

## **JAMES BAY UNITED CHURCH**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting Sunday, February 26, 2017**

The meeting was incorporated into Sunday service and began at 10:30.

Present: 80 members, guests and adherents.

Chair: Nola Adams

Minister: Karen Dickey

Recorder: Kathie Putt

#### **Welcome and Announcements, including procedures for the meeting**

##### **MOTIONS** voted on by members only:

1. That Nola Adams be elected as Chair for this AGM. M/S Aleksa Harkness, Joan Ryan, carried;
2. That Kathie Putt be elected as Recorder for the AGM. M/S Joan Ryan/ Marion Handcock, carried;
3. That adherents be granted voting privileges for accepting the agenda, adopting the Minutes, accepting the Annual Reports, and any motion we develop affirming the priorities. M/S Jeremy Williams/ Joan Ryan, carried.

##### **MOTION** voted on by adherents as well as members:

1. That the agenda be accepted. M/S Joanne Huston/ Doug Lunam, carried.

##### **Setting our intention**

We covenant together to...Show up...Listen with respect...Speak up...Build up...Be aware of each other and ourselves...Care about the life of the congregation, the community and the world...Consider prayerfully.

##### **Looking back over the past year**

1. How special Easter morning was, after being away, the beautiful park, the welcome, the sense of community, Karen and Daniel;
2. Community support in the loss of a brother was so appreciated;
3. Christmas eve service was so inspiring and involved the whole congregation;
4. The annual report shows us to be so busy and active; need a fire emergency plan, possibly "fire wardens" to help those who are less able;
5. The generosity from the congregation when needs are expressed e.g. taking in someone's cat;
6. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner was wonderful and, in general, bringing the congregation together over food;
7. The pleasure of having "little ones" in our midst;
8. Special thanks to Daniel for making it possible to still be part of the music at JBUC even though

not able to be in the choir;

9. The soup lunches during Lent and the related getting to know people; Bev and Duncan's renewal of vows; it meant a lot to become a member;
10. The Refugee Dinner, not only for the money raised but for making new friends, visiting, and experiencing the help of so many people;
11. For Daniel, the opportunity to offer his quiet, experimental music with a small ensemble on Good Friday; the beauty and tenderness of Oscar's baptism, with his grandparents playing their violins.

**MOTIONS** voted on by members and adherents:

1. That the minutes of the February 29, 2016 AGM be adopted. M/S Grant Kerr/ Cheryl Caldwell, carried;
2. That the minutes of the May 1, 2016 congregational Meeting be adopted. M/S Grant Kerr/ Cheryl Caldwell, carried;
3. That the minutes of the July 17, 2016 Congregational Meeting be adopted. M/S Grant Kerr/ Cheryl Caldwell, carried;
4. That the Annual Reports be adopted, including the Observer Report insert in today's bulletin, replacing the one in the bound Annual Report. Discussion: there was no report on Camp Pringle, a very important ministry, or of the Teen Games Night which raised \$210 for the Refugee Initiative. These can be added on the web version. M/S Lyman Butterfield/ Aleksa Harkness, carried. Also noted, a correction to the spelling of the names of Jean Wason and Frances Jepson in the report of people who have died in 2016.

**Looking forward, priorities for 2017**

1. *Engage people in leadership.* Leadership gives direction, creates, enables, opens the way to growth. Suggestion of a team of 3 who love to get to know others and can provide support and encouragement for them to get more involved in whatever area they have an interest in.
2. *Name for ourselves who we are and deepen our sense of community among us.* Test and tweak our statement so it's integrated in what we do; does it speak to us, how is it affecting what we do? Deepen relationships over food, maybe outings, musical events, sharing work. Initiatives come from the congregation. Please give the Board input with ideas.
3. *Let people know who we are.* What we have been doing has been letting people know who we are and has been connecting neighbours with neighbours. We need to host meaningful events that reflect who we are. The Board is committed to more active communication with the congregation inviting further ideas and actions.
4. *Move outside and become involved with people outside.* Who we are leads to certain actions.

We can become knowledgeable and involved and encourage the James Bay community to be involved. Our concerns include: 1 – James bay neighbourhood; 2-larger social justice issues; 3- having a presence around First Nations and what does Truth and Reconciliation mean for JBUC, and also the refugee crisis in the world (there was a lot of community interest in the Refugee Initiative ) and more interfaith dialogue.

Responses from the congregation:

1. Appreciation of the inclusiveness, particularly for those less able;
2. TV screens in sanctuary would allow deaf people to follow the service;
3. Would like to see more gathering around food, including music and dance and the community beyond the church.

**AGREED** by consensus that as a congregation we will move forward with these priorities in 2017.

### **Appreciations and Remembrance**

This opportunity was taken to remember those who died this year:

Randy Pratt

Ron Leslie

Karen Wreggitt

Jean Wason

Frances Jepson;

And to appreciate the hope, love, vision, and compassion of Christ embodied here, and to offer special thanks and a token of our appreciation this year to:

1. Sylvia Scott for many years on the Board, now stepping down but continuing with Tuesday Outreach;
2. Nola Adams for her tireless work as Board Chair and heading up the new website;
3. Aleksa Harkness for her heartfelt work on the Refugee Initiative as well as Lifelong Learning;
4. Judy Krzesowski for her long service on the Board, now stepping down, heading up the Lifelong Learning team and her involvement with the Refugee Initiative;
5. Bev Tracey for her dedication and hard work taking on all that needed to be done as Property Chair.

The meeting closed at 12:25.