**EASTSIDE PROGRAM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JUNE 04, 2023**

**PROGRAM MEETING NOTICE:** Notice for this meeting was part of the weekly announcements which are sent via email to Eastside members as well as printed copies to those that request them. As well, notice of the meeting was given at the church services.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 by Janet Bjorndahl.

1. **Motion to allow adherents to vote.**

*Moved by Sarah Tkachuk. Seconded by Delia Baidoo. Carried*.

1. **Motion to adopt the agenda.**

*Moved by Bonnie Yake. Seconded by* *Brenda Ademko. Carried.*

1. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the February 26, 2023 Congregational Finance Meeting.**

*Moved by Sam Baidoo. Seconded by Teresa Strachan. Carried.*

1. **Motion to appoint reviewer of Eastside’s 2022 Books.**

*Sonia Abrahamson moved that Sterling Bjorndahl be appointed to review Eastside’s 2022 books. Seconded by Amanda Benesh. Carried.*

1. **Programming Reports**

The written reports were included in the annual report document sent to the members.

a) Faith Formation – There has been a change made this year. Sunday School now

called “Children’s Time” so there will be “Theme Time” held with the congregation,

then Children’s Time after that.

b) Gratitude Team – Maureen Hughes invited people to look over the report in the program. She said they had a good year and had fun. They are still looking for more members as Maureen has been on it for quite awhile and would like to step back. Some people may be worried to join the committee as they seem to be asking for money, which is asked for to help support the church operations. But that’s definitely not all they do. The team is very supportive of each other, and spend some of their time writing and sending thank you notes to all the volunteers at the church. She spoke of how volunteering on committees helps members learn about the church and meet and get to know other members, while providing their gifts of time and talent.

c) Leadership Team – Janet echoed Maureen’s comment about how volunteering helps get to know other members. And spoke of all the activities at the church people can participate in. And not just at the church but all the other programs and activities inside and outside of church others can be invited to. We can grow the congregation in that way and may also grow in diversity. She also announced that the Anglicans have given a year’s notice that they will be withdrawing from their joint ownership agreement in April, 2024. With their consolidation with the other Anglican churches, they no longer have a ministry that can be housed at the Living Spirit Centre.

*Q. Will there be a requirement to buyout the Anglicans as they withdraw from the Living Spirit Centre?*

*A. Sarah spoke to this and says that all the congregations have some valuation in this building but the members cannot compromise the building’s viability and future if they leave. New partnerships are being investigated. And the Council is still working through what the separation might look like. We also have renters in the building that contribute significantly. The Anglicans contributed approximately $13,500.00 in 2022, so not a small amount. Council is hopeful that they will be able to determine a way to make up the difference, either fundraising or new renters, and BoL and ES are still committed to working together in this space. Sarah is one of our three representatives on the LSCC, along with Bonnie Yake and Donna Lindskog but also mentioned they are looking for anyone else that may be interested in joining it.*

Janet spoke about there being a number of changes to personnel handling different duties and that she is now doing payroll. It was discovered that, due to a payroll issue last year, there was an error and the Office Administrator was overpaid by approximately $1,000.00 last year. The decision was made not to ask her to pay that back. The error has been rectified and some documentation procedures are being put in place to prevent future errors.

We need a Coordinator to replace Anita for the Women’s Breakfasts, as well as members for the Gratitude Team, Living Spirit Centre Council, and Congregational Care.

d) Ministry and Personnel

e) Congregational Care

f) Regina Native Outreach Ministry

Deb Anderson-Pratt has been contacting ministers about making presentations to churches in Regina about this ministry, as many people are unaware of it. They have a number of projects, one being the Mom and Baby bags which are for new Moms and babies as they leave hospital. A video was shown of a group putting them together. Donations are made for these bags by many of the churches. Many mothers have nothing or very little for themselves and their babies, which is why these are being done.

There are also activities, some at the Central Library, including smudges, sharing circles, knitting/crocheting circle, and Truth and Reconciliation Round Tables. She left us with a question from them “What if all seven churches had to be in one building? Could we work together as one community?” This comes from how indigenous peoples were thrown together and expected to function as one community.

Deb also does advocacy work for people, as they need it.

1. **Notice of Motion regarding United Church of Canada Remit 1:** *Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization*

The Indigenous church within the UCC has asked to form their own autonomous structure. This requires a change to the basis of union of the United Church and requires a vote of all the congregations and Regional Council. The Leadership Team votes on behalf of the congregation. A failure to vote is considered to be a vote against the motion so it is important to vote, which is not due until early 2024. Russell may be doing some presentations on what this means over the next few months.

1. **Nominations and Elections**

For most UC congregations, the UC’s Board of Trustees holds property for the congregation. Since our building is a shared facility, with the Lutherans being the original building mortgage holder, our situation is different. Eastside’s Board of Trustees holds financial assets on behalf of the congregation, and is required to have at least three members. Russell can be considered one of them. Two of the present members wish to resign from the board, which requires a motion.

*Bonnie Yake moved that Ruth Hannah and Keith Hopkins be removed from the Board of Trustees. Teresa Strachan seconded the motion. Carried.*

Donna Lindskog has said she would be willing to be a trustee.

*Wanda Barr moved that Donna Lindskog be accepted as a member of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Delia Baidoo. Carried.*

*Note: As a followup to the meeting, it was confirmed that Jayne Krueger was appointed as a trustee in May 2021. Therefore, the list of trustees is now: Doug Scheurwater, Jayne Krueger, Donna Lindskog, and Russell Mitchell-Walker.*

Sarah had mentioned earlier in the meeting that she, Donna Lindskog and Bonnie Yake were members of the LSC Council (LSCC), but they could use another member.

*Wanda Barr moved that Sam Baidoo be appointed as a member of the LSCC. Seconded by Brian Abrahamson. Carried.*

1. **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.”

*Moved by Janet Bjorndahl. Seconded by Brenda Ademko. Carried.*

1. **Motion to Adjourn.**

*Anita Tessier moved the meeting be adjourned.*

Adjournment - 12:30 p.m.