

**Holy Trinity United Church, Elliot Lake – Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 following the Worship Service – Sanctuary  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

-Russ Foy welcomed the 24 congregants in attendance and Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales, Holy Trinity's Pastoral Charge Supervisor, for the business meeting beginning at 11:36 am  
-Russ read aloud the Holy Trinity Journey Statement followed by the Acknowledgement of the Territory and all in attendance read Holy Manners aloud.

**2. Opening Prayer**

-Rev. Melody opened with prayer.

**3. Procedural Motion**

**Motion-AGM-01-2023** that voting rights be extended to all in attendance.  
Moved by Sandy Prest; Seconded by Ann Foy; **Carried.**

**4. Adoption of AGM Agenda for Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Motion-AGM-02-2023** - the Agenda for **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023** be accepted as presented.  
Moved by Nancy Edwards; Seconded by Ian Lilley; **Carried.**

**5. Adoption of AGM Minutes of March 27, 2022**

**Motion AGM-03-2023** – the minutes from **March 27, 2022** be accepted as presented.  
Moved by Nancy Edwards; Seconded by Sina Cuthbert; **Carried.**

**6. Correspondence**

-none

**7. AGM Committee Reports**

**Motion AGM-04-2023** - the 2022 Annual Committee Reports for **February 26, 2023** be accepted as presented with the addition of the Pastoral Charge Supervisors' 2022 Report on pages 15-16 and a change on the Statistical Records 2022, page 12, where Marriages should read 1, not 0.

Moved by Margaret Dean; Seconded by Nancy Edwards; **Carried.**

## 8. Treasurer's AGM Report and Financials

- Elaine West presented the 2022 AGM Treasurer's report
- 2022 ended with a deficit of \$11,756.
- \$10,000 was transferred from the Bequest monies to assist with the expenses in January and February 2022
- M&S giving is staying consistent with the previous year
- additional offerings for Ukraine Relief Fund were strong
- 2023 Budget has a deficit of \$15,680; which will already increase due to Jan/Feb snow plowing and sanding costs of \$2,600 and heating at \$800

**Motion AGM-05-2023** - the Treasurer's 2022 Annual Report for February 26, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Moved by Elaine West; Seconded by Dean Reile; **Carried**.

**Motion AGM-06-2023** – that H&R Block will review the 2023 financial books

Moved by Elaine West; Seconded by Sandy Prest; **Carried**.

-Rev. Melody asked a question regarding the 2023 deficit budget – how does Holy Trinity plan to cover the deficit?

-Answer: Board of Trustees will be consulted to cover the deficit with reserve funds

-Russ Foy thanked Elaine West for her work as Treasurer and with the Board of Trustees

## 9. Nominations

-at this point in the meeting Russ Foy handed over chairing responsibilities to Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales.

-Rev. Melody went through the following list of vacant leadership positions asking if a congregant had prayerfully considered stepping up for the position:

- 1) Regional Council Representative – remains vacant
- 2) Treasurer (after June 30, 2023) – remains vacant
- 3) Ministry & Personnel – Nancy Edwards declared she would remain in the position until the end of June 2023
- 4) Congregational and Council Chair – remains vacant
  - Rev. Melody in her capacity as Pastoral Charge Supervisor, being appointed by Regional Council, will fulfill this role on an interim basis
- 5) Congregational Meeting Secretary – Sina Cuthbert has submitted her name to fill the position

**Motion AGM-07-2023** – that Sina Cuthbert fill the position of *Congregational Meeting* Secretary to the next AGM.

Motion by Ann Foy; Seconded by Roger West; **Carried.**

- 6) Board of Trustees – Russ Foy, Dean Reile, and Nancy-Jo Wannan to continue in their positions as Trustees to the next AGM. Russ was not able to get a hold of Doug Elliot

**Motion AGM-08-2023** – that Russ Foy, Dean Reile, and Nancy-Jo Wannan to continue in their positions as Trustees to the next AGM.

Motion by Sandy Prest; Seconded by Nancy Edwards; **Carried.**

- 7) Church Secretary – Margaret Deans has offered her name to fill the position  
-this offer will be referred to Ministry and Personnel since it is a staff position.

*Governance Transition Discussion – initiated by Rev. Melody*

-Rev. Melody, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Holy Trinity, observed that the congregation does not seem to have the appetite to assume positions of leadership in the church with the current governance structure

-there was vocal agreement to this concern from the congregation

-Holy Trinity committees currently delegate a rep to Council, where decisions are made

-Rev. Melody proposed a Council of the Whole model

-this model would have the whole body participate in decisions

-instead of Council meetings, Rev. Melody would attend congregational meetings every 4-6 weeks, which would take place after the worship service, where the whole congregation would participate in decisions

*Future Considerations Question from Rev. Melody*

-Rev. Melody is concerned that with two key positions of M&P and Treasurer becoming vacant in June and with herself having to step in as interim Chair, that this status quo cannot continue as is

-is the congregation viable the way it is now?

-again, there was vocal agreement to this concern from the congregation

-Rev. Melody asked: with a decrease in congregational energy, investments of \$300,000, and the asset of property and a building – “What is Holy Trinity’s next best step?”

### *Questions/Comments from Congregation*

- congregant: much of the church's financial resources are being used on maintenance instead of outreach
- congregant: not sure of what the future holds, i.e., will the be church closing? This uncertainty makes it difficult to continue to volunteer and give financially
- Rev. Melody advised that there is no current proposal to disband; although it could be an option for the congregation to explore
- to have a serious meeting regarding closing, there would need to be three weeks of notice provided and a discussion of the specifics of closing
- no proxy voting is allowed
- Rev. Melody stated that she is not sure that this is what Holy Trinity wants to do
- we can exist without the property/building and prioritize relationships
- AGM motion of Mar. 27, 2022 allowed the exploration of the development of the property
- there still is the Kindred Works proposal from Nov 2022
- congregant: steadfastly wishes to have Holy Trinity continue to exist and serve
- congregant: a congregant's previous church was sold and the community of faith met in a library and the congregation flourished
- congregant: has many ideas to keep the church building going
- congregant: people forget what Council has already considered and presented
- congregant: there is a divide between the church building vs. community of faith
- congregant: reviewed Comprehensive Review Committee and the 4-page report provided to all congregants in March 2022 where many options regarding the building were investigated and found not to be sufficient long-term, with the exception of the development of the property.

### *Property Development Updates (provided by Russ Foy)*

- 1) Arts Council – Holy Trinity approached Arts Council and their interest is in a new build
  - 2) Foodbank – three directors did a walk through of the church in mid-January and were interested in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall;
    - Russ Foy recently had a sit-down meeting with a Foodbank director and their first preference is a new build; however, they will not rule out other opportunities at this time.
- congregant: suggested the Historical Society is looking for a building to house historical artifacts
  - another congregant's response: Historical Society does not have the funding presently to purchase a building and wishes to have a donation of space
  - congregant: can we financially wait until something happens or do we need to act before that?

- congregant: would like a motion giving the governing body permission to pursue a sale to an organization that would maintain a small worship space for Holy Trinity to use
- congregant: we should sell the building where the buyer will be responsible for maintenance and that we would be able to keep a small space for services
- congregant: we could gift the property to an organization and keep a small space for services
- Rev. Melody, in response to last option, said that it would be possible to divest ourselves of the property; however, there would be mitigating positions to that action
  - we need to be wise in the stewardship of resources and possibly look at working in partnerships in that kind of scenario.
- Rev. Melody also said the body can direct the Trustees to pursue the sale of the property

### *Current Development Options and Division of Assets if Building is Sold*

- 1) Kindred Works Proposal to Develop Property into Housing and Community Space
- 2) Foodbank – preference is a new build; no formal offer; need funding to purchase
- 3) Sell Property to a Developer – need an offer and a motion by congregation

If the building is sold and if there is a community of faith:

-the assets stay with the Trustees with the following requirements in place:

- a) there is a governance structure and leadership in place
- b) there is a commitment to maintain the community of faith

If the building is sold and if the community of faith choose to no longer continue:

-the assets will be directed as follows:

10% to Mission and Service

10% to Indigenous Church

3% to UCC Archives

30% can be directed by the soon-to-be disbanded community of faith

47% to Regional Council for the continuation of UCC ministry in Northern Ontario

-any community of faith plans for disbandment (i.e., last will), is subject to the approval of Regional Council

-Rev. Melody called for a motion where Holy Trinity would continue exploring the Kindred Works proposal

-Roger West made the motion; seconded by Winston Cuthbert

*Questions regarding motion:*

- congregant: will there be enough money left after 3-5 years before Kindred Works begins to build
- Rev. Melody responded that if Holy Trinity signs with Kindred Works, the Trust will be taken over by Kindred Works.
- congregant: reminded others that we will still remain in the church building up to that time
- congregant: what if Holy Trinity can't continue as a community of faith once we have partnered with Kindred Works
- Rev. Melody responded that Regional Council would hold the property; conditions apply
- congregant: asked to wait to call another meeting to discuss all the property options
- Rev. Melody responded that another meeting could be held regarding the property options
- congregant: we are going in circles, we need to vote
- congregant: suggested that the vote should be postponed since Kindred Works was not on this meeting's agenda and some congregants who are not in attendance would want to be here for the vote
- Rev. Melody responded that she had discussed at the last Congregational Meeting on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> that the Kindred Works proposal would be discussed at the AGM on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>
- congregant: requested vote by secret ballot; request was approved
- Ann Foy and Roger West prepared ballots
- Rev. Melody and Rev. Brian Bigelow acted as scrutineers
- Rev. Melody will destroy the ballots after the counting

**Motion AGM-09-2023** – the congregation of Holy Trinity United Church accepts the proposal put forward by Kindred Works.

Motion by Roger West; Seconded by Winston Cuthbert; **Carried; Opposed: 3.**

## 10. New Business

**Next Congregational Meeting: Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service**

-possible agenda items:

- hiring a new church secretary
- do we direct the Trustees to list the property for sale

- Rev. Melody again informed the congregation that if no one stands up for the position of Chair, she will need to call a meeting to discuss the viability of the congregation
- she is concerned about Holy Trinity's level of commitment

**11. Courtesies**

- Russ Foy thanked everyone for attending
- also thanked Kathy Calverley and Roger West for their help

**13. Closing Prayer**

- Rev. Melody closed in prayer

**14. Adjournment**

- motion to adjourn by Nancy Edwards at 1:25 pm

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Russ Foy, Chair

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Kathy Calverley, Congregational Meeting Secretary

Print Name	Signature
1. Kathy Colverley	Kathy Colverley
2. Russell Fay	Russell Fay
3. Melody Duncanson	M. Duncanson (pastoral charge) <sup>Super</sup>
4. Thomasina Cuthbert	Thomasina Cuthbert
5. Beth Bigelow	Beth Bigelow
6. BRIAN BIGELOW	Brian Bigelow
7. EDITH GOYTAN	Edith Goytan
8. NANCY EDWARDS	Nancy Edwards
9. DEAN REINE	Dean Reine
10. SUSAN REINE	Susan Reine
11. SHIRLEY WILSON	Shirley Wilson
12. JOANE MOORE	Joane Moore
13. JOAN STARK	Joan Stark
14. Winston Cuthbert	Winston Cuthbert
15. Robert Bauman	Robert Bauman
16. Kathy Mitchell	Kathy Mitchell
17. Sandra Prest	Sandra Prest
18. Ann Foy	Ann Foy
19. Judith Bower	Judith Bower
20. Lon Lilley	Lon Lilley
21. Margaret Edwards - Lilley	Margaret Edwards - Lilley
22. Elaine West	Elaine West
23. Roger West	Roger West
24. Dorja Jarrett	Dorja Jarrett
25. Margaret Dean	Margaret Dean
Attendees at 2022 AGM Meeting Held on Sunday, February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	