**EASTSIDE PROGRAM CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

**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 12:21 by Sarah Tkachuk.

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

*Moved by Wanda Barr. Seconded by Janet Bjorndahl. Carried.*

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

*Moved by Carol Hein. Seconded by* *Janet Bjorndahl. Carried.*

1. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the May 15, 2022 Congregational Meeting.**

*Moved by Sonia Abrahamson. Seconded by Bonnie Yake. Carried.*

1. **Living Spirit Centre Report – Sarah Tkachuk**

Sarah highlighted some of the report, which is included in the package from the meeting and available online.

Sarah is currently chairing the LSCC. Immanuel Anglican made a recent decision to have their permanent primary location be the church on Massey Road. They remain a partner of LSC and have some staff working in our building, plus are doing some activities at LSC.

The LSCC made the decision, and the ES Leadership Team approved a motion, to pay off the remainder of the mortgage. There is approximately $40,000.00 remaining and the payment will be made out of LSC cash reserves, which will save approximately $2,000.00 interest.

1. **Finance Report – Jim Fallows**

LSC had enough money in the reserve to pay out the mortgage, which is a variable rate currently at 7.95%. BoL holds the mortgage in their name so will initiate the transaction.

Jim thanked Anita, Becca and Sonia for their assistance in preparing the report for this meeting. And thanked Anita, who is handing over the work she has been doing for the LSC and ES for ten years to others.

The operating deficit last year was $5,569.00. We try to break even and do have a bit of extra funds to cover a deficit this year. But we still have a challenging environment. We are fortunate that we share the building as it keeps our costs down. The budget estimate in order to cover all our operating expenses is $169,000.00. We have a number of fixed costs, such as salaries, utilities, etc.

Immanuel’s diocese will be increasing their input to the LSC to 20%, which is an increase from 17.5%, and ES will be 38.6% down from 40.5%. ES is in a fairly good cash position for 2023, and for a year or two down the road.

The Leadership Team has been trying to think of ways we could reduce our costs. Ideas:

1) Share a minister with another congregation, and perhaps using a part-time minister for some things such as pastoral outreach.

2) Merging with another congregation or two. (Clarification: we cannot easily leave this building to join another congregation, they would have to join us).

Q1. What happens if we do not get an 8 percent increase in revenue to cover operating costs?

*A1. We would have to go into our cash reserve which could impact future years and require our congregation to make some changes.*

Q2. Does paying off the mortgage reduce our portion of the LSC costs?

*A2. Yes, it will significantly reduce it.*

Q3. What are we doing to encourage additional giving?

*A3. We will be doing that, and any additional giving would be gratefully received.*

Q4. Why does the 2023 Budget have salary increases for all but the Office Administrator?

*A4. The Office Administrator, since the BoL Administrator left, has been doing work for both ES and BoL ES’s portion has decreased somewhat as ES’s hours were reduced a bit and the Administrator’s salary is split between both congregations.*

Q5. Why were the payroll administration reduced for the 2023 budget?

*A5. Payroll is administered through the national office and we are charged a service fee. We budgeted similarly to last year, assuming a similar service fee this year.*

***Bonnie Yake moved that the financial report be accepted. 2nd by Pat Bailey. Carried.***

Sarah thanked Jim for all his work, and told him how much we appreciate what he does for us. Anita was given a gift and thanked again for all her work.

Sarah spoke about our work with the cluster and that, even if we are working together as a United Church with them, we will continue to also work with our partners at LSC on things like shared services, etc. And we are very committed to them as our covenant covers the relationship between the three.

She reminded people that the Leadership Team minutes are posted on the Eastside website for anyone interested in seeing them; the draft minutes are posted and the final minutes replace them after approval at the next meeting. She also advised that anyone can reach out to the Leadership Team at any time.

Sarah then announced that she is stepping down and Janet Bjorndahl will be the new Chair, with Leanne Sudom as Vice-chair.

***Anita moved that Janet Bjorndahl be appointed as the new Chair. Seconded by Wanda Barr. Carried.***

Sarah then asked if there were any further questions and one more was asked:

Is any more work being done with the cluster on working together on things; especially things like if a Minister has a special calling they could combine with interested people from other congregations, and how do we help the cluster move forward with these types of initiatives?

*Janet answered that they are not sure what next steps are but she had attended the last meeting and the focus had been on some of these things. They were looking for areas of commonality where people can spin off and work together on things such as youth or youth ministry, truth and reconciliation, environment, etc. But there is also the pastoral side of things and what might be next. But that it is a slow process. Russell suggested more of our congregation’s members attend the cluster meetings and also members know of other congregations we could approach about doing things together, bring those ideas forward.*

Brian Abrahamson brought up the benefits of the LSC, pointing out all the AV equipment, the purchase of which was supported by the LSC council. As well, we have various renters who contribute to the costs of the building.

Sarah also thanked Bonnie Yake for all her time spent on the Leadership Team as she has stepped down.

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

We are looking for someone with preferably some experience with bookkeeping or accounting experience, but not absolutely required. No one stepped forward to offer their services, although a suggestion was made but that person was not present, so this item will be deferred for the agenda for the next Program meeting.

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

1. **Motion to Adjourn.**

Sonia Abrahamson moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 1:09 p.m.