

**Mark St. United Church
COUNCIL MINUTES**

Monday, June 22, 2015
Friendship Hall
6:30 p.m.

Recorded by: Coralee Vass

Chair: Pat Cole

Present: Maggie Allin, Murray Batten, Sylvia Cashmore, Pat Cole, Eilert Frerichs, Tim Holland, Carolyn Holmes, Rosemary Hughes, Mitchell Parker, Ian Sine, Coralee Vass,

Regrets: Peter Mitchell, Christine Baayen, Gail Corbett, Sarah Gilmore, Karrie Whitaker.

1. **Opening Devotions** were conducted by Eilert Frerichs:

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

3. On motion of Tim Holland, seconded by Sylvia Cashmore, the Agenda was adopted without changes.

4. **Minutes of meeting held May 25, 2015**

On motion of Rosemary Hughes, seconded by Murray Batten, the Minutes of the last meeting were adopted.

5.0 **Finance** Carolyn Holmes

Carolyn Holmes reported that the audit of our financial statements will be completed by Steven Bark.

Finance Report – presented by Carolyn Holmes.

a) Moved by Carolyn Holmes, seconded by Sylvia Cashmore

That whereas as MSUC is named in a will as a beneficiary of \$5,000.00 it is undesignated, be it resolved that it be deposited into the Investment Savings Account.

The motion was approved.

b) Moved by Carolyn Holmes, seconded by Ian Sine

Whereas the General Account is low in funds, be it resolved that the Finance Chair be approved to transfer funds from the Investment Savings Account if it is deemed necessary before this Council reconvenes.

The motion was approved.

Carolyn Holmes presented the Financial Report as of May 31, 2015 (Appendix # 2).

On motion of Rosemary Hughes, seconded by Tim Holland, the Report of the Finance Committee was approved.

5. REPORTS

5.1. Chair's Report

Pat Cole (5 min)

Concept for Discussion Update – continued discussions with Presbytery. Re: EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development.

5.2. Presbytery Report

Murray Batten (5 min)

Focused on 90th Anniversary of United Church. Bobby Fillier filling in at Aspley United Church.

5.3. UCW Report

Gail Corbett (5 min)

5.4. Life of the Church

Eilert Frerichs (10min)

a) It was agreed on motion of Carolyn Holmes, seconded by Sylvia Cashmore that:
a letter of condolence and solidarity to AME Charleston, South Carolina be sent on behalf of MSUC.

Eilert will draft the letter and it will be sent over the signatures of Eilert and Pat.

b) Special Events Committee

Motion: "that a Special Events Committee be set up with the following Mandate and that the Chair of Council be asked to appoint a minimum of 3 members to the Committee.

Mandate

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Special Events Committee is to foster community within Mark Street United Church and the wider community.

2. Goals

In order to meet the above purpose, the Special Events will

- Identify, research, plan and execute events and initiatives to build community within Mark Street United Church and that reach out to and engage the wider community;
- Seek to raise awareness of Mark Street United Church in the wider community
- Raise funds for the ministry and mission of Mark Street United Church

3. **Budget**

In November each year, the Committee will present an annual work plan and proposed budget to the Council for its approval. Additional events together with a budget will be presented to Council as required. All cash advances require approval of the Treasurer of Mark Street United Church.

4. **Membership**

The Committee is expected to recruit others members and volunteers as required.

5. **Accountability**

The Committee is accountable to the Church Council through its annual work plan and budget request.

On motion of Carolyn Holmes, seconded by Maggie Allin, the proposal was adopted.

5.5. **Transition Committee – Interim Report** Carolyn Holmes (5min)

Setting Goals from information received from Congregation 1st week of July. Will be meeting frequently during summer so they can present in September.

5.6. **Outreach Report (Appendix I)**

Motion that all Reports be received for information purposes: Sylvia Cashmore
Seconded: Rosemary Hughes
In favour: All in favour
Not in favour: No Nays
Carried: Accepted

6. **Action Items:**

At the last Council meeting, Maggie Allin had agreed to draft a letter to those who have been missing from Church to encourage them to return and participate. She reported that she had difficulty drafting such a letter and recommended instead that a Newsletter including a financial report, transition report, and encouraging people to attend church, Fall events would be the route to go. JoAnne Miller would be willing to develop it with Maggie's assistance.

On motion of Carolyn Holmes, seconded by Tim Holland, it was agreed that a Newsletter be developed by Maggie Allin and JoAnn Miller and be distributed by the members of council to the members of MSUC by middle of September, 2015.

7. **Board's Mission/Vision Statement**

Eilert began by asking members of the Council to list their favourite hymns. The following titles were given:
"What a Friend We have in Jesus", "Will Your Anchor Hold?", "I Danced in the Morning", "How Great Thou Art", "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", "Come In, Come In and Sit Down", "Make a Joyful Noise", "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah", "Amazing Grace".

He then asked “how do we see God based on the hymns we have chosen?” The following words were given in answer: God is...

- Listener, trustworthy, conquers all, not to be feared, accepting, awesome, welcoming

In answer to the question, “how do we see human life based on the hymns we have chosen?” these words emerged:

- Challenging, fragile, uncertain, bleak, uncertain

The third question was, “based on the hymns, what do we see as the purpose of the congregation?”

These are the responses:

- Spread the good news of abundant life; provide strength, refuge, comfort. We then considered “core values” or “principles” that guide the work of Council and the following words were suggested:
- Faithfulness, compassion, community, respect, inclusivity, honesty, accepting, trusting and reliable.

Lastly, the group began working on a “mission statement”:

- The Council will model faithful discipleship to the congregation of Mark Street United Church by being a community that is caring, respectful, open, courageous and compassionate with one another;
- Council will provide leadership by....
- Council will be the congregation’s “vision keeper” by...

Members of the group saw the above statement as a helpful beginning for further work towards completing the mission statement at future meetings of the Council.

8. Closing Eilert /Pat (5 min)

9. Next Meeting -Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix I Outreach Report June 18th, 2015

Community Gardens

The metal frame from the “old” Mark St sign has been removed. The roots around the transformer will be removed in the fall. We will ask for some help weeding, and trimming the boxwood in the Celtic Garden. Mulch will follow.

Breakfast for Learning

Funding is not require until start-up in the fall. No report on the Blessings in a Backpack nor “East City Kids” initiative.

Food Sundays

Mark St will continue to support the Food Bank at St Luke’s Anglican Church. Perishable and non-perishable items are most appreciated.

1. UCW REPORT

The June meeting was held at the home of Jewell Bennett. It was a barbecue and pool party. We were entertained by charming and talented dancers , beginners and advanced . Over 45 UCW Members and Friends attended.

2. CHURCH DOORS.

The UCW is financing the varnishing of the Oak doors which we refurbished . This will prevent further winter damage. Melissa Hope, Chair of Maintenance is in charge.

3. Best Western offered to Pres. Jewell Bennett a truck load of furniture. Cathcart trucking is storing it for us. It will be listed for auction. Proceeds for use by the Mark St. UCW.

UCW and Friends will commence in the Fall, Sept. 8, 2015.

Happy Summer everyone
Gail Corbett
UCW REP.