

## Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – Jan 24, 2024

**In attendance:** Bob Crowley, Bill Whittaker, Bruce Amey, Diane Tonge, Ray Tonge, Brion Crossman, John Hill. **On Zoom:** Rev Ian Manson, Barb McBean, Dan Forret, Marilyn Robertson, Chris Young, Stu Baker, Una Wilson, Hally and Carolyn Kimball, Sue King.

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

**Approval of Agenda** – Diane Tonge moved approval of the agenda, as rearranged by Bob. Bill Whittaker 2<sup>nd</sup> Carried.

**Approval of Minutes** – Brion moved approval of the minutes from Dec 13, 2023. Bruce Amey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report – 2023 financial results** – Revenue was close to budget. We ended the year with a \$10,000 surplus which was transferred to building fund. No extraordinary expenses. Considerable money was saved by the mid-year departure of Rev Bowley.

**Budget for 2024** – This reflects staff salary increases and a potentially larger ministry expense as well as inflationary increases to expenses. An additional \$2,000 was budgeted for donation to the refugee family sponsored by Saint Andrew and Saint David / St. Davids United Church congregations.

**Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the 2023 financial report and a \$175,000 budget for 2024 to present to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Diane Tonge 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- **Safe Church Committee update** – Bill commented that COVID deaths in NB have exceeded 1,000. Be aware and stay safe.
- **Reality Check on Governance** – Chris reminded us that the working committees need more members.
- **Where to from here discussion - Faith Profile Committee** – Bob commented on the upcoming course offered by Region. See Faith Committee Report for details. Presented on six Saturdays for two hours beginning Feb 10, 2024, at a cost of \$99 for the 1<sup>st</sup> attendee and \$25 for each additional. Bob will talk with interested parties.
- **Volunteer to assist with Choir Room window coverings** – Marilyn and Carolyn are working on it.

**Correspondence:** Bob read a note from Hally, wondering if pew Bibles can be returned to the sanctuary. Consensus was yes. Hally will look after it.

**New Business:** The 2023 annual report was reviewed for accuracy and omissions. **Bill Whittaker moved acceptance of report for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Bruce Amey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.** The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Feb 11, 2024, immediately after the worship service.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. *Christian Life & Growth – see attached report.*
2. *Worship – see attached report.* Sue reminded us of Pancake Supper followed by a Lenten Service (*in lieu of an Ash Wednesday Service*) in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. We are invited to join with St. David's for a Good Friday 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. *Home Mission Council – no report.*
10. *Finance & Trustee – no report.*
11. *Youth Representative – no report.*
12. *Affirming Committee – see attached report.* - Mar 16 Pie week celebration, joining with Harmony United for an educational session on the programs offered by Chroma NB.
13. *Region – see attached report.*
14. *Minister's report – no report.*

Diane Tonge moved adjournment at 8:48 PM

Rev. Manson closed with a prayer.

Next council meeting will be in person at the church and on Zoom on Wednesday Feb 14, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Ian Manson

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Region** (Submitted by Bob Crowley)

One item of interest is an online course being offered for lay people. "Reimagining Church-Reclaiming your Call". This course runs 6 Saturdays from Feb 10 to Apr 20, 2 hours each session. Cost is \$99 plus \$25 for each additional person. For Council consideration. I think it is timely in light of Faith Profile.

### **Home Mission Council**

No report

### **Faith Profile Committee** (Submitted by Bob Crowley)

We have just started to draft our report. Hope to be ready for the congregation for early March. We will want to review with the Council, in a closed session, prior to going to the congregation.

### **Christian Life & Growth** (Submitted by Una Wilson)

CLG is busy planning for 2024. Some highlights are as follows:

- There are Sunday School facilitators signed up until the end of March except for March 10.
- Kathryn is organizing a "Book Club" using articles from the Broadview magazine. It will start on January 24 using Zoom. Rev. Ian will facilitate.
- We are planning a Spring Wellness Retreat on April 27 in MacDonald Hall. Tania Margeson will give a presentation on Anxiety and Karen Young will lead a chair or mat yoga practice. A third presentation will be on nutritious cooking.
- Applications for the Al Graham Memorial Award will be submitted by April 28 to allow more time for CLG and Council to consider them.

### **Worship Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

- Christmas services went very well.
- Community Connections this Sunday KV Food Basket and February 25<sup>th</sup> hope to welcome Romero House.
- Communion February 11<sup>th</sup> for Reign of Christ Sunday
- Shrove pancake Supper February 13<sup>th</sup> with combined prayer service to follow to include Ash Wednesday liturgy. Lent starts.
- Worship theme for Lent, and suggested we draw on some of Kate Bowler's work and explore how faith and hope can be sustained while taking seriously the challenges and imperfections of life.
- Name tags to continue -Rev Ian is researching a program where they can be printed and worn with lanyards.
- Received an invitation from St. David's UC to join them for a service on Good Friday. The committee expressed interest in exploring this possibility, and Rev. Ian will be in touch with Alicia to discuss what this might look like.

### **Property Maintenance Committee** (Submitted by Bill Whittaker)

- outside side entrance halogen bulb replaced
- bows were placed over storm drains at the front and back of the church to prevent freezing
- power bar, shredder, and phone obtained for the office
- joy sign and stair lights were taken down and stored
- LED floodlight purchased to replace bulb illuminating the church sign on the front of the building
- Embers planned on starting their program last Tuesday January 08th
- fire alarm system inspected (passed) by Shield Security. Waiting for Clearance Certificate

**Outreach Committee** (Submitted by Barb McBean)

Our focus until Feb. 11 will be the Blessing Bags for distribution to charities in SJ. Carolyn Kimball is heading this up, with Sandy Stanley's help.

We have completed our Newcomers program and Heather McDonald has delivered all the extra products to the SJ YMCA NEWCOMERS for their use.

**Ministry & Personnel Committee**

No Report

**Pastoral Care Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

Reverend Ian and Sue visited three families last week. Communion was received with appreciation.

**Affirming Committee** (Submitted by Sue King)

- Chroma NB has been contacted to present an education session to all local United Churches on their programs.
- Anticipated date is Pie Week -March 14<sup>th</sup> and it may be split into 2 sessions -one at Harmony United and one at QUC. There is a \$250 cost for each presentation. Discussions are continued.
- As a joint united Church venture to further education regarding Reconciliation we have secured a special performance of Stolen Sisters (look at the website for more info [Stolen Sisters - Persistence Theatre](#)) on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 to be held at Harmony United at 6.30 pm -Cost -donation only .
- Joining Affirming Committee with Worship Committee not discussed -Sue King staying on as Chair for now -leadership will be re-visited.