



Council Report from the meeting of June 18, 2024.

The following items were discussed and/or decisions made.

1. Council received and approved the recommendations from the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc committee was named to review our fee structure for rentals and for supply services (pulpit supply and/or organist/pianist supply). This committee was also asked to research and write a policy of the use of alcohol at events if we wish to become a facility with space for rental = an event centre. All of the fees we strive to keep in comparison with facilities in the town or surrounding community and/or the United Church guidelines). After drafts and rewrites these approved recommendations include a revised fee structure for rentals and services. The new policy on serving alcohol at events was approved. All of these changes will be advertised in a variety of ways (website- church sign etc. town events =Turtle Fest) and others in preparation for implementation beginning September 1, 2024. It is the hope of Council that this new policy -entitled *St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg POLICY on the "Serving of Alcohol"* will increase our appeal as an "event centre" producing revenue. These decisions were made and guidelines written following much research and directives /rules/regulations from the United Church, provincial legislation and any other pertinent regulatory bodies as necessary.
2. From the Worship Committee on June 30, during worship we will welcome to our congregation –
Kimberley Kirkland – Baptism and Confirmation
Margaret Yakubovich – Reaffirmation of Faith
3. The congregation on St. Paul's had amazing participation in the Turtle Fest. Marianne Ferris co-ordinated an outstanding team of volunteers who were on site from 9:00 AM – 8:00PM and "saw and chatted with hundreds" of people. She reported to Council that it was an exciting event and a wonderful opportunity for our St. Paul's family to meet, greet, and tell our story. Many thanks to all who assisted in any way. Volunteers are a vital part of our family. We treasure each and everyone. Thank you sincerely to all!!!
4. Financial Report ending May 31, 2024

2024 YTD Income	226,845.53
2024 YTD Expenses	153,154.00
Balance of Income and Expenses YTD	73,691.53
Beginning balance January 1, 2024	(2,213.79)
HST Rebates from prior year rec.	2,721.41
HST Rebate Outstanding	(2,695.14)
Net Transfer to Investments	(92,000.00)
Redemption - Handicap washroom 4/10/24	10,000.00
Interest transferred from Undisbursed Investment savings	6,000.00
Net transfers (to)/from Reserves	<u>2,431.97</u>
Balance in Operating Account as of May 31, 2024	(2,064.02)
Short-term savings account	<u>28,000.00</u>
Total Operating and Savings	25,935.98

This June Council meeting is our last business meeting as we move into Summer. Council received several reports for information. You as a member of this church family may wish to read the report from the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARW), Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HR) and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (WOW) Tri – Regional Spring meeting held in Port Elgin.

The report is a summary of the business and other items that took place over the 3-day meeting. Rev. Karlene, Marianne Ferris and Mary Anne Silverthorn were your elected reps to the meeting. That report is appended to this Council Report.

A few reminders of upcoming events

- 1. July 21—out in the Sun worshipping the Son followed by lunch with Todd’s Dogs food for lunch and an afternoon of music with Back to the Fifties Group. This entire event is compliments of Dianne and Ken Parnell as they celebrate their 55 years of marriage.**

- 2. Staff holidays**
Rev Karlene – August 1-29 – vacation
Desmond -August 6-27 -vacation
Helen -August 15-September 15 -vacation
Shelley - all of August -vacation
Karen -July 1-15 Vacation

- 3. Special celebrations for Long Service Staff**
Sunday September 8
Sunday September 22

- 4. For July - NO Council Meeting ---Executive ONLY will meet-Face to face**
- 5. For August - NO Council Meeting – Executive will meet at the call of the chair if necessary.**
FYI- Council Executive is Chair, Past Chair, 1st Vice , Secretary, Treasurer, ARW Rep and Clergy.

In conclusion travel safely, enjoy time with family and friends but remember the “business of the church continues” daily. Our expenses continue we need your support at all times.

If you have comments, concerns and /or questions please ask. It is important to stay informed.

Blessing for a relaxing summer.

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Council Chair

Report from Antler River Watershed Tri Regional Meeting

Port Elgin, May 24-26, 2024

Attending Rev. Karlene Brown- Palmer, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Marianne Ferris

The Tri Annual Meeting of Antler River Watershed (ARW), Horseshoe Falls (HF), and Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Regional Councils met in Port Elgin at the Unifor Family Centre with the theme of the weekend being “Life Together”. Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rt. Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, was our guest speaker for the weekend.

The meeting began at 2:00 pm on Friday with the Covenanting with our new Executive Secretary, Mark Laird.

Presenters included, Tanya Cameron, Vocational Minister, Tim Hackborn from the Office of Vocations who works with the Indigenous Church, Brenna Baker from Community of Faith Stewardship Support and Greg Smith-Young, Growth Animator.

A presentation was made by Kindred Works who as part of their scope of work help congregations find ways to repurpose buildings and church property. Presentations were also made by our support staff and we were introduced to Twenty One Designated Lay Ministers who would be Ordained or Commissioned under new policies of the church.

The evening ended with our guest speaker Carmen Lansdowne. Much of her presentation was based on the works of the German Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, author of "Life Together". The church is being challenged to take on demanding work. Many present that night said, "It felt so good to be made to feel so bad about the present state of the church because we know we can do better and MUST!" Thanks be to God!

On Saturday morning we gathered as Antler River Watershed to conduct the business of our local Regional Council. The meeting opened with the introduction of the Leadership Team- President Cheryl Bolton; Business committee Kerry Stover; Recording Secretary Louise Hall and Parliamentarian.

Proposals #1 Opening and Procedural Motion as well as Proposal #2 which approved the GC 45 Commissioners Slate were both approved.

We had the opportunity to meet new Commissioners to the region and also had time to share some very interesting ideas of what special events people were doing to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. We felt that many of them were activities our congregation would enjoy. We had the privilege of hearing from the three Candidates who were being admitted into Ministry through Ordination or Commissioning later in the afternoon. The Moderator gave the second part of her presentation. People were enthusiastic about her and her message.

Following lunch we participated in the celebration of ministry service. Although lengthy it was beautiful to see so many answering the call and the support of friends and family there for this special moment. In the evening the ARW Regional Council met again. Our President Elect Nominee, Richard Auckland presented to the court. Richard is from First United in St. Thomas.

Proposal #3 regarding the approval of the slate of officers and commissioners with the addition of Rev. Jane Van Patter as a Member at Large until 2027 was carried. Eileen Antone will be the Indigenous Representative to the Executive.

The Moderator stopped into the meeting, giving those present a time to share information and ask questions.

On Sunday morning the Regional Council met again.

Richard Auckland was elected incoming President of ARW Regional Council. He will officially begin his position in 2025.

The Regional Council Evaluation was discussed. Areas to work on include: Communications; people feeling that it feels sometimes that the work is being led by the staff; and people feel disconnected sometimes since we went to the Regional model from the Presbytery model. There are always ways to

improve! There was a discussion about the need for more people to volunteer. People were reminded that much of the work is open to anyone within our regional council. It doesn't have to be Commissioners.

Proposal # 4 Provided for all unfinished business and any new business be left to the Executive. This motion was approved.

The AWR Regional Meeting was closed.

We reconvened as part of the Tri Regional meeting, to share in worship.

We celebrated the Retirees and Jubilands, and honoured In Memoriam and Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes.

Executive Secretary Rev. Mark Laird gave the message for the day based on the theme for the weekend, "Life Together".

The meeting closed at noon and all were sent on their way with a delicious bagged lunch. We will gather by Zoom in the fall.

Report submitted by Marianne Ferris