

RHUC Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2025
(approved at April meeting)

Present : Karen Dale, Doug Loweth, Howe Foo, Nancy Hart, DJ McCready, Sue Baker, Carolyn You, David Leyton-Brown, Ralph Dunham, Dianne McLeod, Jane Wedlock, Steven Ruminsky, Julie Horne

Regrets: June Blanchette, Harry Ramsaran

Devotion: Karen

Land Acknowledgement: Jane

Approval of Agenda: approved with addition of 2 items to New Business: Update from Search Committee, update from Leadership and Congregational Development Forum

Approval of Minutes February 12, 2025: approved

Business Arising from the Minutes

Finance: Major Gifts deferred to next Board meeting

QR code “

Insurance “

Story Project: Jane – kick-off was Feb 23 session – Julie will do scrap booking after March 23 service – people looking for an example – previous stories to be included – Why Is This important? Why does it matter?

January 26 Diversity Workshop –no response received from attendees at workshop to assist in planning follow-up workshop – HAIR will be reading and discussing scriptures included in handout from the workshop

AGM – discussion later in meeting

- Search Team requested to be on agenda to seek congregational approval of Living Faith Story and Position Description

Action Items from September to December

Board Retreat – to be discussed after AGM: DJ, Doug, Jane, Nancy

Correspondence – letter from ‘Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council’ approved a bridge loan of \$200,000 for a 3-year term from Toronto United Church Council to support RHUC’s plan to become a performing arts centre – **BRAVO to Doug for all his hard work in pulling together the application**

Correspondence - letter from Wild Wing Restaurant, Richmond Hill – possible consideration by Outreach

Minister's Report: Karen shared her experience at the Bridging the Gap evening at St Matthew's UC – dialogue with Israeli heritage and Palestinian Muslim students who modelled idea of respectful dialogue and deep listening – occurring at different universities/colleges - Thanks for Dessert and soups – importance of eating together

Shining Waters Regional Council: David - General Council theme this summer is Visions and Dreams – Todd McDonald (heads up Pastoral Relations position) retiring in June

Finance – Julie

Motion: that RHUC board approve that if there are not specific instructions given with a Bequest, that those funds be moved to the Bequest Fund with the keeping of 5% of those funds in the General Fund

M/S Julie Horne/ Ralph Dunham

Approved

Motion: that the RHUC Board approve the 2024 Financial Statements as presented, and those 2024 Financial Statements be presented to the congregation at the AGM for approval.

M/S. Julie Horne/David Leyton-Brown

Approved

Motion: that the RHUC Board approve the 2025 Financial Budget as presented, and the 2025 Financial Budget be presented to the congregation at the AGM for approval.

M/S Julie Horne /Dianne McLeod

Approved

Operations – Doug

- Updated information will be posted on the website
- Doug feels that they are close to applying for the board's approval – project has been divided into different chunks
- performance venue – Ralph is overseeing this component
- A more professional 5 year projection has been compiled by Julie
- Getting final quotes and prices for the work – NB mtg held onsite with Historic Restoration and Casavant organ representative – final quotes to be received within days hopefully
- Chouinard to do more inspections of roof and give quotes of full roof job and repairs
- Need to get permit to block centre street a few hours for roofers come in
- Carolyn and DJ are preparing to work on governance questions regarding performance centre

- One scenario explored with no hired manager for Performance Space- instead of sale of manse to generate cash to complete repairs, Julie and Finance projection recommend a major fundraising \$1.2 Million – if doesn't work well enough, sale of manse is Plan B
- In the scenario of no manager until later, current office staff and volunteers would work to make arrangements and book the space as first couple years so not incurring high cost of manager
- Don't necessarily need full \$200,000 loan
- Need to start thinking of outreach, brand ourselves, 'Friends of _____'
- Branding helps with credibility
- Few more pieces to come together to set the plan.... A complete doc needs to go to congregation prior to AGM if any approval is being sought (such as doc that Jane had circulated a while ago)

Nominating Committee – Carolyn

- Doug agreed to be a Member at large

New Business

Leadership and Development Forum – Carolyn – focus was on COMMUNICATION

- Feb 25 on zoom went very well, 25 in attendance on zoom thank you Karen for speakers' list, Nancy for notes
- Total 25 people
- What's going well? What see more of? How to accomplish? Reviewed notes
- Discussion of forums – questions raised
Carolyn and Nancy discussing follow-up

Justice and Outreach: Ralph - Forum meeting Feb 20 in the Chapel

Search Committee – David – board responsible for finding someone for Short Term contract appointment

Need to agree what we are looking for in Short Term person?? – half time for Worship and Emergency Pastoral Care – board needs to decide

Board needs to also decide permanent minister – working assumption is a full time position

If Repairs in sanctuary, what plans in place during the transition??

Need emergency pastoral care in short term position

Different ministers appreciated in congregation elsewhere – shining waters has provided (?) pastoral care position

Motion: that the RHUC Board support the Search Committee's quest for a full-time minister position

M/S Nancy Hart/Steve Ruminsky Approved

Meeting Adjourned