

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
Wednesday, February 28, 2024- 7 pm
on Zoom

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Bedford United Church Council was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom with Tim Rorabeck in the Chair.

Present: Tim Rorabeck (Chair), Jill Wilson, Matt Murphy, Tammy Humphreys, Maurice Tugwell, Andrea McQuillin, Janice Reid, Jocelyn Tingley, Sarah McLean, Jan Oakey, Staff: Rev. Katie Aven and Carolyn Crowell, Secretary.

Regrets: Carol McKnight

Opening Worship: Rev. Katie Aven opened with prayer.

1. **We assemble as Stewards of Spiritual Vision and Temporal Gifts:**

It was moved (Sarah McLean/Jocelyn Tingley) and **CARRIED**

1. that Council empower all present to discuss all matters, in accordance with BUC bylaws. In accordance with the BUC constitution, only Council members are eligible to vote on matters brought before Council,
2. that Council approves the February 28, 2024 Agenda, and
3. that Council adopt the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting of Council as printed and circulated by email and of the email motion approving the constitution of the Search Committee for the Lead Minister of BUC.

Correspondence: None

2. **WE SEEK AN INSPIRED PATH FORWARD RELATIVE TO:**

- a) **Stewardship Campaign:** Tammy Humphreys and Jen Johnson have been taking the lead on this campaign which has built on the one we did last year. Twenty three households have replied with a total raised of \$5480. **It was agreed** to extend the campaign for 2 more weeks.

- b) 2023 Financials:** (Appendix A) Janice Reid reviewed the statements for BUC for 2023. She noted the decline in PAR givings. There was an excellent response to the campaign in 2023 - 35K. The Sustainable Future Committee did not spend as much as it had anticipated
It was moved (Janice Reid/Tim Rorabeck) and **CARRIED** that this report be accepted & presented to the AGM.
- c) 2024 Budget:** (Appendix B) Janice noted that this budget has a deficit of \$87,000. It includes all the amounts the Ministry Teams, etc. have requested. Some have raised their request substantially. She has attempted to suggest some ways in which this can be reduced. After extended discussion the following motion was put:
It was moved (Janice Reid/Andrea McQuillin) and **CARRIED** that this budget, with the \$87,000. deficit be presented to the congregation at the AGM. (It was noted that not all the congregation may understand how our budget is funded. We need to raise it ourselves, not receive it from national.)
- d) Ministry & Personnel Ministry Team:** Jill Wilson reported:
1. The UCC has mandated a **6.3% cost of living raise** for Ordained and Commissioned Ministers. The Council needs to decide whether or not we give the same raise to our other leaders Rev. Katie Aven recused herself. After discussion, the following motion was put:
It was moved (Jill Wilson/Matt Murphy) and **CARRIED** that the 6.3% cost of living raise be given to all Staff.
 2. **Statutory Holidays:** Jill Wilson explained some changes made by the Federal government re these holidays which may affect our Staff.
It was moved (Jill Wilson/Janice Reid) and **CARRIED** that Jen Johnson and Brian Skelly work until noon on December 24/24 and December 31/24.
- e) Sustainable Future Committee:** Andrea McQuillin reported that she has circulated the report of the Consultant with an explanatory paragraph preceding it written by Janice Reid, Mary Belliveau and Andrea McQuillin.
- g) Raffle Update:** We have had a request from the Outreach Committee asking for Council's stand on a Raffle they are planning. A lottery licence will be needed which the Council will need to approve. The Council does not oppose this.

f) Nominating Committee: Andrea McQuillin has been working with Val Welsh on this work. They are planning a series of events to make newcomers feel more welcome at BUC. The first will be a Volunteer Fair on March 24. They also plan receptions after church and a half day workshop for Council and the Sustainable Future Committee.

h) Community Meal: (Appendix C) Jocelyn Tingley introduced this project to the Council. Our insurance provider will need to be consulted (the Trustees arrange for our insurance). A concern was expressed about Safety and about Communications. We could check with St. Andrews UC which holds a similar meal weekly.

i) Worship & Music Ministry Team Concern: A concern was voiced about the safety of the Chancel with so much equipment on it. The state of the chancel also makes it hard to rent.

j) Lead Minister Search Committee Update: Matt Murphy reported that they have had an initial meeting including the Regional representative and are setting up a specific email for receiving resumes, etc. Mary Belliveau is acting as Secretary at the moment.

k) Annual General Meeting: It was moved (Tim Rorabeck/Maurice Tugwell) and **CARRIED** that the BUC Annual General Meeting be held on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

Closing Prayer: Matt Murphy offered the closing prayer.

3) We go out into the World to Serve with Joy and Compassion:

Closing Motion: It was moved (Jill Wilson/Tim Rorabeck) and **CARRIED** that Council delegate to its Executive the power to deal with any urgent matters arising before the next meeting and that this Council meeting be adjourned.

.....
Tim Rorabeck, Chair

.....
Carolyn Crowell, Secretary

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom.