

**Brunswick Street United Church
Regular Meeting of Church Council
7 pm, Wednesday, June 18, 2003**



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as called by the Chair

Location: Brunswick Street United Church, 2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, Nova Scotia

Chair: Scott Barber

Recording Secretary: Lucinda Montizambert

Members:

Guests:

Regrets:

Quorum:

Meeting began:

Welcome and Prayers

Section 333 update - Gus

- Σ Gus put forward the motion concerning the request to hold 333 in abeyance for a year) at the Presbytery meeting on June 10 (insert motion here)
- Σ Presbytery response was that it was ruled out of order because the review had already been started. The Section 333 is going on but so far only the chairperson has been chosen
- Σ Conference will have oversight of the process
- Σ We have to decide if we want to go ahead with a complaint to Conference as we discussed on Pentecost
- Σ Presbytery's expectation is that they will go ahead into the new process on the basis of the Task Force report moving it into the new process
- Σ They are finding that they didn't know what they were getting into since some people who are very familiar with the United Church Manual have said that the task force overstepped their authority and that the report is flawed
- Σ Lorna: At Conference we were told that we should launch a complaint and then conference would have to carry out an investigation
- Σ Scott: the response from Janice Gaw to his letter was "all in good time"
- Σ Gus: the church as a legitimate complaint but do we want to go on record that this is a systemic issue and that this is not the first time For a long time Presbytery has mismanaged their role vis a vis BSUC - the complaint should go back to before 1993
- Σ Jim: in fact, for more than 20 years Presbytery has not given us a round of endorsement but a grudging approval
- Σ Lorna: at Conference we were told that our letter should go to General Council (general secretary and general moderator)
- Σ Jim: We had a conflict within our church so we asked for help from Presbytery and now we have a conflict with Presbytery

Some additional points (didn't record speaker)

- Σ The problem is that the body that has the overseer power does not have our best interest in mind
- Σ Presbytery does not know how to handle conflict
- Σ There should be 3 aspects to the complaint:
 - Σ Task force report is flawed
 - Σ Intervention with grant process
 - Σ Historical bias

Scott to write letter and bring to council for approval - it has to be read by every council member and

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approved. The letter will go to Church on Sunday for signatures and follow up with others who aren't at church for their signatures

Motion by Lucinda for Scott to write letter of complaint as discussed and seconded by Elnora

Motion passed

More discussion ensued and the motion was passed again after the discussion which included a discussion of pros and concerns as follows:

Pros

Opens the process

Makes it official

It's a strong action

Requires a response

Will prevent us from just stewing

Concerns

Could make some people angry

Transparency and plain language are needed so members understand it

It was decided that the motion was indeed passed

Hugh went over Financial Statement

Σ He suggested that we should have a budget

Σ He mentioned that Camp B shows up on the statement as equity and Jim asked why the other buildings are not included here?

Σ Hugh said he will show the other buildings here in future statements

Σ Discussion of Pre-authorized remittance - advantage of this is that it may get people to get into regular relationship of supporting the Church - a minimum of 10 persons giving \$10 per month would make it worthwhile since we would have to pay 50cents to National to manage it

Σ Scott moved acceptance of the financial statements

Σ Lorna seconded it

North End Council of Churches (NECC) and the Halifax Inner City Initiative (HICI)

Gus: North End Council of Churches was a council of the five north end Churches (Brunswick Street United, Cornwallis Street Baptists, St. Patricks Catholic, St. Georges Anglican and Trinity Anglican) at times we were represented by others (whom we sent) in meetings

The NECC hired Denise Levangee to do a crime prevention initiative a few years ago with a grant from the federal Department of Justice

At the end of that initiative a man named Gordon Michael came to us at the end of the summer and said that he had a great idea and that he needed a sponsor

While Gus and Lorna were away on vacation the initiative was agreed to by the NECC without the input of Gus and Lorna and the initiative received a grant of approximately 100K

By fall, Gus and Lorna, along with 3 other churches, had huge reservations about the project and felt that it was a make work project for Mr. Michael

George Leach (St. Patricks) due to his discomfort with the initiative, pulled out of the NECC very quickly at that time. Gus and Lorna, after asking a lot of questions about the initiative and receiving no satisfactory responses, also decided to pull out of the NECC - they stopped going to meetings as soon as they left the NECC. The last meeting that Gus and Lorna attended before leaving the NECC, it was agreed that the HICI would form its own organization. This didn't happen.

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Information/Announcements

Adjourned:

Prayers

Appendix

Signed: _____(Secretary) _____ (Chair)