

APPROVED

St. Paul's United Church Orillia
Additional Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2023
4:30 pm
Parlour

Attending: Gloria Tozek (Chair); Ted Reeve (Minister); Mary Phelps (Past Chair); Chris Atkinson (Secretary); Mary Johnson; Fred Kallin; Kathy Duncan

Regrets: Harvey Watt

1. Welcome and opening: Craig Maltby lit the Christ Candle
Reading from "Embers" Richard Wagamese book; Prayer: 'The Earth Cries Glory' Steven Shakespear
2. Minutes from June 7, 2023
Minutes of June 7, 2023 approved by Kathy Duncan and seconded by Craig Maltby. Carried.

(Note: Half hour delay do to the fire alarms going off at the church)

3. Clearing the air:

The future of the church is very important topic. A topic requiring communication/consultation (when are we going to do this? What will it look like), risk analysis, documentation, debate. Slow down - more robust discussion and planning, hear from everyone on LT. Need to have more clarity on decision making process. Trustees need to be advised of any changes that affects the church.

See handout from Ted: Balance out declining congregation//finance looking towards the future. Evolution of conversations; budget showing reality of decreasing congregations and dollars. No money for ministry programs of the church – goes to staff salaries; building maintenance; Understand there is a process to move forward.

Large part of the community - St. Paul's serves the community in a meaningful

Selling the church – need an in depth conversation and before going down the path need to be open and listen to the congregation. The idea of selling the church is out in the community from the Silver Band (This was put forward by a group from the church). Leadership team responsible for transparency – congregation needs to be communicated with; issues if we sell the church... Are there other ideas which we could look at..

Concern – running out of people to do the work required to run the church. Worry about the people side; process side – outside suggestion that we sell the church; Building Operations group – talking to groups. Are they the right group to be looking at the various functions that have an impact on the Church that is larger than just booking various rooms.

Challenge – new members on the board – communication needs to be improved.

Get the leadership team all on the same page with clarity, try not to have time restraints (business items/more in depth programs) – send out information prior to meeting in order to prepare before meeting; criteria for selecting various options needs to be defined – identify two/three and then talk to the congregation.

4. Process to date re-financial longevity of St Paul's: where we have been (See Ted's handout)
5. Brief overview of our current situation – people and finances
 - a. At the moment a lot of energy from people. In 5 yrs we may not see this. Short term things are fairly good.
At this time – looking at a deficit. Worried about Boiler. Need to look at this and prioritize major challenges
6. Clarifying/identifying our financial option and related actions
 - a. As noted in January minutes – 5 areas of options
 - i. What is commitment of Orillia community to St. Paul's
 - ii. Shining Waters Region (not interested in building)
 - iii. Centre of Reconciliation
 - iv. Real Estate (Kindred Works) – senior affordable residences – One line answer: How did they come to that conclusion? Get more information.
 - v. Congregational openness to non-traditional celebration and learning?
Intent - Find a win/win
7. Identifying our ministry for the future – visioning in addition to Adaptive Conversations
 - vi: amalgamation – local
 - vii: taking advantage of technology – form of shared ministry – one minister covers more than one church; two ministers for 3 or 4 churches; some sermons be on screen; lay people who could run the inhouse part. Cover larger distances; lower costs; coverage when your minister is away. Part can be done remotely. More ministers, more churches, better financial costs, rotation of ministers – more flexibility; greater variety;
Think outside of the box. Compatible theology; if not as big into technology can use zoom to do sermon. Possible cost sharing:
ie. - communicators, administrators. Collaboration sharing.

8. Planning our next steps – short term/longer term – for example: short term - communication with the congregation and longer term – implement visioning in the fall
9. Adjournment: 6:00PM