

**Central United Church
Board of Governing Elders Meeting
January 19, 2019**

Diane Scheibner called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

The Roll Call was circulated and signed by all those present:

Heather Anderson-Cortis, Lorraine Anderson, Norm Barnecut, Lori Bazin, Darren Berg, Bob Hindley, Rev. Linda Hunter, Edie Lee, John Patterson, Diane Scheibner, Marivic Dela Cerna, Ron Voth,

Sandra Child, Kimberley Farley and Bill Moore

Regrets: Michael Adamowicz and Earle Allen

Diane opened with a devotion from "Jesus Calling" after which she led the meeting in prayer.

Moved by Edie Lee, seconded by Norm Barnecut, that the meeting Agenda be adopted as distributed. Carried.

Moved by Ron Voth, seconded by Marivic Dela Cerna, that the Minutes of the December 8, 2018 Board meeting be adopted as distributed via email. Carried.

Water main update

Bob reported on the progress of repairs and restoration necessitated by the water main break. The exterior work has been completed and pictures have been posted on Central's Facebook page. Concrete has been poured in Meeting Room 3 and once dried and cured, all that remains is installing one more piece of pipe and the valve. It is hoped that we will finally have drinking water available sometime next week.

Costs associated with this disaster project are staggering. In 2018, we had to pay \$80,000 and we collected about \$34,000 through a special year-end appeal. We will soon be faced with paying the balance which will likely be well over \$200,000.

Discernment

Linda shared that John Reid was seeking a formal path to ministry. A Discernment Team needs to be formed with 2 or 3 people + a Regional Council representative. They will engage in 12 meetings over a 12 to 14 month period.

Moved by Bill Moore, seconded by Sandra Child, that a Discernment Team be formed to work with John Reid as he pursues his intention to enter the ministry. Carried.

Presbytery Commission Report

Moved by Sandra Child, seconded by Norm Barnecut, that the meeting go 'in camera' to discuss the Report from the Commission. Carried.

John Patterson and Lorraine Anderson were excused.

Moved by Norm Barnecut, seconded by Bob Hindley, that the meeting come out of the 'in camera' session. Carried.

Moved by Ron Voth, seconded by Heather Anderson-Cortis, that the Board of Elders accept the Recommendation of the independent Commission duly appointed by Calgary Presbytery "that the respondent not return to Central United" under the condition that the respondent will be able to return to the congregation at such time as we are able to achieve an environment where reconciliation can occur.

Secret ballot - motion passed

Linda led the meeting in prayer.

After a short break, Lorraine and John rejoined the meeting and we welcomed Jim Pender, Counselling and Consulting.

Moved by Bill Moore, seconded by Kimberley Farley, that Jim Pender be considered a corresponding member for this meeting. Carried.

Jim shared his background and education, highlighting his experience as a clinical social worker, his training in language and religious studies, his work as a clinical social worker and registered family mediator. He also shared his knowledge of Central and his friendship with Michael Ward.

After sharing about himself, Jim invited each person around the table to state their name, a bit about their involvement in the church and what they are hoping to achieve for the future through the proposed mediation.

Jim then talked about various steps that could be taken and tools that could be used to assist us in improving our communication skills (i.e. Myers-Briggs Type Indicator). We discussed having separate workshops for Staff and Board or combined workshops – and finally decided that Jim could make that decision once he receives confidential feedback from all individuals.

Lori agreed to send out an email to all Board and Staff members, copying Jim, so that each would be informed of the proposed process and would be alerted to expect an email directly from Jim (and so that Jim would be provided with everyone's email addresses).

Jim was excused from the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and we had a 15 minute break.

Finances

Bob referred to the two emails he had sent out the previous day regarding the 2018 operating statement and the 2019 budget. He highlighted the contents of those emails and their attachments.

Looking at the 2018 operating statement, the figures were sobering at best. The trend of declining receipts now has us where our revenues only cover about 57% of our operations. We are about \$25,000 short each month! The total bill for the water main break will most likely be around \$280,000 and we have a bridging loan from the United Church of Canada for \$200,000 that is supposed to be paid back in the spring. The bottom line for 2018 shows an operating deficit of -\$267,000. These are desperate times.

Then the discussion turned to the "straw model" 2019 budget. Bob identified the budget this way because it can't hold up – he has made every effort to present a realistic budget and the bottom line is a -\$186,000 deficit. Bob made it clear that he cannot go any further in this regard without significant input and direction from the Board. Much discussion ensued and eventually concluded with the following series of motions:

Moved by Darren Berg, seconded by Marivic Dela Cerna, that the Board authorizes the Finance Committee to explore financing options to sustain the church's operations. Carried.

Moved by Darren Berg, seconded by Ron Voth, that the Board accepts the 2019 Budget as presented, to be brought forward at the February 10th Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried.

Moved by Darren Berg, seconded by Kimberley Farley, that having accepted the 2019 Budget, the Board directs that an Ad Hoc Committee be struck at the Annual Congregational Meeting to review our operating model to achieve a manageable deficit. Carried.

Constitution

There was brief discussion regarding the draft Constitution that Lori had distributed via email prior to the meeting. Lori agreed to add the position of 'Past Chair' to the schematic of the Board Model on page 9 of the Constitution.

Moved by Bob Hindley, seconded by Edie Lee, that the Board approve in principle the draft Constitution as distributed. Carried.

During further discussion on processes and direction, Linda shared that she is willing to stay on at Central until the Joint Search Committee has identified a candidate for the Call to Ministry here.

Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)

The ACM will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2019. As there are so many items of business to be dealt with, it was decided to hold a separate/special congregational meeting to deal with approving the eleven policy documents. With respect to the sequence of business items at the ACM, we must first present the Governance Model, then the Constitution, and then the congregation will be able to vote on re-elections and ratify Team Chairs as they become members of the Board.

Board members whose terms are up this year:

- Michael Adamowicz (has decided to step down from the Board and serve on the Worship Team);
- John Patterson (must choose a Team to serve on, or stay on the Board as a Member at Large, or step down from the Board); and
- Marivic Dela Cerna (has decided to be the Chair of the Christian Development Team).

Diane shared that Darren has agreed to take on the job of Property Team Chair. As he discussed with Linda, he is willing to do so for one year (which will coincide with his having served on the Board for three years) after which he may be willing to continue, but must re-evaluate his position based on a number of personal, internal and external considerations.

Diane and Linda agreed to get together to finalize the ACM Agenda.

Next Board meeting: Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Moved by Sandra Child, seconded by Ron Voth, that the meeting be adjourned.

Linda led the group in a closing prayer and the meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.


Diane Scheibner, Chair


Lori Bazin, Recording Secretary