

Fairlawn Governing Council March 19, 2024

Agenda/Minutes

Zoom meeting:

Attending: Vicki Stuart (Chair), John Ryerson, Rev Cameron Watts , Judy Langstaff ,Tom Salisbury, Steve Dunk, Allan Hux

Regrets Amanda Hancox

1. Opening Prayer – Rev Cameron Watts
2. Guiding principles - John
3. Minutes of January 23 and Feb 20, 2024 for approval - see appendix A
Moved Judy Langstaff
Seconded Allan Hux
Carried
4. Presentation and discussion on going forward – Cameron Watts
Action: We reviewed the January summary and post meeting summary prepared by Cam and started the process of looking for ideas to move us forward. It was agreed that the messaging could be shared with the community of faith. Discussion will continue at the May meeting. See appendix B
5. Lay representatives to Shining Waters

The 2024 Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting (RCM) will be held on June 7-8, 2024 at North Bramalea United Church in Brampton (same location as last year).

The Region has not had a lot of impact on us except in the hiring process of Ministers. The social justice stuff Cam and I used to be involved with has been almost entirely focused on 905. With this back drop and going back a few years, we have not made it a priority to tap into our lay representation entitlement.

"Fairlawn had a total of 249 members for the current year, so that means you can have up to 3 lay reps (that doesn't include ministry personnel)." per Donna Rutz <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/lay-reps/#about>

This upcoming RCM meeting has some issues coming up that warrant us filling out our lay representation.

This is not at all onerous as a volunteer activity, the last time it mattered was the Remit meeting that Allan attended as our lay rep. last fall.

(Note: Fairlawn will cover the fee and other direct costs)

Motion to appoint 3 lay representatives, Allan Hux, Sandy Giles, Vicki Stuart and record them in Churchhub prior to the June Shining Waters RCM.

Moved by John Ryerson

Seconded by Steve Dunk

Carried

6. AGM Agenda – see appendix C for draft

The agenda base is the same as previous years.

We have deferred updating our constitution for several years, with the exception of adding two members at large category. Vicki and John have looked at the recent Rosedale update and appreciate its simplicity. However, time does not permit us to focus on a new constitution at this time. There was discussion on a Constitution change to support governance and filling vacancies on GC. Vicki agreed to draft.

7. Financial update – Steve Dunk verbal report

We should have the audited statements by the end of April

We will be in a positive financial position largely as a result of bequests.

With the new lease, the budget is being reworked to incorporate the new costs associated with the revenue (which has started this month)

Trustees will be looking at more investments vs cash in light of new revenue cash flow.

8. Reports

Cluster - distributed

HRR – Allan - hiring of approved positions is proceeding

Property – distributed

Explore Spirituality – Cam reported on coverage of tech support for Easter Services.

Embrace Action – no report

Pastoral Care – no report

9. Other business:

Next GC meeting May 21, Sept 17, Nov 19

AGM date May 26

Refugee after church potluck lunch April 7, IDOP April 13, Scugog Sunday May 5

10. Guiding principles reviewed by John Ryerson

11. Motion for adjournment by John Ryerson

Appendices

A) Minutes

B) Visioning discussion paper

C) Draft agenda for AGM

A) Appendix 2 minutes

Fairlawn Governing Council January 23 2024 Minutes

Zoom meeting

Attending: Vicki Stuart, John Ryerson, Rev Cameron Watts, Judy Langstaff (Chair), Tom Salisbury, Steve Dunk

Regrets: Amanda Hancox

1. Welcome and opening by Cameron Watts
2. Guiding principles by John Ryerson
3. Approval of Minutes Dec 12, 2023 appended
Moved by Steve Dunk
Seconded by John Ryerson
Carried
4. Information item: Jean Ward's contract to June 30 is completed on our side, awaiting formal approval from the Region.
5. Budget 2024 update – deferred to the March 19 meeting
6. Negotiating Team Update Steve and Vicki
There have been extensive negotiations over the last few weeks. Negotiations are close to conclusion. A confidential report was presented for discussion and direction on two proposals.

The Negotiating Committee has approved the proposed agreements subject to finalizing details.

The Trustees are aware of the proposals.

Approval must also be obtained from the Region on one of the leases.

Motion: That Governing Council authorize the Trustees to enter into one of the leases, subject to finalization of the negotiations within the next month. Further investigation is to be done regarding the other proposed transaction.

Moved by Steve Dunk

Seconded by Vickie Stuart

Carried

7. Indigenous Church Remit brought forward item

As previously agreed, a Greetings information package was distributed and the Minister is to provide an explanation of the Remit to our community of faith.

Shining Waters has passed the Remit. Fairlawn GC had 4 attendees at the Shining Waters presentation. Allan Hux and Cam are voting members and supported the motion.

Motion to approve the Remit and forward our decision to the National Church.

That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union; and

the changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

Moved by Vicki Stuart

Seconded by Allan Hux

Carried

Action: John to complete the Remit vote form for the national church and provide a Greetings report on our decision.

8. Reports were circulated.

Pastoral Care

Cluster

Trustees: Return on investments for 2023 were about 2%. This meant that total assets under management increased slightly (to about \$3,333,200), including about \$245,000 of bequests added, \$270,000 withdrawn to support operating expenses, and \$5,000 withdrawn from the Social Justice fund. An additional \$45,000 in bequests went straight to operating, without passing through the trustees.

Property – Vicki reported at the meeting that the fire panel quotes were coming in favourably

9. Other business:

Summer services highlights by Cam were provided. Staff holidays will be passed through HRR Meeting dates: Mar 19, May 21, AGM tbd, Sept 17, Nov 19

Gathering at Fairlawn Jan 27th - no updates

Annual report - process questions from Gary Schlee

Feb 11 visit to Textile Museum for Black History month

Book Sale dates April 25th Chaired by Kathy and Tom Salisbury - a large team are at work sorting and pricing the donations

Celebrations Jan Schlee, leading the Pastoral Ministry . Welcome Kathy Salisbury and Elaine Pitts as new chairs of Pastoral Care.

Refugees – Allan reported on a discussion he had concerning a refugee family

“A member of the congregation, Margaret Harper, and her daughter, Dianne Denton, are part of a Group of Five putting together an application to sponsor an Afghan refugee family currently in Pakistan. Dianne used to live and work in Afghanistan, and it is the family of her close friend that they are sponsoring.” Cam offered to make space in a service and it was agreed that discussions with Kathy Magladry should continue as she is our resident expert.

10. Adjournment

Review of Guiding Principles – John Ryerson

Adjournment Moved by John Ryerson.

Minutes for GC February 20 2024

Zoom meeting:

Attending: Amanda Hancox, (Chair), Vicki Stuart, John Ryerson, Rev Cameron Watts , Judy Langstaff ,Tom Salisbury, Steve Dunk, Allan Hux , Guest Barb Steep

Opening Prayer – Rev Cameron Watts

Guiding principles - John

Minutes January 23, 2024 see appendix deferred

Update on lease status by Vicki Stuart

An estimate of the commencement date was presented.

Purpose of this special meeting: this is in synch with Visioning Day. Cam had hoped for a more organic discussion , however, intervening events including the imminent lease start, necessitated this meeting.

Presentation by Cameron Watts

From the Visioning Day

1. We need to upgrade our online presence
2. We need to rethink our staffing model

Purpose for two new positions

Director of Communications

- 20 hours/week
- Sunday tech/recording/editing
- website and social media management, including
 - creation of content
 - editing
 - design and planning
- Need for close collaboration among staff and with the Worship Facilitator

Worship Facilitator

- 10 hours/week
- prepares all worship materials
- Opens and closes church on Sundays
- works with Director of Communications to ensure all audio/tech is ready
- prepares ppt and any other audio-visual materials for worship

- need for close collaboration among staff and with the Director of Communication

Discussion followed.

Motion:

In response to perceived needs, Governing Council approves in principle two positions, a director of communications for up to 20 hours per week and a worship facilitator for no more than 13.5 hours per week conditional on rates and terms determined by the HR&R Committee and

approved by the Treasurer. Wording of any ads for the positions and contracts to be approved by Vicki Stuart. Approval also granted to expend reasonable sums to advertise the positions.

Moved by Vicki Stuart

Seconded by Judy Langstaff

Carried

Other business:

Next GC meeting March 19th

Motion for adjournment by John Ryerson

B) Appendix Visioning discussion paper

A reminder of what, for me, are some core people values as we embark on our future:

1. We are in the business of encouraging people on their spiritual journey and embodying hope.
2. We are all we have right now, we may inspire others to join in but we have to start with us.
3. We have who we need and will have who we will need.
4. We are not after people to take up the reins, we want to bring in new people because we are perceived as relevant and let them decide how much energy to bring (e.g., Do you think anyone outside Fairlawn cares that we have a council or property committee?).

5. As we talk about and set priorities, we will be giving direction to our current structure (e.g. if we determine that we need to broaden our understanding of spiritual journeys, Exploring Spirituality or a sub-group will be tasked with this).

Here are what I propose will guide our next steps. I suggest that in each one we come up with one initiative (max. 2) so we aren't handing anyone or any group a bucket of responsibilities. We can add new ones in the years to come.

1. We believe we are called to minister with younger people, and need to discover what is relevant to them. This requires us to engage with them where they are (our online presence must be excellent and engaging), build on what we do that draws them to us, and surface the youthful spirit in many of us for the sake of an ongoing conversation (one example may be to have an invited sit-down with the Choir members whom I think represent a significant representation of that demographic [promising them this is a one-off moment, not a slick way to get them onto committees]).
2. We want to do fun events, that may be new or may be from past joys. With teams that only have to plan one a year. I suggest we think of something quarterly.
3. Climate Change: How do we become more of a community beacon for engaging with the effects of this new reality we are living into?
4. We want to be a busy building, perhaps for youth or seniors or LGBTQ2IA+ members of the community without displacing important ministries like Walk In.

Here are some implications we will need to address asap. Please note that circumstances, happily, have required us to begin to address the first 3.

1. We need to upgrade our online presence
2. We need to rethink our staffing model
3. We need to re-think our use of space (we already have a sense of this from our hoped-for rentals).
4. We may (or may not) tweak the job descriptions for our committees, so people feel free to move from one to the other and others can be invited on board depending on their interest and energy.

Draft, names may change

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF
Fairlawn Avenue United Church for 2023
Sunday, May 26, 2024

Rev Cameron Watts, welcome and opening remarks

Amanda Hancox - Zoom procedures for this hybrid meeting and Fairlawn's Guiding Principles

Notice of this meeting

Thanks to Joanne for her support in getting this meeting organized.

Rev Cameron Watts: Opening Prayer

1. Opening Motion

- To appoint John Kimmel as Chair of the meeting
- To appoint John Ryerson as Recording Secretary for the AGM
- To adopt the Agenda for the 2024 Fairlawn Avenue United Church AGM
- To approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2023, AGM
- To approve all community of faith attendees eligible to vote (members and adherents)
- To approve Heather de la Rue as Roll Clerk for Fairlawn

Moved by

Seconded by

2. In Memoriam

Insert name : acknowledged the individuals departed from April 2022 – present. Peter stated the person's name as photos came up on the screen

Rev. Rob Metcalf: Memoriam prayer

3. Report From Governing Council

Rev Cameron Watts and Mary Ellen Richardson

4. Constitutional Amendment

Moved by

Seconded by

5. 2023 Annual Report and Approval

The Audited Annual Report was distributed in April 2024, and is also available on our website.

- o Motion: To approve the 2024 Annual Report

Moved by

Seconded by

Motion to approve the auditor for 2024

Move by Steve Dunk

Seconded by

6. Treasurer's Report , Steve Dunk

7. Financial Report for 2023 - Steve Dunk

Steve Dunk: Review of 2023 Financial Statements, summary, and commentary

Tom Salisbury Review of 2023. Trustee accounts. Legacy and Ministerial Funds Summary & Commentary

Steve Dink: Review of 2024 Budget

- o Motion: To approve the 2023 financial statements and 2024 budget

Moved by
Seconded by

8. Expressions of Gratitude

John Kimmel: thank volunteers who have served this Community of Faith in the past, and Express our Gratitude.

9. Governing Council Slate and Positions for 2024

10. John Kimmel: Reviewed the slate of members for the 2024 Governing Council. Particularly for the benefit of those on the phone, the names were read.

For information – our lay Regional representatives are Vicki Stuart, Sandy Giles Byrne and Allan Hux

- Chair vacant
- Vacant, Vice Chair
- John Ryerson, Secretary
- Steve Dunk, Treasurer
- Chair Human Resources and Relationships Allan Hux
- Chair Explore Spirituality vacant
- John Ryerson and Sandy Giles Byrne, Co-Chairs Embrace Action
- Chair Experience Belonging vacant
- Chair Property, Vicki Stuart
- Member at Large Judy Langstaff
- Member at large Amanda Hancox
- Liaison from Trustees: Tom Salisbury
- Rev. Cameron Watts (Ex officio)

- Motion: To approve the slate and positions of Governing Council

Moved by
Seconded by

11. Board of Trustees

Tom Salisbury as liaison to Governing Council presented the slate of trustees for 2024

The 2024 Trustees slate are:

- Jennifer Duchesne
- Tom Salisbury (Liaison to Governing Council)
- George Swift
- Derek Wishart
- Gordon Pitts

Moved by
Seconded by

12. Future Directions - Rev Cameron Watts

13. Questions and answers

In addition, as always, we welcome and are happy to receive your questions, feedback, and comments at any time, and will do our best to address these as we receive them.

gc@fairlawnavenueunited.ca)

14. Adjournment – John Kimmel

15. Closing Prayer

John Kimmel: Thank you

Rev Ambury Stuart: Closing prayer