

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH AT 7:00 PM HANNA

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

In attendance: Linda Quaschnick, Laura Creasy, Rhonda Lund, Richard Preston

Approval of previous meeting minutes (March 21st) – approved as circulated.

Approval of Agenda – addition of webinars under correspondence. Approved as circulated with amendment.

Correspondence:

1. NEET program. Laura sent in application a few months ago. Got email back a couple of months ago asking for clarification of which government Act we are under. Laura conferred with head office in Toronto which sent a letter we could give to the NEET program (we are under the United Church of Canada Act). Laura forwarded onto NEET. They replied that we do not qualify at this time but they are running a phase 2 of this program which we will have priority in. Laura sent this information to ABNW conference and head office in Toronto just in case other churches are applying. We will wait and see.
2. Webinars. Laura gets emails from United in Learning which has learning resources and webinars. She got an email this afternoon which she forwarded to finance members. There is a webinar soon on how to use technology in the church which may be a good one to take. There are two coming up on pensions and benefits (Laura has taken already and forwarded info to Trish and Leila) as well as narrative budgets (Laura has taken already) and asking from the pulpit and Ministers talking about M&S. Linda and Laura will discuss and listen to ones they may find beneficial.

Financial Report – Laura reviewed the balance sheet and the income and budget comparison sheet. Funds are low in operating as there has been such low attendance during the summer months. The trustees transferred \$10,000 from the investment for operating on August 11th. Discussed how offerings are down \$7000 from last year. Attendance dwindling. Expenses going up but givings going down. It has to be a congregational effort to keep the church open and viable. The thrift store and the volunteers contribute so much but we should not be relying on them so heavily and should be showing our appreciation more. Laura will look in membership numbers and attendance for next finance meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. UCC quote – Laura filled an quote application for United Church of Canada Insurance Program with the help of Archie Williams and sent off three weeks ago. Waiting on quote – renewal for our current insurance is in November.
2. Power and Gas Bill – Rhonda researched ATCO Energy rates and looked at quote from Kyle from Trancot Energy. ATCO energy and Trancot similar. Discussed ATCO energy as both Richard and Laura are familiar with them. Rates are variable or fixed – can bundle power and gas for discount, lower

admin fees, \$50 yearly credit. Rates for variable are 4.14 power and 2.50 gas (will fluctuate, lower than fixed). Fixed 1 year 5.39 power and 3.89 gas, 3 year 5.89 power and 4.19 gas and 5 year 6.19 power and 4.29 gas. Can change from variable to fixed with 15 days notice – no cancellation fees. Will approach council with switching to ATCO energy variable – Laura keeps on top of rates as she is also on variable with ATCO energy personally – if she sees rates increasing, can switch to guaranteed.

3. Fundraising – Linda did research on different fundraising ideas. Ideas she found were either being used by other groups in Hanna or wouldn't work in our community. We will keep looking and brainstorming ideas. Turkey supper will be in November. Discussed giving and how PAR and donate button not being used as much as we like. Could it be because there is a 2-3% fee involved with this so not all the persons offering is going directly to the church? Rhonda asked about adding to online banking payee. Laura will look into at RBC. Don't know if churches are able to as businesses have to register with the banks to be put on the payee listings and thinks they need a business number (churches are non profit).
4. Newsletter – Laura put out newsletter after last meeting. Got lots of good feedback but there was no increase in giving. Suggestions later on in meeting to do a monthly update newsletter through email – put on website. Include council minutes, finance reports, thrift information, upcoming events. Will approach council with idea. Will put more work on Laura – maybe Laura/Trish can do through office.

New Business:

1. Church offering Program 2017 – We Call to Thanksgiving. The United Church of Canada puts out stewardship resources every year. Linda has read over the material and highlighted what might work in our congregation.
2. Fall visits letter – Linda has done a rough draft of the fall visit letter and Laura typed up. Used resources from the church offering program. We will have a four page letter – first page is thanking the congregation for all they do and asking to give for the fall visit. The back of that page will have interesting stats etc. to help people understand why giving is so important. The third page is a giving guide from the church offering program and the fourth page is an updated response card. Laura will type up a draft and sent out to finance members for approval before presenting to council at September meeting. Would like to send out fall visit letters after council approves letter. Suggested to send up a “heads up” email that the fall visit letters are coming out – can be sent out in a group email with upcoming events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM