

## Kamloops United Church Council Circle

September 19, 2023

*Present: Carol Sparkes, Derm Strong, Gail Wichmann, Jan Vint, Doug Scorrar, Carole Hutchings, Braden Sydor, Pam Bradley, Kathy, Dorothy Garner, Bill McNeice. Staff: Florence Ballard, Rev. Dr. Michael Caveney, Rev. Andrew Macpherson*

*On Zoom: Chair Marcia Julian, Jayne Martin, Chris Dolson*

*Regrets: Emily Vutev*

Called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Chair Marcia Julian welcomed Rev. Andrew Macpherson along with Pam, Dorothy, Bill, and Kathy; our four new Council Circle representatives from Plura Hills and Mt. Paul.

Marcia opened the meeting and acknowledged the Kamloops and Muskoka, ON territories and Jayne acknowledged her Calgary, AB territory. Marcia then made a statement regarding KUC's Affirmation of 2S and LGBTQIA+ people and confirmed that everyone is welcome. She then offered a prayer and a meditation.

Carol Sparkes lit the Christ Candle.

Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and spoke about what they were looking forward to.

**Motion** by Chris to approve the agenda, seconded by Carol S. **Carried.**

The wording in the June 13, 2023 minutes will be changed from campuses to locations as this is also the preference of the Region.

**Motion** by Chris to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes as corrected, seconded by Jan. **Carried.**

### Focus on Governance

Marcia was reminded that this year Council Circle members are taking turns alphabetically in speaking about the items reviewed. It is still the responsibility of all other Council Circle members to review the parts as outlined in the agenda prior to our meeting.

Carol S. reviewed Part 1 pages 1, 5, and 6 Mission, Values, Goals, End Policy. Marcia added that our visioning process this past spring has kept us compliant. Council Circle's focus is on the end result. Marcia also explained that "Focus on Governance" referred to our Governance Policy Manual and Core Ministry. Council Circle members review part of the Governance Policy Manual prior to each Council Circle meeting to ensure we are in compliance. The Management Team reviews a portion of the Core Ministry section as well to ensure they are also in compliance.

*EL 5 Financial Condition EL 1 General Limitation* Florence reported that MT reports compliance. Every rental group is screened to make sure they are in compliance with our Affirm and Reconciliation mandates. Example is being invited to anti gay protests and instead holding safe space and providing reassurance with our presence and our signs that we, and Kamloops United, support 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

### Council Circle Structure Committee

Marcia expressed concern that currently our Governance Policy Manual states that there should be two vice chair positions. She also wondered why there isn't a past chair role. Our risk reporting structure will change with the addition of new staff. We also need to look at perhaps expanding the number of Council Circle members with the amalgamations of Plura Hills and Mt. Paul. Marcia requested a couple of people from Council Circle to look at where we are with our composition. What should our structure be like? Chris, Andrew, Jan, and Michael have volunteered to be on this committee.

### Administrative Report

Florence meeting with Mt Paul and ICS to discuss space usage and future relationship.

Flood repair will be complete in the coming months. In conjunction with Trustee Chair, we will not be pursuing an insurance claim.

Staff: Valentine and Andrew settling nicely.

LIFT - contractor has restarted work.

2SLGBTQ+ community and allies are reaching out to KUC as leader for holding safe space.

Inter-ministerial group is going well. Shakshi, Valentine, Andrew went with Michael this month.

Note the BIG \$2 Thrift Shop Sale to address the overflow of season change items.

Increase in memorial services.

### What are you hearing?

Chris and Florence received a touching email thanking KUC for holding a safe space and for being such a faithful ally. Chris said it was both tragic and gratifying. Marcia thanked Chris for her leadership. Chris advised that everyone is doing their best to make our space safe. With respect to the protest at the Courthouse planned for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, Chris advised that we are creating and holding a safe space. It is important that we have our KUC banner and just be there. Not every church is part of this hate. We believe this is what Jesus wants. Florence advised we just need to stand still with KUC pride flags. Jan advised we need more of a presence and to be better prepared. This is a spiritual crisis—how often do you tolerate the intolerant? Carole H. advised that Candace has committed to being in the building so that anyone who needs it will have a safe place to go. Sometimes “quiet” shouts.

Jan said she spoke to a couple on Sunday whom she didn't recognize but who informed her that KUC is their home congregation but they don't come very often. Unfortunately, Jan was interrupted before she had the opportunity to ask them why. Marcia suggested that hopefully we might be lighting a fire.

Derm spoke on behalf of the Reception Committee. He noted as per Florence's comment that there has been an increase in memorial services that they need more help. He noted that Barb often has to send out three or four emails before she gets a response. The commitment involves arriving 90 minutes before and then staying until after everyone has left in order to clean up. Carole H. reiterated that she also has 156 opportunities per year for people to serve coffee alone. Michael advised that he has had some newer people interested in helping; Judy, Debbie, and Lynn. He also mentioned a couple who had

left Hills of Peace and joined us and were looking for something to do and the wife is now fully engaged. Michael asked how we create space for people to come and share their ministry gifts. During his introduction, Andrew mentioned that he wanted to meet with congregants and hear their faith stories. Marcia suggested that during these one-on-one sessions that perhaps Andrew could engage congregants.

Gail advised that people enjoyed the hotdogs.

### Financial Reports

Gail circulated the reports in advance. She advised everyone to take time to look at the financial statements and to contact her if they have any questions. Gail pointed out that the balance was \$77K at the end of August. She also drew our attention to a Bank Account C for \$56K. This is a GIC which has been set up per the KUC RAFT agreement. RAFT had \$56K in KUC tax-receipted donations. These funds must be held in a GIC for 2 ½ years or until RAFT obtains their own registered charity status or partners with a registered charity. If RAFT is able to comply, then the funds plus GIC interest will be returned to RAFT. If this does not happen after 2 ½ years, the money reverts back to KUC but must be used towards refugee work per the CRA as that is how these donations were originally tax-receipted. Gail noted that identified offerings are off by 20% and it is usually 10%. She will continue to monitor but also advised that they often receive more offerings towards the end of the year. Staff costs are 1% below budget. Recovery on space revenue was budgeted to be \$47K and is now \$65K. There has not been any fundraising going on for PitStop. Gail advised that historically fundraising for PitStop has been very good as it is recognized as a valuable asset in the community. Our new PitStop Coordinator, Valentine, sees PitStop as a ministry. Florence advised that there are also larger community grants for which he can apply. She advised that as Finance Administrator, Candace will now be taking on more of a fundraising, stewardship role, so Valentine will not be alone.

Derm thanked Gail for her financial reporting and she advised that Candace does all the heavy lifting. He also congratulated Florence on her recovery on space and on recruiting Valentine, who he said was a great hire.

### Committee Reports:

M&P – Welcome to Andrew and thank you to Michael.

Pacific Mountain Region – Carole advised that on the PMR website Trina Duncan had a pastoral letter offering words of encouragement in light of all the hateful messaging. Michael advised that KUC is entitled to three lay representatives. The next PMR AGM will be held in June, 2024 in downtown Vancouver at St. Andrew's Wesley.

### Old Business

KUC/RAFT Agreement – Gail was instrumental in putting together the KUC and RAFT Trust Fund Terms of Understanding. Michael provided some history.

**Motion** by Doug to approve and accept this KUC and RAFT Trust Fund Terms of Understanding agreement, seconded by Jan. **Carried.**

Marcia will sign the agreement electronically and then Gail will forward it to Nancy Beppe, the chair of RAFT.

#### New Business

Ministry Plan – Michael said he welcomed Andrew by downloading some work onto him. He advised that Andrew will be conducting the October 1 and October 8 services. Andrew will coordinate the service on October 15 but will also be away, so Michael still needs someone to do that service. He and Braden will discuss further. Doug offered to be our Scripture reader on October 15. Michael explained that he will be gone for three weeks in October. He will initially be on study leave where he will be presenting at a conference in St. Petersburg, Florida on Loss and Grief and also on Coming Out Later in Life. Then, Michael will be on vacation in Mexico. The plan for Andrew is to take September, October, and November to get to know us. Then, he and Michael will be sharing duties in December. Andrew then has some time off in January and a week off in April. Michael will begin his six-month sabbatical on February 1, 2024.

New Budget 2024 – Michael thanked Florence for compiling both a 2023 Transitional Budget and a Three-Year Budget while he has been extremely busy with pastoral care. In these projected budgets there will be a new full-time position created for an Amalgamation Coordinator to sort through all of the documents from Plura Hills and Mt. Paul. This position will be a two-year term. For the Three-Year Budget Florence advised that they used a static 3% increase across the board. These budgets only needed to be approved in principle by a vote and no motion was required in order for them to be included in the Amalgamation Package which will be forwarded to PMR.

#### **2023 Transitional Budget and Three-Year Budget were voted on and approved by Council Circle.**

Camp Grafton Update on property – Chris advised that the property has been spared at this time. They salvaged the fridge and their water system remained in tact. However, they lost weeks of much-needed rental revenue.

Governance Training – Karen will be away in October, so it was suggested that the training be held in November. Marcia was hoping to hold a potluck for our November meeting. It was felt that a potluck, meeting, and training would be too long for one meeting, so it was decided to separate the two. We will continue to hold our regular meeting on October 17, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. In November there will be a regular meeting on November 21, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Then, on November 28, 2023 the training will be held at 4:30 p.m. followed by the potluck. Carole H. also advised everyone that there is an Advent Dinner at the church on November 24, 2023.

Marcia thanked Jayne for hosting online coffee parties during COVID and up until July, 2023.

**Next meetings:** Regular Meeting October 17, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting November 21, 2023 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Governance Training and Potluck November 28, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Michael closed with prayer.