

Brunswick Street United Church

Regular Meeting of Church Council

Thursday, January 25, 2006
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As called by the Chair of Church Council, Annette Chaisson-Lauzon

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

Meeting Chair: Supervising Minister, Rev. David Hart

Recording Secretary: Scott Barber

Attendance: Rev. David Hart, Rev. Robert Chapman, David Inkpen, Don Farmer, Elnora Roue, Hazel Andrews, Beverly Johnston, Jim Sykes, Ron Briggs, Lindley Johnston, Scott Barber, Hugh Creighton

Quorum: yes

Meeting began: 7pm

Welcome: Rev. David Hart

Opening Prayer: Scott Barber

Previous minutes: December 1, 2005 Regular Meeting of Council. Motion to ratify previous minutes deferred until next council meeting.

** Task: Recording Secretary to print previous minutes for distribution at Sunday Service*

Business arising from minutes:

- Discussion of monies available for repairs/maintenance of sanctuary lighting, and the motion at December's council authorizing the expenditure. Monies available, and motion sufficient. Reference to fund for future roof repair.

** Task: Jim Sykes to move forward with repairs.*

- February application deadline for Mission and Service grant application.
- Back pay owed to Lorna Pendleton was deposited in her account in December. Back pension monies are owed by both parties. (as per United Church requirements)

** Task: Payment to be made on behalf of Brunswick Street United Church by accountant Hugh Creighton.*

New Correspondence:

- Camp Brunswick Society Secretary in a note to Rev. Hart informs council that the Society has moved its office equipment, etc. from the "Youth Room" office at Brunswick Street United Church. The Camp Brunswick Society Offices are now located on the second floor of the North End Parent Resource Centre on Uniacke Street in Halifax.
- Reference to CIT program funds applied for in partnership with Brunswick Street United Church (cosigners trustees Hazel Andrews and Jim Sykes, and Chairperson Annette Chaisson-Lauzon.)

Current Meeting Agenda: Agenda for current meeting outlined by acting chair.

- Annual General Meeting
- Lorna Pendleton's pension
- Second representative to the new Mission Board
- Proposed amendment to restructuring document.
- Audit
- Other reports
- Moving forward as a congregation

2006 Annual General Meeting

- The Annual General Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, February 19th, 2006. (consensus)

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** Task: Reports from council members, volunteers and employees to be given to Ron Briggs for publishing in the official annual report by February 5, 2006.*

** Tasks: Announce Annual General Meeting at Sunday Service, and in the bulletin. (Scott Barber) Email and phone reminders re: AGM and reports. (Hazel Andrews and Scott Barber)*

Lorna Pendleton's Pension

- Hugh Creighton answered questions regarding the financial obligations of both parties (Brunswick Street United Church and Lorna Pendleton) to the United Church of Canada Pension Fund. Brunswick Street United Church owes \$16, 427.71 (sixteen thousand, four hundred and twenty-seven dollars and seventy-one cents) as per Hugh Creighton's correspondence with Rev. Kendall Harrison and Maritime Conference. Lorna Pendleton remains responsible for her portion of outstanding contributions (roughly estimated at \$10, 000 by Hugh Creighton)
- Don Farmer asked about the timing of receipts from our Mission and Service Fund Grant and anticipated Mission Board requirements. Hugh Creighton gave an explanation of the timing and availability of funds. (Brunswick Street United Church is able to make this required payment and continue to meet its other obligations, this payment is a requirement of the United Church of Canada Pension Fund.)

** Task: It was the general consensus of those members present that Hugh Creighton follow through in meeting the church's obligations by confirming the amount owed and remitting payment when we have received the "Last Quarter" portion of our Mission and Service Fund grant.*

Audit

- Ron Briggs reported that some new items and proofs are required, nothing to raise alarms about other than being behind schedule.

**Task: Ron Briggs hopes to have documents in hand for a February 8, 2006 meeting of the Halifax Presbytery Finance and Planning Committee, and for the Brunswick Street United Church Annual General Meeting.*

- David Inkpen asked about the same auditing firm doing the numbers for the 2005 fiscal year. discussion followed.

Motion: moved by Jim Sykes, seconded by Hazel Andrews that Ron Briggs will approach our current auditors to provide an audit for the 2005 fiscal year.
Passed (unanimously)

Representation on new Mission Board

- Rev. David Hart reports that all of the churches involved have appointed representatives to the mission board. Rev. Hart read a list to council:

Bethany United Church: Anne Pugh
Brunswick Street United Church: Hazel Andrews (and one more person)
Edgewood United Church: Mary Burey
Fort Massey United Church: Leslie McLean
Memorial United Church: Anna Freeman
St. Andrews United Church: Ralph Fiske
St. John's United Church: Dr. Naomi MacDonald
St. Matthew's United Church: Gordon Michael

- Possible dates for first meeting of the Brunswick Street Mission Board: the 9th, 16th, or 22nd of February, 2006. Being called by Supervising Minister Rev. David Hart.

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- Discussion regarding need for a second representative from Brunswick Street United Church to the Mission Board.

Motion: moved by Ron Briggs and seconded by Jim Sykes that Scott Barber be appointed a representative to the Brunswick Street Mission Board on behalf of Brunswick Street United Church.
Passed (unanimously)

- Discussion
 - Income from funds split 80% mission 10% congregation 10% camp (reference September 2005 Church Council Documents)
 - New budget submission for grant application to Mission and Service Fund
 - Director of Mission: to be Order of Ministry, timeline to appointment possibly one year, depending on actions of the new Mission Board.

** Task: Hugh Creighton will investigate what is needed for 2006 grant application assisted by Ron Briggs, Don Farmer and David Inkpen as Hugh may require.*

Proposed Amendment to Restructuring Document.

- "In order to protect the best interests of the congregation and mission, and in keeping with the polity of the United Church of Canada and the spirit of this proposal, none of the financial or property assets of the Brunswick Street United Church, may be liquidated or sold without the express permission of the Halifax Presbytery."
- It is understood (as expressed by Rev. David Hart) that this restriction affects the capitol of our investments, but not the earnings from said investments, and does not disallow reinvestment of capitol.

Motion: moved by Ron Briggs and seconded by Hazel Andrews that the clause "In order to protect the best interests of the congregation and mission, and in keeping with the polity of the United Church of Canada and the spirit of this proposal, none of the financial or property assets of the Brunswick Street United Church, may be liquidated or sold without the express permission of the Halifax Presbytery." shall added to the existing document outlining the restructuring of Brunswick Street United Church and Mission.
Motion passed. (1 abstained)

- Jim Sykes: proposes rule that undesignated bequests be invested with the only the income from such investments being available for expenditure.
- Hugh Creighton: there is a need to discuss the Sheila Hart bequest to the Benevolent Fund.
- Brunswick Street United Church Trustees and Church Council remain in control of assets and profits.
- David Inkpen raised questions about donations to the church for camping programs.

Financial Report

- Accountant Hugh Creighton circulated an Income Statement and Balance Sheet covering the period to December 31st., 2005 (Attached)
- Terry Paul Choyce asked for clarification re: allocations for the breakfast program. These figures may be found as item "Drop In" in the revenue and expenditure portions of the Income Statement.
- Don Farmer pointed out that our Pension Fund liabilities are not reflected in the financial report. Hugh Creighton will re-state the details in an amended report.

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- Jim Sykes had questions and comments regarding “Action Direct “ monies with the Royal Bank, whether these would go into a “Roofing Fund”. There was discussion of the Heating Fund set up when the present church building was constructed.

Motion: moved by Jim Sykes and seconded by Ron Briggs that \$30,500 from the Royal Bank of Canada Action Direct Account be reinvested by the Trustees.

Motion passed.

The Brunswick Street Mission Board

- There was general discussion and questions regarding the new Mission Board. Beverly Johnston asked Rev. Hart to give a description of a possible agenda for the first meeting of the Mission Board. Rev. Hart spoke about some of the first tasks facing the board, such as ensuring there are 6 community representatives to the board.
- Rev. Hart also addressed the question of when a Director might be hired for the mission. This would depend on the new board, but David laid out an outline of the process which could take up to one year to complete. (from needs assessment through advertising to the actual hiring) There was discussion about the classifications of various members of the order of ministry as it may pertain to our situation. (Pastoral relationships, diaconal ministries, etc.)

[Stretch break led by Rev. Hart]

Moving Forward as a Congregation

- Rev. Hart put the question to Council: “*What is to become of the congregation without its Mission obligations?*”
- His thoughts were that our burden will be lighter and our tasks more simple.
- A sense of our needs: a small council of half-dozen or so to manage the life of the congregation. No committees, go with the individual talents of Council members and congregation.
- A future Council agenda may include reports from the Trustees and Treasurer, a Camp Property report, Sunday services, pastoral care concerns, liaison with the Mission Board, minister’s report, representation to Halifax Presbytery.
- Halifax Presbytery will appoint a Supervising Minister for Council Meetings.
- Spokespeople for the congregation would include Ministry personnel (such as lay person Terry Paul Choyce, and the Council Chairperson.
- Church Council would still require a Chairperson and a Lay Representative to Halifax Presbytery.
- Question about what type of ministerial employee will we be able afford. Council reminded that this will become a concern of the new Mission Board
 - There followed a discussion of employment categories and requirements for supply vs. regular part-time employment of ministry personnel, and the costs associated with the various arrangements. differences between Day and Weekend Supply, and Regular Part-time employment.
- Council size: a discussion regarding size and membership of council followed, and a consensus was reached, to be presented to the congregation as a nomination list at the next Annual General Meeting.

***Task:** *Outgoing council will recommend the following nominees for election to Brunswick Street United Church Council at the Annual General Meeting on February 19, 2006:*

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- Jim Sykes, Chairperson - Trustee
- Hazel Andrew, Treasurer - Trustee
- Beverly Johnston, Secretary
- Ron Briggs, Vice-Chair, Administration/Finance - Trustee
- Elnora Rue, member-at-large
- Lindley Johnston, member-at-large
- Scott Barber, member-at-large
- Sandra Oakley-Andrews, member-at-large

- Terry Paul Choyce, lay ministry and representative to Halifax Presbytery (ex officio member of Church Council)
- Supervising Minister (ex-officio member of Church Council)

- Quorum would require 4 (four) voting members of council and well as the presence of a member of the Order of Ministry in the United Church of Canada.

** Task: Rev. David Hart will ask Halifax Presbytery to appoint a new Supervising Minister to replace him as his term comes to an end.*

Motion: moved by Lindley Johnston and seconded by Elnora Roue the Brunswick Street United Church pay Terry Paul Choyce \$200 (two hundred dollars) per weekend for her services as a Lay Minister, to be applied from and including the weekend of January 1st, 2006.
Motion passed.

** Task: Scott Barber will check the minutes of council for the previous motion passed in council authorizing payment to Terry Paul Choyce and forward the information to Ron Briggs, Hazel Andrews, Terry Paul Choyce and Rev. David Hart.*

- Concern was expressed by Beverly Johnston regarding Hugh Creighton feelings and enumeration as our accountant, music director and dedicated supporter.
- Jim Sykes reminded Council that we need to know the budget in order to make decisions.
- Don Farmer noted that while Hughes continued services as an accountant may not be required by the congregation, he may continue to provide valuable service to the Mission Board in that capacity.

Closing Prayer: Terry Paul Choyce led us in our closing prayer.