

**Grace United Church Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
Grace United Church Board Room**

“Let God show us where we should go and what we should do” (Jer. 42:3)

Core Purpose: God’s hands and heart always.

Those in attendance:

Chair: Darrel Howell

Minister: Rev. Cathy Kinsman

Secretary: Karen Ollen

Executive Director: Bev Thurlow

Ministry & Personnel: Trevor Gilby

Confirming Support Worker:

Members at Large: Yvonne Dunn, Paul Vermeulen, Alice Robinson, John Mitio

Regrets - Jenson Brown

Relating – We gathered at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and conversation.

Ritual – Silence, lighting of the Christ candle, recognizing God in our midst.

Reverend Cathy asked us two questions: What are you hoping and waiting for this Advent? Where and how are you watching for peace? We wrote out thank you cards.

Receiving – Attending to God prayerfully. Alice Robinson led us in a Devotion on Family Violence.

Ruminating – We broke into groups of two, taking turns listening to the other persons views without interrupting, on the questions Reverend Cathy had asked us. It was an exercise in trust and vulnerability.

Reflecting – Confirming our minutes and agenda to reflect our sense of call and mission.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion 2023-37: Alice Robinson moved; Yvonne Dunn seconded; the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

Adoption of Previous Minutes:

Motion 2023-38: Lynda Cambell moved; John Mitio seconded; the minutes of October 25, 2023 be approved. Carried.

Renewal – No learning piece offered but a suggestion for our January meeting was offered.

Reviewing – From our listening, turning to our work/decision making/business at hand

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Treasurers' Report: Lynda Campbell reviewed the Financial Statements from October 2023.

Motion 2023-39: Lynda Campbell moved; Yvonne Dunn seconded; Grace United Church Board accepts the Financial Report as prepared. Carried.

The Future Development Fund is a little short to finish the year. Lynda has asked to have this news included in the Newsletter. Maybe people would consider making a year end donation to the Future Development Fund.

Lynda reported there has been over \$60,000.00 raised to date, towards the new piano.

Ministries Report:

Property & Maintenance: John Mitio brought forward the motions made by Property & Maintenance for Central Board's knowledge. The first motion was to standardize the wages of all janitorial staff including the hourly rate for kitchen cleaning. This would have a financial impact of approximately \$1000.00 per year. This has been approved by the Executive Director.

The second issue is they would like to have a representative on Property & Maintenance for the kitchen. The committee wondered to bring it forward to Nominations or how to go about finding someone. A check list in the kitchen would help to communicate if there are issues needing to be addressed in the kitchen.

Church In Society - Outreach: Darrel and Paul had a meeting with the Outreach Group on November 6th. The meeting helped Darrel and Paul understand the issues they are dealing with. There are four coordinators currently and the group is happy with the things are going. There is a coffee time with the Outreach people on November 30th and suggested Board members attend. The group had done a one-day snapshot of a survey of 20 to 25 people.

Pastoral Care: Alice Robinson had attended the last Pastoral Care meeting. They had invited Susan McCulley from the Alberta Health Services for a presentation of AHS rules for group visitations to the care homes. The Poinsettia Project is underway and looking for donations and drivers to deliver.

M&P Report: Trevor Gilby presented the Organizational Chart the M&P Committee had been working on, along with Rev. Cathy and the Executive Director, Bev Thurlow. Trevor will present the Org Chart at the Annual General Meeting in March.

The chart will be placed in the Policy and Procedures manual.

One Page Generative Plan: Darrel reviewed the O.P.G.P.

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Darrel and Rev. Cathy will have a zoom meeting with Rev. George and his wife Joyce on December 15th at 9:00 a.m. The Search Committee will then meet to finalize their committee. A new committee, a Transition Committee will need to be formed. An Oversight Committee also needs to be struck to support Rev. George.

The Stewardship Plan will roll forward once the budget is in place for 2024 and in place for the AGM. John Mitio attended a zoom conference on Stewardship.

Outreach was reported by Paul previously under Ministries.

The second workshop of Embracing Diversity and Navigating Bias will be held December 10th. Jenson Brown will be offering another Safe Space workshop in the new year.

At the January meeting we will finalize the rocks for the 3rd quarter.

Staff & Support Staff: Nothing to bring forward.

Items requiring Board Decisions:

Christmas Eve Service: 10 A.M. Advent 4 & 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service

Board and Committee Members: Darrel asked the present board to consider if they are remaining on the board for next year. The committee at large members will communicate to their various committees to see if they are interested in continuing. Karen will send out an email to see who is remaining as chair of committees and if additional members are needed.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be held March 17, 2024. This will be following the church service.

Reaffirming – Grace values and key touchstones – have we heard them?

Community – Outreach discussions, Christmas Eve Service

Compassion – when we listened to each other in our reflecting time at the beginning of the meeting

Innovative – Our opening exercise was innovative, Organizational Chart

Inviting – Inviting new members to Committee and Board positions, inviting Charlene Bonner to our January meeting

Inclusive – Discussion on Rev. George's arrival, trying to ensure a smooth transition.

Are we being inclusive if people can not afford the price of a ticket to fundraiser events? Maybe tickets could be donated to others if they cannot attend.

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Next meeting: January 24, 2024. Gathering at 6:00 p.m. with a light meal. Meeting at 7:00 Devotions – Paul Vermeulen

Karen Ollen will look after the meal for the next meeting.

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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Returning – Closing with prayer or a blessing, thanks, offering of self and effort to God to growth in Spirit and mission together. Rev. Cathy closed the meeting with a prayer.

Chair: Darrel Howell

Secretary: Karen Ollen