**Congregational Meeting**

Knox-Metropolitan United Church

February 23, 2025

**Present:**

*Minister*

Rev. Christa Eidsness, minister of Knox-Metropolitan United Church

*Full Members and adherents*

The sign in sheet did not differentiate between full members and adherents. Quorum was confirmed by an indication that the vast majority of attendees, substantially exceeding 20, identified themselves as full members. Individuals were present both in person and via Zoom.

Barbara Shourounis

Bev Lundahl

Bill Johnson

Bob Ivanochko

Carole Bryant

Cheryl Atkinson

Colette Forbes

David Calam

David Cawood

Debbie Mayer

Debra Burnett

Donna Jones

Elizabeth Calam

Erin Angus

Ev Mazurkie

Fred Atkinson

Gary Selb

Gilda Trealeven-Graham

Gloria Lutz

Greg Horsman

Heather Berriault

Jacqueline Crowther

Jim Garden

Joan Garden

Julia Eckart

Karen Haggman

Keith Rever

Laurie Ulmer

Liz Ivanochko

Mari-Anne Berriault

Marianne Rever

Marilyn Totten

Marlene Hall

Paula Ricci

Peter Ricci

Phyllis Perkins

Polly Williams-Olesen

Ray Lutz

Stewart Graham

Susan McLaren

*Guests*

Linda Gunningham, member of the commission

Bryan Tudor, member of the commission

Rev. Mitchell Anderson, member of the commission

Rev. Peter Gilmer, minister to the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

Rev. Wayne Beamer, interim ministry consultant

**Call to order**

Bryan Tudor, chair of the commission, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Bryan introduced the commission.

Bryan will serve as meeting chair, and the Rev. Mitchell Anderson will serve as secretary.

**Prayer**

The Rev. Christa Eidsness led the meeting in prayer

**Minimum number of members present**

The chair confirmed that there were at least 20 full members present, as well as the minister of the congregation.

**Authorization of adherents to vote**

Motion: that adherents of Knox-Metropolitan United Church be authorized to vote on the matters being brought before the meeting.

Moved, seconded, and **carried**.

**Agenda**

Motion: that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Moved, seconded, and **carried**.

Questions to ensure that there would be opportunities for discussion and questions. The chair confirmed that there would be opportunities for questions throughout.

**Governance proposal**

The interim ministry consultant the Rev. Wayne Beamer introduced the governance proposal.

The proposal is to create a new church council to act as the governing body of the congregation, focused on the future, on vision, and on Christian formation. This new model is designed to be simpler, clearer in communication, and less rigid than the previous model. The four sectors represent four areas of work that the congregation undertakes. There is more flexibility for the sectors to organize themselves in the way that works best for them than in the previous structure, with intentional forms of dialogue with the church council.

A member posed a question to Wayne about provisions for trustees and ensuring alignment with the United Church of Canada Act, amongst other documents governing trustees.

Action item: to review the provisions in the governance proposal relating to trustees to ensure compliance with the United Church of Canada Act and other United Church governing documents, especially as it relates to establishing terms of office for trustees

David Calam, member of the transition team presented his perspectives on the proposal, noting that the proposal is for a year to allow development and refinement. He noted the four sectors are intentionally a different number and different names, reflecting the smaller size of the church, and highlighted in particular the infrastructure sector and congregational life sectors and their work.

Colette Forbes, member of the transition team, spoke of the faith formation and community sectors.

A member posed a question confirming that the proposal is that the proposed new governance model for 1 year. The transition team confirmed that it be for 1 year, with the intent to clarify and adjust as necessary to a 2026 congregational meeting.

A member asked about how property and administration will be governed. Who will oversee rentals, property management, and other items that were under the purview of the administration ministry in the previous structure? A member also asked how people would populate the new structure, and if people in existing roles would transfer automatically to comparable roles in the new structure.

Wayne Beamer provided that the new church council will determine how to implementation. Christa Eidsness clarified that if the proposal is adopted today that implementation will take time and is targeting implementation in June.

A member asked a question about the ministry and personnel committee, and how staff relate to the structure.

Christa Eidsness noted that the ministry and personnel committee is not part of one of the four sectors and is required by the United Church of Canada Manual, as are trustees. The proposed ministry and personnel committee will serve as an advisory body to the council, ensuring that healthy relationships between staff and council are undertaken, but does not envision that the council will provide the supervision to staff. The new council will determine who will supervise staff and how.

A member asked about the reporting structure for trustees, whether they should report to the council directly or indirectly through the infrastructure sector.

The transition team indicated that while the trustees do act subject to the direction of the council, that the proposal will be that communication will be through the infrastructure sector.

Motion: that the governance structure as presented for a one-year trial period be approved.

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

**Budget**

The Rev. Mitchell Anderson presented the budget as proposed.

Motion: that the budget for 2025 be approved

Moved and seconded

A member questioned why the endowment income and expenses are included. David Calam explained his perspective on behalf of the finance committee. A member offered an amendment to improve clarity in the budget:

Motion: to amend the budget to remove the endowment investment income and the endowment investment management costs from the operating budget and to disclose those separately for greater clarity for the congregation.

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

Action item: the commission to circulate a revised budget reflecting the congregation’s direction.

Another member wondered if the building repairs cost maybe lower in 2025 than was in 2024, given the number.

Another member asked about the donations line. Christa clarified that

Motion: that the budget be adopted as amended

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

Motion: to direct that Knox-Metropolitan not spend any money on legal fees against Hart Godden

Moved but without seconder, the motion was lost.

Multiple members expressed their concerns about this matter.

**Extension of adjournment**

Motion: to extend the meeting by a half hour.

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

**2023 AGM minutes**

Motion: to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2023 congregational meeting

Moved and seconded

Motion: to amend to add the worship report to the minutes.

Carried by unanimous consent

Motion: to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2023 congregational meeting as amended.

Moved, seconded, **carried**

**2024 annual report**

The chair went through the reports one by one and invited questions from the meeting.

The meeting wishes to affirm and note the great work that David Cawood does in outreach.

A member noted that the membership of committees and bodies are not listed. The chair clarified that the committees were in flux while the new structure was being developed. Some committees continued functioning, others were de facto disbanded.

A member clarified that the financial statements as shown are unreviewed.

The chair noted that there is discussion about the merits of an audit relative to a review. Some perspectives felt that a review was sufficient. The chair noted that the CRA recommends an audit for charities with revenues exceeding $250,000.

Motion: to receive the 2024 annual report, inclusive of the unreviewed 2024 financial statements

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

**Financial review**

David Calam discussed the working relationship with our existing financial reviewer and the merits of a financial review relative to an audit.

Motion: that the congregation appoint Dudley and Co. as independent reviewer for the 2024 financial statements.

Moved, seconded, **carried**.

**Next congregational meeting**

The chair noted that with the governance proposal affirmed, that there will need to be another congregational meeting to appoint members of the new governance bodies.

**Other matters**

The congregation thanked the members of the commission and the staff for their work.

**Adjournment**

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Christa closed in prayer.