

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2025

1) Present: Rev. YongSeok Baek; Sue Cote; Sue Foss;
Linda Hardaker; Steve Hardaker; Rev. Doug Jones;
Sandra Macdonald (Chair); Larry McRae;
Marianne McRae (Secretary) and Marie Vahrmeyer

Absent: Judy Kerr; Bill Utting and Nancy Utting

2) Opening Prayer: Rev. Baek

3) Acceptance of Agenda with an amendment to include a discussion on the outcome of Linda Hardaker's presentation on Denominational Dues: moved by Steve Hardaker and seconded by Marie Vahrmeyer to accept the amended agenda for this meeting. Carried

4) Acceptance of Previous Minutes: It was moved by Linda Hardaker and seconded by Sue Foss that the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting be accepted as printed. Carried

Continuing Items arising from the previous minutes:

4.0 Email address: Linda Hardaker reported that the email address has now been established and it is working well for e-transfers. It is donate@stdavids-queenstonuc.ca. Darlene gets notifications. A letter will go out to all members that this is available for donations to the General fund, but M & S donations can't be submitted by e-transfer. Darlene will look after cancelling any PAR members who wish to switch to e-transfer.

Canada Helps is useful for memorial donations so it should be kept on the website as an option.

4.1 Boiler Review: A letter will go out to the congregation stressing the need of a new boiler and air conditioning unit for the choir loft. The boiler should last this winter, but not next. The cost will be \$18 - \$20,000.to replace both.

4.2 Conversion to LED fixtures: The cost to replace all bulbs would be \$7250 plus tax. The cost to replace all fixtures and fans plus bulbs would be \$11895 plus tax. This cost could be included in the Faithful Footprints grant application. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4.3 The 100th Anniversary of the United Church: A mass choir in celebration of the event is being planned for May 4th, 2025 at Wesley United Church in Welland in the

afternoon. Our church anniversary is scheduled for the same day when we would normally have a guest speaker and lunch.

100 days of Prayer are being written to be concluded on the actual anniversary of the UC in June.

4.4 Rev. Baek announced that a celebration of new and transferring members will be held during our church anniversary service.

5) Consent Agenda: Reports were received from the CE; Youth; Worship & Faith Life; Spiritual Care and Property committees. Sue Cote asked if police checks have been done for Amanda and Enoch as Sunday School teachers. A letter can be submitted for a volunteer discount. There is an annual declaration form available that would suffice.

A motion to accept the Consent agenda was moved by Doug Jones; seconded by Steve Hardaker and carried.

6) Facility Requests: None

7) New Business: Linda Hardaker presented the 2025 budget proposed by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board. She noted that we are in worse shape going into 2025 than we were going into 2024. The budget is bare bones but still showing a deficit. There will be \$201,000 in expenses and \$160,000 in income. More fundraising events are needed and must be encouraged. Currently, there is \$50,000 in the operating account and \$60,000 in the capital account. \$20,000 will be moved if necessary from the capital account to the operating account at the end of 2025. Projected cash reserves will be \$185,000 at the end of 2025. The breakdown of the budget includes in part: 4% for denominational dues; 11% for contracted salaries; 57% for salaries; 5% for insurance; 5% for property and maintenance and 4% for utilities
It was moved by Linda Hardaker and seconded by Sue Cote that a budget of \$160,000 in income and \$201,000 in expenses be recommended to the congregation for approval. Carried.

Linda Hardaker reported on her presentation to NAUC (Niagara Association of United Churches) re: denominational dues. It was well-received by those in attendance. Many reported that their churches are in similar financial straits. A working group to prepare a proposal for Regional Council was formed. Linda will participate in discussions with this group.

Steve Hardaker reminded us that the congregation must approve any changes to the constitution at the Annual Meeting on March 9th. There is a standing agenda for the Annual Meeting including approval of reports. The Worship & Faith Life Committee now has 2 voting members on the Board. The question was raised if this should be reduced to 1 since all members of the sub-committees in attendance have voting privileges. This proposed change requires an amendment to the constitution to reduce the W & FL number of voting members to 1. This was moved by Steve Hardaker; seconded by Doug Jones and carried.

A further amendment is to change: "The Annual Congregational Meeting is to be held no later than the end of February to now read no later than the end of March". This was moved by Steve Hardaker; Seconded by Linda Hardaker and carried.

8) Correspondence: A letter was received from the Extension Council including a cheque for \$5,000. These were sent to each congregation in the region.

9) Further business: Sue Cote mentioned that 90th birthdays will be celebrated by Martha Fleming on Feb. 14 and Elma Gardner on July 1st and Mary Buttle will turn 100 in August.

10.1 Finance – Marianne – as noted above

10.2 Worship & Faith Life – Nancy - nothing further

10.3 Christian Education – Sue Foss - nothing further

10.4 UCW – nothing further

10.5 Trustees – Rev. Doug – nothing further

10.6 Fundraising – None

11) Last Call for additional items/issues: None

12) Adjournment: Adjournment was moved by Marie Vahrmeyer, seconded by Sue Foss and Carried

13) Closing prayer: Rev. Baek led us in prayer.

15) Next Meeting: will be held on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 at 7 p.m.