

**Council of Guiding Elders – Minutes Video-Conf January 17th, 2023
Edith Rankin Memorial United Church**

In Attendance: Bill Spencer, Peter Merkley, Ruth Pettis, Gordon Sinclair, Andrew Robb, Ken Williams, Rev. Michelle Down

Regrets: Lorna Thorne

Guests:

1. **Call to order:** Bill called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Mission Statement: We seek to be a welcoming community, anchored in God’s love, challenged to sail on the winds of the spirit, sharing the Good News of Christ with each other and the world.

Devotional: Rev. Down opened with the prayer for understanding and our responsibility in today’s world.

Commendations, Regrets, Prayer Concerns: Kim Barney and the choir were commended for the excellent cantata presented Dec 18th THANK YOU ALL!.

A number of member’s names were offered up in prayer.

Correspondence: None

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings:**

Motion: Moved by Ken Williams, seconded by Gordon Sinclair to accept the minutes of the regular council meeting of December 12th, 2022 by Video conf.

CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Ken Williams, seconded by Andrew Robb to accept the minutes of the in-camera council meeting of December 12th, 2022 by Video conf.

CARRIED

3. **Business Arising:**

4. **New Business:**

1. **Policy & Practices Manual Update:**

The current Policy & Practices Manual limits team member terms to two 3 year terms. The intent is to encourage turn over while at the same time offer potential candidates a clear understanding of their commitment. However, it has often been the case that new candidates are hard to find and existing team members enjoy the challenges and stay on beyond the six years.

Council felt the issue needs further consideration and should be referred to the Nominating and Admin Teams for their input. Most felt some flexibility should be allowed.

2. **Discernment Team Update:**

Andrew Robb noted that the team continues to work on the Affirmation Process. He noted plans for an open meeting to receive input from the congregation prior to a planned Annual Congregational Meeting near the end of February. The team has also been working with other congregations in the area and regional workshops to understand the broader United Church direction.

3. **Church Office Email**

Bill noted that the church office email had been paired with Rev. Down for a brief interim period when the church was without an Administrative Assistant. Now that Stephanie Van Der Pryt has been confirmed as Office Administrator, it would be appropriate to unpair her email with Rev. Down's.

Motion: Moved by Gordon Sinclair, seconded by Peter Merkley that the church office email (churchoffice@ermuc.ca) is to be unpaired with any other church email.

CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Peter Merkley, seconded by Andrew Robb to move “in-camera” to discuss personnel issues.

CARRIED

4. **M&P Update:**

Andrew Robb noted the M&P Committee recommendation to appoint Andrew as chair. He also noted the three vacancies on M&P and the need to identify three more interested members – one of whom would be ready to continue as chair in 2024.

Motion: Moved by Ruth Pettis, seconded by Peter Merkley to appoint Andrew Robb as Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

CARRIED

5. **Member resignations:**

Eric and Lynda Palmer have resigned from the congregation.

Motion: Moved by Gordon Sinclair, seconded by Ruth Pettis that Eric and Lynda Palmer be removed from ERMUC membership list.

CARRIED

Alan and Lorraine Fyke have resigned from the congregation.

Motion: Moved by Gordon Sinclair, seconded by Andrew Robb that Flo and Lorne be removed from ERMUC membership list.

CARRIED

Carolyn Bond has resigned from the congregation.

Motion: Moved by Peter Merkley, seconded by Ruth Pettis that Carolyn Bond be removed from ERMUC membership list.

CARRIED

6. **Meeting Dates:**

Council meeting dates from February through June of 2023 will be held virtually the third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 – 10:30 am.

5. **Reports:**

1. **Treasurers Report:**

Peter reviewed his Treasurer's Report, noting in particular, the work being undertaken with our new bookkeeper, Bill Galt, including Interim Financial Statements, and preparation for the Annual "Notice to Reader" financial Statements and a number of loan payments.

He noted the need/work, identified in Dec, to develop two stewardship committees and for Council to provide leadership to these. One - a "Stewardship Committee" to focus on broad issues of stewardship and financial programming and a second, a "Planned Giving Committee" focused on an individual's current and anticipated growth in annual giving.

Council's mandate will be to recommend a revised Financial Plan to the congregation by April of 2023.

In the Treasurer's Report, Peter had recorded his personal suggestions as to the Mandate of both the Stewardship Committee and the Planned Giving Committee.

Motion: Moved by Peter Merkley, seconded by Andrew Robb that Council agrees to establish a Stewardship Committee and a Planned Giving Committee with the respective Mandates as outlined in the Treasurer's Report.

CARRIED

2. **Minister's Reports:**

As the time was getting late Rev. Down deferred her report until our next meeting.

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3. **Discernment Team Report:**

Announcements: none

Closing Prayer: Michelle closed with a prayer.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of council will be virtual, on Wednesday **February 15th, 2023** beginning at 9:00 am.

Bill Spencer, Chair

Ken Williams, Secretary