**EASTSIDE PROGRAM CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

**PROGRAM MEETING NOTICE:** Notice for this meeting was part of the weekly announcements which are sent via email to Eastside members. As well, the meeting notice was given at the church services, the last three Sundays.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 by Janet Bjorndahl.

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

*Moved by Donna Lindskog. Seconded by Jean MacKay. Carried.*

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

*Moved by Ron Brandow. Seconded by* *Elaine Hill. Carried.*

1. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2023 Congregational Meeting.**

*Moved by Donna Lindskog. Seconded by Brian Abrahamson. Carried.*

1. **Living Spirit Centre Report – Janet Bjorndahl**

Sarah was unable to attend. Janet highlighted some of the report, which is included in the package from the meeting, and available online.

Sarah is looking for committee members to join the Living Spirit Centre Committee.

1. **Finance Report – Jim Fallows**

There is enough presently in the bank to cover expenses for the next few months. The decision was made to do a six-month budget, based on about $93,000.00 revenue. Jim referred to a book he read about a person with autism who was able to remember sets of numbers by grouping them together and, when he tried to recall them, each grouping was a particular colour. So churches are going to have to see things differently in order to be maintained. But people are hard wired for spirituality and our church needs to continue to nurture that. Many churches are struggling. He believes the United Church will still be here in the future, but there will be a number of changes. Multiple services may be provided each week at various times. And people always need pastoral and congregational care. Church will be “community minded”.

*Ken Powers moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded by Pat Bailey. Carried.*

1. **Motion to appoint Reviewer of Eastside 2021 books**

There is now a requirement for non-profits to have a formal audit done on their books each year, by someone outside of the congregation who is a certified accountant. A quote was received by Sarah, in the amount of $3,700.00 plus tax. She considered it reasonable for this type of work.

*Elaine Hill moved that Robert Szautner be appointed as Reviewer. Seconded by Busi Mahbena. Carried.*

1. **Report on progress toward Collaborative Ministry – Janet Bjorndahl**

The ministry personnel and leadership people from the churches Heritage, St. James, Eastside, St. Andrews (Lumsden), Regina, and Broadway having been having a number of meetings; Broadway is in the process of calling a new minister but wish to stay connected to the discussions.

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Many of these congregations have never been involved in these conversations, other than Eastside. Different ways of doing services are being determined. Presently, Joy Cowan is writing and recording a sermon that is given to two of these congregations to use, with a lay person leading the service.

Two of their meetings have focused on how much time each Minister spends on which activities, and determined half their time is spent preparing and delivering services. But, if one Minister prepared all the sermons, it could free up other Ministers to do other their other activities, such as pastoral care and programs, both within their congregations and outreach. Discussion on how this will be managed will continue to be held.

The plan is to share two full-time and one half-time minister between five congregations. No start date has yet been determined. All but Broadway have agreed to try sharing ministers between the churches for one year. They are still in the process of deciding what to do about their current building and their AGM is not being held until Mar 17, when a “next steps” recommendation will be presented for the congregation’s approval. As well, their present Minister is retiring this year and they are presently looking at candidates to replace him.

Elaine thanked Janet and the others for all their work and said that church is not just Sunday and we have lots of activities during the week that are good to be involved in.

Janet said Jordan Cantwell, the Growth Animator with the Living Skies Region, asked the question “Why are we doing this and why do we want this congregation to survive?” Janet echoed Elaine in saying that Eastside is a place of healing and community for many people, both for members and others that participate in our extra programs.

She reminded us that we need to continue with our offering, as funds still needed. She said that “This is a grand experiment and journey we’ll be on”.

Q1. Is Russell involved in all of this?

A1. Yes, he has been involved from the beginning and is still involved and attends all the meetings.

The point was brought up by Ken that, with Joy retiring and Broadway’s plans not known, there are still many things to consider and many uncertainties moving forward. Janet agreed saying that the process needs to be determined, and more approval will be needed before we begin.

Jean suggested that the church building could be used for many more activities, like libraries do now. It could be drop-in with coffee and tea and cookies; university classes could be held, small groups such as grief groups could meet.

* 1. **Motion to move toward collaboration with St. James, Heritage, St. Andrews (Lumsden), and Regina Beach United Church congregations.**

*Elaine Hill moved that the motion be approved. Seconded by Jean MacKay. 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 Bonny Manz. Seconded by Wanda Barr. Carried.*

1. **Motion to Adjourn**

Elaine Hill moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 12:53 p.m.