



## Highlights from the Feb. 21, 2023 Church Council Meeting

This was the first meeting of the year for the new council. I use the word “new” with some reservations as all of the participants served on the prior council, but a few of us have new roles. Most importantly, all members of council are familiar with the issues we face and are willing to work for the benefit of the congregation.

### FINANCE

As usual, the major issue before council was finance. During January we received \$19,030, of which only \$15,634 was available for covering our regular operating expenses, with the majority of the balance designated for Mission and Service and other outreach programs.

To put things in perspective, our payroll and fringe benefits for the month were \$18,563. Thus, we did not even cover our payroll expense for the month from our current operating income, let alone the cost of utilities, maintenance and supplies.

The net of all the income and expenses was a deficit for the month of January of (\$6,963).

To recap our current financial situation:

<b>Operating Account</b> Balance – Beginning of 2023	(\$12,198)
Jan. 19 Redemption of Invested funds to cover operating account deficit	\$15,000
January deficit	(\$6,963)
HST credits outstanding	(\$456)
Net Transfers to Reserves (Insurance and UCC assessment fees)	<u>(\$1,788)</u>
Operating Account Balance – January 31, 2023	<b>(\$6,405)</b>

From the above, we see that despite redeeming \$15,000 in investment funds during the month to cover our deficit at the beginning of the year we have already slipped back into a deficit position in our operating account. Council is concerned that we need to reverse this situation soon before it becomes an unsustainable trend.

### **Reserve Accounts**

We also hold \$71,403 in Reserve Accounts. These are funds designated for special purposes and cannot be used for normal routine operating expenses. They will be used when the designated expense item arises. These accounts are:

Anti–Racism Grant (to cover installation of surveillance cameras)	\$ 7,500
Assessment Fees Reserve – UCC	13,199
Building Accessibility	1,775
Choir	2,691
Community Kitchen	6,256
Continuing Education (non-clergy)	83
Electronic Sign	87
Family Care Fund	1,179
Insurance Reserve	12,394
Kitchen Renovations	821
Memorial	81

Messy Church	1,966
Music	661
Organ Restoration	13,740
Oxford Presbytery Website	568
Sanctuary Decorating	543
Sanctuary Painting	3,554
Special Projects	<u>4,304</u>
<b>Total Reserve Accounts</b>	<b>\$71,403</b>

### **Investments**

We hold investments for the purpose of generating income to supplement the income we receive from donations. The following amounts are entirely invested in insured interest paying instruments, the proceeds of which go into our operating account.

Restricted Investments	\$296,000
Non-restricted Investments	194,000
Undisbursed Investment Savings interest	<u>692</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$491,590</b>

The investments we hold are budgeted to provide us with \$13,150 income in our operating account this year.

### **Utility Costs**

While not reflected yet in the January financials we have received the latest gas bill from Enbridge and it is a staggering \$5,000. Our Administrative Assistant and Property Committee Chair will be dealing with Enbridge to make sure they are using a current meter reading and not working from a flawed estimate. We need to provide for a comfortable work environment for our staff, as well as for all the users of the building, not only during worship services, but all week long. Property assured us that the most economical way to do so was to set the thermostats at a constant 70° F and thus there would not be wasteful spikes in consumption. Notwithstanding, we are bracing for an unusually high cost for heating as a result of gas price increases. This is probably a foreshadowing of concerns yet to come this year with respect to all utility costs.

### **Summary**

The above is a lengthy discussion on finances – but the short summary is that we need an increased level of donations. The budget that we, as a congregation, approved at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 12, 2023 called for an average monthly income of \$22,876 in local givings. We fell considerably short in January. We ask that everyone reconsider their donations in the upcoming months to help turn this situation around.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

AOTS noted that they are planning to hold a spaghetti supper fund-raiser on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jed Drew  
Chair of Council