

EASTSIDE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Sarah Tkachuk.

2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.

Mait McNeil moved. Seconded by Jayne Krueger. Carried.

3. Motion to adopt the agenda.

Elaine Hill moved. Seconded by Michelle Didier. Carried.

4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 9, 2019 Congregational Meeting.

Leona Martin moved. Seconded by Anita Tessier. Carried.

5. Faith Story.

Sarah thanked all the people that participated in the JNAC, now Community of Faith Story. She also named the JNAC committee members. She went over the profile and spoke again to the process that was followed by the Leadership Team, the Region, the LSC partners, the Reviewer and the congregation since the fall of 2018. She then reviewed the Findings and the Recommendations that came out of that. One of our main questions is to determine what is our call/ministry? A number of questions were asked and answers, where possible, given as follow:

Q1) Are there time frames/timelines for these recommendations?

A1) Some things have begun such as reviewing the Minister's Job Description to determine where time was being spent and decide whether adjustments may need to be made. There is also a plan to hold a meeting in October to plan, determine timelines, and assign people responsibility for different items. The person that asked the question was not sure that, without concrete plans, she could vote on the Recommendations. Additional comments were made on being confident that things will happen and that time is needed to work with the cluster of churches, etc. in order to make decisions and plans. And also work to determine the balance between outreach and internal demands.

Q2) Have some of the programs been self-funded or have there been plans to make them self-funded?

A2) Some grants have been accessed but more research needs to be done.

Q3) Has all the debt been repaid and is M&S being submitted?

A3) Yes to both. Plus the Regional Assessment has also been paid and the monies received when Whitmore Park closed has been set aside and may be used for some programming.

Q4) Could the Whitmore Park funds be invested so interest could be earned?

A4) These funds will likely be expended over the short-term and generally, for decent interest, they need to be locked in for a longer term. But it may be considered.

Q5) Has church attendance decreased?

A5) Yes, presently has been going down somewhat but giving is stable. That is why the plan is only for 3 years as may not be sustainable longer than that and other plans will need to be made.

Q6) How much is left on the mortgage?

A6) Russell gave the latest figure. Approximately 5 years left to pay off.

Others stood up to speak about the importance of things other than the finances. We come to be nurtured and for the fellowship and for the Minister to nurture us and give us hope. And it

was also stated that many churches are currently in crisis. Comments were made that there is faith that the Leadership Team will do what they need to, plus there are many other teams/committees doing good works and they are open to suggestions and sharing to and from the congregation. Any and all ideas are welcome. And we have come a long way in the last year and a bit but we need to work together and some things do not happen very quickly. It will take time but the plan is to have all the Recommendations completed as soon as they can be, but for sure by the end of three years. Communication will be ongoing and the Leadership Team minutes are currently being posted for anyone wishing to see them. And hardcopies can be posted on the bulletin board and/or provided at the back for anyone unable to access them online. As well, verbal updates will be given on a regular basis. There are also a couple of people who volunteered to provide feedback on the Sunday services but Russell says feedback forms could be done so anyone that wishes could complete them. It would be preferable they not be anonymous as that is not helpful if he or Ministry and Personnel want to follow up on anything.

Sarah thanked Russell and Suzanne for all their patience and work over the last few months. Others made positive comments about the Leadership Team and their work as well.

Sarah then said that any of the following could be done:

- i. adopt the recommendations;
- ii. amend the recommendations;
- iii. make alternative recommendations; or
- iv. refer the decision back for clarification.

Ian Hill moved that the Recommendations be adopted. Seconded by Delia Baidoo. Carried.

6. Enabling Motion.

“the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”

Leona Martin moved. Seconded by Norma Wheatley. Carried.

Sarah reiterated that updates will be given on a regular basis. Russell mentioned that there will be a Cluster Meeting of the United Churches on October 2nd and anyone interested can attend. It is a general meeting. There will be another meeting in November on how we will be the United Church in Regina. He also mentioned work has begun on some items such as having a Citywide Youth Ministry.

7. Motion to Adjourn.

Wanda Barr moved meeting be adjourned at 2:15 pm

Attendees:

Sarah Tkachuk
Russell Mitchell-Walker
Delia Baidoo
Samuel Baidoo
Mary Belle Powers
Brian Mitchell-Walker
Leanne Sudom
Bonny Manz
Elaine Hill
Ian Hill
Maureen Hughes
Dale Banks
Clare Banks
Sheila Kerr
Carl Klein
Beverly Thompson
Wendy Scott
Sherri Nupdal
Michael Tessier
Anita Tessier
Janet Bjorndahl
Sterling Bjorndahl
Sonia Abrahamson

Brian Abrahamson
Brenda Adamko
Barry Adamko
Barb Rio
Marilyn Etter
Wanda Barr
Norma Wheatley
Cathie Henderson
Diane Funk
Carol Murray
Amanda Benesh
Leona Martin
Frank & Carol Hein
Louis Wood
Bonnie Yake
Michelle Didier
Jayne Krueger
Rachel MacDonald
Mait McNeil
Alma Pockrandt