

# ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

## CHURCH BOARD MINUTES

MAY 21, 2024

**1) Present:** Sue Foss; Lyndsay Gazzard; Linda Hardaker; Steve Hardaker; Rev. Doug Jones; Sandra Macdonald (Chair); Larry McRae; Marianne McRae (Secretary) Bill Utting; Nancy Utting and Marie Vahrmeyer

**Absent:** Rev. YongSeok Baek

**2) Opening Prayer:** Rev. Jones

**3) Acceptance of Agenda:** It was moved by Nancy Utting and seconded by Linda Hardaker to accept the agenda for this meeting. Carried

**4) Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** It was moved by Larry McRae and seconded by Sue Foss that the minutes of the March 18, 2024 meeting be accepted as printed. Carried

### **Continuing Items arising from the previous minutes:**

**4.0 Financial Viability Analysis:** Linda Hardaker presented a detailed report. It is suggested that concerns arise when there are more than 2 consecutive years with deficits, which we had in 2022; 2023 and project to have in 2024. It is essential that we keep a keen eye on our ongoing expenses and income. We must take a long, hard look at how we will continue to finance our church expenses. We have enough revenue to fund our utilities, but there are many more expenses than those. We do have additional envelope holders replacing those we have lost. It is hoped many of our new people will want to get more involved in the life of the church. The question was raised as to how we can attack future deficits. The question was asked, "How many more years can we carry on with deficits?"

It was suggested that a financial update be published in the bulletin on a weekly basis with a quarterly review. It was further suggested that September would be a good time for a congregational meeting for the purpose of an update on finances.

Rev. Doug offered that the members of Carlton United Church in St. Catharines were told 2 years ahead of time that the church would close on a specific date, but it still came as a shock to many of its congregants.

It will be good to start talking more openly and often about the state of our finances, but not using scare tactics. We don't want to discourage our newer members.

Many thanks were expressed to Linda for the time she spent on preparing this analysis.

**4.1 Faithful Footprints:** The property committee would like to pursue this grant as it could be used to help finance the purchase of a new boiler. Evans Heating and Cooling will carry out an audit on the boiler to assess the total cost of replacement. They will provide a budgetary quote soon.

**5) Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda is a set of reports that can be approved in one motion. The approval endorses all the information contained in each of the reports within the package. Prior to the motion being taken, any Member may request that a report be lifted from the consent agenda and considered separately.

**Reports received include:** Spiritual Care; Christian Education; Finance; Worship and Faith Life; UCW; Property and the Minister's Report. A motion to accept the Consent agenda was moved by Lyndsay; seconded by Steve and carried.

Nancy emphasized that the UCW has committed \$8,000 toward the insurance bill. The ladies deserve tremendous credit and many thanks for their hard work.

## **6) New Business:**

**6.0** Researching the ability to receive money via e-transfer. Larry McRae spoke to this item noting that it will require that the church have an e-mail address. Darlene has concerns about how she will record weekly/monthly/donations received this way. Marianne offered to speak to Darlene to talk her through the process for doing so. Steve will set up the required e-mail address. Arrangements must be made with CIBC in order for e-transfers to be accepted without the need for a code word. It was moved by Lyndsay and seconded by Larry to research the ability to receive monies this way. Carried

**6.1** Lyndsay's replacement as the Chair of Personnel. It was announced that Sue Cote has agreed to accept this position for at least a year, beginning in September. Lyndsay moved the nomination of Sue Cote to the position of Chair of Personnel; seconded by Larry and carried unanimously.

**6.2** Pie Booth at the Lion's Carnival. It was announced that Florence Turner has retired from managing the pie booth. The UCW has nobody

willing to take on this position. It will require someone – or more than 1 person – to take over organizing the event. Bill will continue in his usual role of scheduling volunteers to work in the booth. He will announce the need for a leader on Sunday. Florence is willing to mentor and coach her replacement(s). She will be thanked for her years of service sometime in the fall.

**7) Facility Requests:** Bill spoke to the request received from the minister of Central Church who has asked to produce a video in our sanctuary to use as stock footage for his personal marketing business. Lyndsay expressed her feelings that it does not fit in with our current situation. It was moved by Nancy Utting; seconded by Sue Foss and carried that we let him know we are not interested in moving forward with this proposal at this time.

**8) Correspondence:** None received

**9) Committee Reports in addition to those in the Consent Agenda:**

**9.0** Youth Group – Rev. Baek – none

**9.1** Finance – Marianne – none

**9.2** Worship & Faith Life – Nancy – none

**9.3** Ministry & Personnel – Lyndsay – none

**9.4** UCW – Nancy – none

**9.5** Trustees – Rev. Doug – The ceremony on May 25 for the installation of the Elijah Page marker will have 20 - 40 people in attendance. Steve will put out 2 parking pylons to reserve spaces. The Uttings offered to supply and erect a canopy.

**9.6** Property – Bill – A motion for the committee to go ahead with the purchase and installation of blinds for the gym and kitchen and a new locking mechanism for the front door was previously approved by poll via email. These expenses will be covered under the provincial grant for Anti-Hate Crimes and Racism.

**10) Last Call for additional items/issues:** At this time, Sandra presented Lyndsay with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her many years of service to the Board and church. We wish her all the best in her future move to Northern Ireland with her daughter, Maya. She was also gifted with (slightly used) luggage that was only to be used one way for the move there.

**11) Adjournment:** Nancy moved adjournment, seconded by Lyndsay and Carried

**12) Closing prayer:** Rev. Doug led us in prayer including the very meaningful gesture of the laying on of hands for Lyndsay.