

# Southwood Church

## MINUTES

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 1, 2020**  
**Location: ZOOM Video Conference**  
**6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>P=Present</b> <b>R=Regrets</b>	<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Position</b>
Abawana, Million	Member	P	[REDACTED] Johanne	Congregant
Annesley, Sandra	Member	P	[REDACTED] Monica	Congregant
Carroll, Derek	Treasurer	P	[REDACTED] Marilyn	Congregant
Chikinda, Neena	SCW Rep.	P	[REDACTED] Marilyn	Congregant
Hanley, Bill	Regional Rep.	P	[REDACTED] Daphne	Congregant
McKearney, Judy	Regional Rep.	P	[REDACTED] Ina	Congregant
McLean, Jan	Chair	P		
Pearson, Donna	Non-Voting	P		
Wedel, Rick	M&P	P		
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Grottenberg, Samuel	Min. Personnel	P		
Nain, Corinne	Min. Personnel	R		

**Special Meeting Reason:**

**Held at the request of several congregants who have been members of the Southwood Choir.**

- 1. Opening Prayer (Rev. Samuel Grottenberg)**
- 2. Choral Singing & Music Ministry Discussion**
  - Preamble: During COVID times, singing indoors and in groups is considered a “super-spreader activity” and will not occur, including congregational singing, until at least the new year, and likely not until much later
  - Gavin & Sam received some emails earlier this year regarding a desire to see more frequent, formal choir involvement in the service; the gathering this evening is to hear from these individuals directly to engage in dialogue
  - Johanne, Monica, Marilyn, Marilyn, Daphne, and Ina were given the opportunity to express their perspectives. In summary:
    - They believe that choral music is an important part of the worship service, not just for those who are in the choir but also for the congregation;
    - In their opinion, the choir hasn’t been given the importance required by the congregation (more than 6x/year);
    - They see choir offerings as a form of ministry and a time of reflection for the congregation, not a performance;
    - They think the congregation misses the choir; choral music touches people in a different way, and would expand the variety of music in the service;
    - They indicated their desire to sing in a traditional choir every week;

- They were under the impression that when a new 'music director' was hired (last summer), that person would keep a 'blended' focus of separate band and choir programs going, and that both would happen every week in a meaningful way
  - Sam, Jan, and various Council members responded in dialogue to the various points/concerns raised, asking clarifying questions, and communicating about the background and focus of the new Music Minister position and evolving vision for music ministry. In summary:
    - We were reminded of the evolving mission of the music ministry, which is focused primarily on leading congregational singing in worship, with opportunities for participation in the standalone praise band, an integrated praise band/chorus model, as well choral anthems up to 6x/year (in general): Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, allowing for meaningful/intentional anthems and the time necessary to prepare a quality offering;
    - The 6x/year number was arrived at on the basis of our new Music Minister's assessment of interest, skill level, commitment level, and the hours required to prepare/rehearse;
    - We started to launch this phased-in plan back in November 2019—with choral anthem opportunities pre-Advent, Christmas Eve, and during Epiphany; the next anthem should have taken place at Easter but the pandemic hit;
    - The vision for music ministry is to have musical offerings in a variety of formats, including band, choir, and combinations thereof;
    - Had a robust conversation about what the allowance currently is for music expression in services, as outlined in the Music Minister position profile;
  - **Overall Summary/Way Forward: once it is safe/possible to sing again in groups, the desire is to bring a traditional choir together, starting with the existing plan of 6 anthems/year and continued work towards integration across the music ministry, and see what happens from there.**
3. **Council Debrief**
- Good to get the clarity, and adequately communicate everything that was causing the issues;
  - Beneficial for the ladies to have the chance share their thoughts and concerns.