

HIGHLAND HILLS UNIFIED BOARD MEETING

Wednesday April 3, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Brian Austen, Rebekah Chevalier, Shawn Chevalier, Katy Cox, Neil Darby, Erskine Flook, Janet Heffer, Debbie Sherwin, Pat Thornett, Rev. Max Ward, Barbara Walford-Davis

Regrets: Joan Chapple, Bruce McClennan, Marybeth Wilson

Katy Cox was welcomed to the Board as chair of Pastoral Care. Rev. Max opened with prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Debbie Sherwin/ Barbara Walford-Davis moved and seconded the approval of the agenda. **Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 24, 2024, Unified Board meeting.

Motion: Rebekah Chevalier/ Erskine Flook moved and seconded acceptance. **Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING

Debbie noted that regarding the remit, at ECORC 84% of communities of faith have responded.

Business Conducted Via Email:

Motion: Shawn Chevalier/ Joan Chapple moved and seconded that we direct the Trustees to sell the Manse to Rev. Maxwell Ward and Amanda Austin for \$375,000. **Carried.**

PASTORAL CHARGE

Chair: Janet Heffer gave a report. There have been many things going on, including the manse sale and Maple Lake United Church building.

Clergy: Rev. Max Ward had sent a report in advance (attached).

Treasurer and Finance: Erskine Flook distributed an interim report on finances. He will send out updated financial statements reconciled with the bank statements later in the month. At the annual meeting there was a discussion of terminology. Erskine noted that he had been using terms that come with the software. He has now changed the terms to Church General Funds and Trustee Administered Fund. He also has added notes to indicate what the funds do.

A comment was made about Erskine's comment at the annual meeting that we will be running a deficit this year and ongoing and whether this is something that should be discussed at a future meeting. Erskine agreed this would be good.

There will be a separate fund set up from the sale of the manse to cover the cost of the new housing allowance.

Motion: Moved and seconded by Erskine Flook/ Neil Darby that HHUC and pastoral charge financial reports be accepted. **Carried.**

Ministry and Personnel: Shawn Chevalier reported regarding the shared ministry agreement with Hope that a reminder has been sent for payment for the first quarter. The current term is six months until the end of June. He will be convening a meeting at the end of April regarding extending it until the end of the year, which is the assumption.

Manse: There is nothing to report.

Maple Lake Trustees Report and Update: The last condition will soon be waived (rezoning). This is taking a while. It was noted that Highland Hills had loaned Maple Lake \$1,000 to cover any costs.

Worship/Pulpit Supply/CE: Marybeth Wilson had sent a report in advance (attached).

Regarding David Moore as a Voluntary Associate Minister, the following motion was made.

Motion: Barbara Walford-Davis/ Katy Cox moved and seconded that the Unified Board of Highland Hills Pastoral Charge has received assurance that the marriages performed.
a) will be a pastoral function under the oversight and discipline of the Regional Council, and
b) will be properly registered in records maintained by a pastoral charge of the United Church and will comply with the provincial requirements and approves the request of David Moore to be recognized as a Voluntary Associate Minister of this Community of Faith. **Carried.**

Outreach: Pat Thornett had emailed a report in advance (attached). She highlighted the Basic Income event on April 13. The following motion came at the recommendation of the Outreach Committee.

Motion: Pat Thornett/ Debbie Sherwin moved and seconded that HHUC purchase five \$50 food gift cards to give to SIRCH. **Carried.** It was discussed that the congregation could be made aware of the opportunity to also contribute. This could be announced in the written announcements and from the pulpit.

ACCEPTANCE OF HHPC REPORTS

Motion: Brian Austen/ Neil Darby moved and seconded the acceptance of all committee reports. **Carried.**

HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH REPORTS

ECORC: Debbie Sherwin had sent a report in advance (attached). She highlighted the sale of two church properties and also the Seeds of Hope grants from the United Church Foundation. She has been wondering if those seniors attending Diners Club here are aware of all the resources available and whether speakers could come in and do presentations, and whether there might be some Seeds of Hope funding that could be accessed.

Trustees: Bruce McClennan had emailed his report in advance (attached).

Property: Neil Darby met with the deputy fire chief who inspected the range hood in the kitchen and said it was acceptable. The grab bar in the upstairs washroom was reinstalled properly. Regarding the lift, we are waiting to hear back from the elevator securing the TSSA people to come and do the inspection. The panels cannot be installed until inspection. The light switch was changed to a full switch rather than motion sensor. There was a payment made recently and there is only about 10% of the costs left to pay.

The meeting moved to being in camera. Neil and Brian will follow through on the issue of caretaking duties.

UCW: Pat had emailed a report in advance (attached).

ACCEPTANCE OF HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH REPORTS

Motion: Rebekah Chevalier/ Barbara Walford- Davis moved and seconded acceptance of the reports. **Carried.**

NEW CHARGE BUSINESS

Affirm Process Update: Debbie Sherwin reported. The committee is arranging a first meeting. There are two new committee members. They are reading the document “Open Hearts,” and Affirm United is providing support. There have only been 13 responses to the two questions. The vision statement needs to be reviewed and changed as needed. A marriage policy needs to be created. A bulletin board in the basement will have an Affirming focus. We will be approaching Minden Pride for speakers and to share their stories of exclusion. There is an Affirm membership fee for congregations of slightly over \$100.

Motion: Katy Cox/ Debbie Sherwin moved and seconded that Highland Hills United take out a membership in Affirm United, recognizing that this is part of the discernment process to see if HHUC wants to become an Affirming congregation. Carried with an abstention.

Manse Sale Update: The closing should hopefully be by the end of April.

Lift Financing and Fundraising: We have raised more than \$23,000. The number of seats in the sanctuary may need to be revisited. The fire chief will be providing a number.

Next meetings: The next Board meeting was set for Wednesday, June 5, at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Max closed the meeting with a prayer. Neil moved adjournment.

Chair, Janet Heffer

Secretary, Rebekah Chevalier