committee update** – Bill updated on the prevalence of COVID, encouraged vaccination. Thanks to Rev. Ian and Kelly for gentle handling of incident at the church entrance last month (*see Affirming committee report*).
- **Reality Check on Governance** – Worship and Affirming committees have not yet decided to merge.
- **Where to from here discussion - Faith Profile Committee** – *See attached report.*
- **Refugee Family Participation** – See attached letter from St. David's United Church. The Refugee Family members will participate as guest speakers during the Nov. 12 Worship Service. A special congregational meeting will be held following the service to vote on the Council funding recommendation.
- *As a reminder the recommendations for the 2025 roofing replacement will also be communicated at the congregational meeting.*
- **Remit 1 - Establishing Autonomous National Indigenous Organization** - A discussion on Remit 1 led to many unanswered questions about the implications of the United Church adopting the Remit. The majority were satisfied that the affect on church would be positive. **Bob Crowley moved that the Quispamsis United Church Council vote YES to the Remit. Brion Crossman 2nd. Carried, with 2 dissenting votes.**
- **December 9th fundraiser** - The Cool Chics and Ugly Doclings band have offered us a free concert, 7 pm in QUC on Dec 9th. Plans are formulating for a Christmas Fair, craft sale, bake sale, etc....to enhance this fundraising effort. A poster is on FB. Sign up sheet outside the office. Need to advise the Regional Police of street parking and ask KBC about parking in their lot.
- **Activity space at back of sanctuary** – one pew was removed; the space seems to work well.
- **Name tags** - to be used on a trial basis start at advent with sticker names, pronouns optional.

Correspondence: None

New Business: Leslie Reid was approached by Paulette Gaines, a teacher of “chair Qigong”, requesting use of space in the church on Tuesday afternoons for a class of 10 people. Participation fee is \$5.00. After a brief discussion and seeing no conflicts, Bruce Amy moved we grant this request. **Brion Crossman 2nd. Carried.**

Committee Reports

1. *Christian Life and Growth – no report.*
2. *Worship Committee – see attached report (Doug McDonald may need help with the Dec 31 service)*
3. *Property Maintenance - see attached report.*
4. *Social Committee – no report*
5. *UCW – no report*
6. *Outreach –see attached report.*
7. *Pastoral Care – see attached report.*
8. *Ministry & Personnel Committee – no report.*
9. *Finance & Trustee – no report.*
10. *Youth Representative – no report.*
11. *Affirming Committee – see attached report.*
12. *Region and Home Mission Council – see attached report.*
13. *Minister's report – Rev Ian reported that he continues to be impressed by the spirit within our congregation, he feels that it is a good place to be. He has worked with Faith Profile Committees in other congregations and opined that ours is very good and he feels privileged to work with the members on the committee. Remembrance Day service is at Shannex this Friday. Christmas plans are shaping up.*

Rev. Manson closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Ian Manson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Home Mission Council

For 2023 HMC has agreed to provide \$5000 to the refugee project and will consider additional funding in 2024.

Faith Profile Committee

Continue to meet regularly. A workshop has been organized for Nov 25/23 (Sat 9am to 1 pm). All council members please encourage all of your committee members to attend. Assuming all council members will attend.

Christian Life & Growth –

Here are the highlights from the past month:

- The Fall Craft coffee hour was a success with around 14 people making the craft.
- CLG and Worship will plan the service and picnic on June 9 at HRAA.
- The committee would like to create an activity space in the back of the sanctuary for a small table and chairs for the children. The spare table and chairs from the Godly Play Room could be used. Religious related books, puzzles, and colouring sheets would be available. This would allow the children to explore our faith when there are no Sunday School lessons or teachers available.
- CLG are planning to host a Gratitude Journal craft during Coffee Hour on the first Sunday in Advent.
□ The Christmas pageant is planned for December 10.

Worship Committee

Community Connections - October 22, 2023, Bee Me Kidz presentation by Lynn MacDonald well received. Videos by Lynn and Wendy Stewart as well. Shannex Service for October 25 cancelled due to Covid outbreak. Reviewed minor changes to the Order of Worship: all positive feedback and consensus was that the service changes work well. These include: Celebrations, Announcements, Prayers, Candle lighting and opening music have had positive feedback. Some new faces at recent services!

Plans for Services:

- November 5th – Remembrance Day Service - included Gov't of Canada video and laying of wreath, Remembrance anthem by choir.
- November 10th - Remembrance Services at Shannex. Rev Ian will attend for 2 services. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- November 12th – Refugee representative to join in Service. Congregational Meeting for approval of expenditure of \$2000.00 for refugee fund (in conjunction with other churches) following Service.
- November 19th - Stephen will be away and Angela Murphy stepping in in his absence.
- November 26th, 2023 – Reign of Christ Sunday and Communion.
- December 3rd - Acknowledgment of World Aids Day. Guest musicians.
- Advent Services: Agreement to conduct an Advent Bible Study over the season Tuesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec.12, and Dec.19. Tentatively set for 10 am TBA. See QUC Announcements for details. Re. Ian Manson to lead.
- December 10th – Pageant Day. Two anthems from choir.

- December 12th – Walking in the Christmas Shadows (Blue Xmas) Service 7 pm
- December 17th – TBD
- December 24th – Christmas Eve – Morning Service at 10 am. Family Communion Service at 5 pm. Two anthems from Choir.
- December 31, 2023. This will be a ‘low Sunday’. Ian, Sue and Stephen will be away. Possible Zoom service.

Property Maintenance Committee

River Valley Environmental Ltd. completed the excavation and drainage. Grass seed and hay spread beside excavation work. Bridge out back repaired and ditch cleared to drain. Four roof de-icing cables tested. Water cushion tank pressure checked. Furnace checked for pressure and air locks. Loose panel under eave outside office repaired. Fundy Roofing notified of our intention to re-shingle in late summer of 2025. Ladies exercise group notified of our lack of space and time. Jim and Sherry Kiervin cleaned 40 of our chairs (thanks!). Several fluorescent tubes were replaced. Extra pew in narthex given away. 2nd pew from the back of the sanctuary was removed and placed in the narthex at the request of Sunday School. Met with 2 new leaders of the Embers and signed user agreement. Starting soon. Another ladies’ exercise group looking of space twice a week, declined due to lack of space and time. Fire Marshals inspection found 2 deficiencies: dumpster too close to church and alarm system needs a new inspection.

Outreach Committee

We completed a very successful Sneaker campaign, purchasing 55 pairs of sneakers after our final tally of generous donations. We also continued receiving large numbers of Welcome Bag requests for Newcomers. The School Food program continues for our local school. We will launch our request for \$\$\$ to be donated to the Church and labeled Christmas Families, starting Nov 12 and running until Dec. 1. Leslie has already had calls from 2 families.

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Nothing to bring forward. We are planning for our fall interviews this month.

Pastoral Care Committee

Visits continue. The Shannex services on October 25th cancelled due to Covid and we are waiting to hear regarding this Friday’s Remembrance services.

Affirming Committee

There is ongoing discussion with other churches who are affirming or interested to host Chroma NB for an education afternoon -Harmony United has offered to host in new year. Since the last meeting we have had two incidences of disturbance. On October 15th, a gentleman was at bottom of stairs advising people against entering and against our affirming stance. Rev Ian determined that he was from a church down the road and contacted one of the senior pastors and spoke to them. Last week a different person threw a flag onto our steps that had hate language written on it. Mike Martin saw it and took it inside and contacted property maintenance. Dannie Foret recommended a police report be addressed as soon as possible.

Sue contacted Bill, Rev Ian, and Chris. Sue went to KV Valley Police station and reported it to one of the constables there. They advised they will increase surveillance. This person was known to them as he has been seen locally waving flags on street corners with similar language and symbols of skeletons in other places that have the inclusion flag posted - etc. An announcement was given in the sanctuary on Sunday by Sue that this not unexpected when we have become an Affirming Church,

and it reminds us of the congregational commitment to welcome all -even those that are troubled
...the Affirming process offers the love of Christ.