

Kamloops United Church - Council Circle

October 17, 2023 minutes

Present on Zoom: Dorothy Garner, Kathy Akins, Jayne Martin, Derm Strong, Braden Sydor, Bill McNiece, Carole Hutchings, Carol Sparkes, Pam Bradley, Emily Vutev, Gail Wichmann, Jan Vint, Doug Scorrar, Chair: Marcia Julian, Staff: Rev. Andrew MacPherson, Florence Ballard.

Regrets: Rev. Dr. Michael Caveney.

Marcia opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc people, lands which we as uninvited guests benefit from and are grateful for. Also acknowledged is KUC's status as an officially 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming community of faith, since 1996.

The candle was lit representing the Light of Christ always present as we reflected on the recent news of the bombing of a hospital in Gaza. Marcia shared a translation from Aramaic of the Lord's Prayer.

Core Ministry Report – The KUC Affirming Ministry

Chris reported on the activity of the Affirming ministry so far in 2023. There was discussion of the recent anti-SOGI protests and the implications of being Affirming, and the potential risks of our commitment to being Public, Intentional and Explicit. Chris asked for confirmation of the support of this Council Circle to take the risks.

"If you claim to be someone's ally, but aren't getting hit by the stones thrown at them, you aren't standing close enough." - Stan Mitchell

It was also noted that with the amalgamation of KUC and the two other churches who were not officially Affirming, the newly formed faith community will be required to move through the education and discernment process to become Affirming. This is a beautiful opportunity.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Chris, seconded by Carol Sparkes. Carried

Motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2023 made by Chris, seconded by Jan Vint. Carried.

What are you hearing?

An organizer from Allyloops reached out to Emily thanking her for the presence of KUC at the anti SOGI/2SLGBTQIA+ protest on September 20.

Carol Sparkes is hearing people saying how much they are enjoying Andrew and the laughter.

Jayne gave kudos for Sunday's service and how seamless it was.

Florence reported that KUC applied for a Food-for-All grant from the United Way. Pitstop will receive \$21,000. Jan noted that the TNRD has some grant opportunities.

Carol S. says that people are commenting on how lovely it is to have the sounds of children in the sanctuary.

Monthly Reports

Financial reports were circulated in advance. A positive is the nice recovery on Identified Givers. Currently we are sitting at a YTD surplus of \$12,000. Pitstop fundraising was off in 2023, however we had deferred revenue.

Recovery on space is doing very well, as is revenue for weddings and funerals, and for the Thrift shop.

Florence let us know that there are additional unexpected maintenance costs upcoming (a furnace part).

The Administrative report was circulated. The lift is close to being ready for inspection. The Covenanting service is set for November 12; a covenanting with Andrew and with the three congregations coming together.

Committee Reports

M & P – nothing to report

PMRC – nothing to report, just a reminder to take note of PMRC LeaderShift and other learning opportunities. And, this is the 75th anniversary of Naramata Centre.

Old Business

1. Governance training on November 28 at 4:30, to be followed by a potluck.
2. Tri-Church amalgamation update: Bill McNiece reported on the progress at Plura Hills; Dorothy Garner noted that Mt. Paul had a “grieving time” to hear people’s concerns. (for e.g. the future of the special stained glass windows.)

Florence is working with Margaret and it is going well. Carole H reminded that the three congregations are invited to the potluck on October 21, and to send requests of favourite hymns.

N.B. Carole still needs many volunteers for October 21.

New Business

1. Acceptance of the revised management structure: Florence is asking for a motion to approve the revised organizational charts. Discussion. Note that the relationship with M & P is a “need to know” only.

Motion to approve the proposed revisions to the organizational charts for the KUC governance policy manual. Made by Gail Wichmann, seconded by Carol Sparkes. Carried.

2. Proposed change to the Statement of Affirmation (part one, page one). Tabled for the November 21 meeting.

Andrew spoke a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Brayden, seconded by Carole Hutchings. Carried.

Next meeting – November 21 2023 – in person

November 28 2023 – in person for governance training and potluck.

Recorded by: Chris Dolson, Recording Secretary

Chaired by: Marcia Julian