

St. Andrew`s Christian Church Board

August 18, 2022, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. – Google Meet – Rockland, Ontario

This meeting will be recorded.

Welcome and opening of meeting:

Chair: Bill

Secretary: Marie

Expected Attendance: Jacquie, Brian, Rudy, Barb, Hazel, Sue, Jane, Colette, Ray, Bill, John, Nancy, Yvon, Amy and Dan Willis, Sheran Kent, Susan Leduc

Regrets: Colette

Trustee Rep: Hazel

Motion: To grant Yvon Larocque, Amy and Dan Willis, Sheran Kent, Susan Leduc correspondent status to this meeting.

Moved by Ray. Seconded by Hazel. Carried.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Opening prayer Brian.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion: To adopt Agenda (with amendments if any) Moved by Jacquie seconded by Rudy. Carried.2. **Minutes of previous Board meetings** July 14, 2022, sent out electronically. Errors or omissions:**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 Board meeting. Moved by Marie, seconded by Ray. Carried.**Business Arising:**

- a. Full Bellies. Yvon Larocque indicated two months ago when he approached the board about getting an extension to December and this request is still outstanding. There were conditions that had been set out and today is the deadline. They've managed to continue with Full Bellies very successfully. They've entered a discussion with New Beginning's church about relocating, however, they can't take them on until November. Between now and November they'd like to continue with St. Andrew's. His concern is if the board decides to rescind their proposal and if this was to end abruptly, that it probably wouldn't reflect well on St. Andrew's to the community. This is something he is genuinely concerned about. However, whatever the board decides he is willing to accept at this time.

The chair stated the indication at the beginning was that there was an effort being made by Full Bellies to become a not-for-profit organization and on that basis, we agreed to proceed with the trial. His concern is that St. Andrew's is a charitable organization and within the present circumstances, with the reduced rent, we would in effect be subsidizing a for-profit organization. This is not an appropriate option for a charitable organization that is supported largely by donations augmented by rentals from Pangborn Hall. We've asked that this be followed up and that the change to not-for-profit organization is the condition of extending the lease.

Dan Willis responded: Amy is the heart and soul of Full Bellies while he is the administrative guy in the background. He has about a decade of experience consulting at the executive level for international for-profits and not-for-profits as well as National Digital Strategies for two non-profits, Christian charitable organizations in Canada, one in Quebec and one nationwide. He has a wealth of experience in these areas. In regard to how they have chosen to operate, from now up until this point, is intentional and they do intend to maintain the for-profit status, at least until the next three to five years, given current contracts that are signed and in place. He could go into more detail as to why they are continuing to pursue that route. However, as far as that being shifted, it is not something that is going to happen as far as their administration

goes. It may be details that the board would not be interested in. If it is simply that if they are not not-for-profit, you are not interested, no problem. They completely understand that and will make other arrangements.

Amy Willis thanked the Church and Board for the opportunity to reach more families in this area. The question of for-profit or not-for-profit does not matter because they are just doing the Lord's work.

Bill: The terms of the lease are what the board has agreed to. If there is a request for an extension, we will have to look at a different rate for-profit corporation, at the same kind of rate that we charge anyone else that comes in to use our facilities and it's considerably higher than what we have been charging Full Bellies.

Amy Willis: She believes that doing the Lord's work and the goals that they are accomplishing far outweigh that of whether we are profit or not-for-profit. All their profits go into the community. There is no profit. They may be on paper a corporation, but all the money goes back into the community in multiple ways. No one is paid including Dan and herself.

Yvon pointed out that the church hall is empty during the time they are using it. The church is not losing income while they are there. They are prepared to cooperate in any manner with any requests that the board puts forward. Yvon's request is to extend until the end of December and before that time they will probably be moving on to New Beginnings church. At that time, hopefully they will have a transition that will allow St. Andrew's to remain involved with Full Bellies.

A concern raised was why our church would be against it. Member was appalled that the house of the Lord would not support it. It was pointed out that St. Andrew's has supported Full Bellies for the past five months at a reduced rent. We did not charge them anything for the first three months and for the past two months we charged 200 dollars a month which is in the same ballpark we charge churches.

Chair states as of August 31st, unless something changes, that this will be the end of it.

Member expressed a wish that the Board would wait until the end of the year.

It was stated that the Board has given the opportunity to Full Bellies to show that they were going to become a not-for-profit organization, which is a condition we required to support them. If they are willing to pay a rent about ten times what they are paying now we might be able to look at it.

Rev. Brian spoke how the board has made a decision at a previous meeting about the terms under which they were offering the lease. The board can reconsider a decision, anybody who voted for the previous decision is able to move to reconsider. He pointed out that it is not contrary to our charitable status to work in partnership with a corporation for-profit or otherwise. When we brought the Ad Mare food truck in, we did not charge them to use the hall because they helped us to advance one of our purposes which was to raise money for our budget. Any profitable corporation that we chose to partner with in a way that advances our aims as a charity, is a perfectly legitimate partnership. If somebody wanted to use our facilities to do taxes and we made an arrangement that in lieu of rent they would make 10% of their tax returns available to people in lower income brackets. This would be a perfectly legitimate arrangement with advancing our charitable aims in lieu of rent. It would be perfectly respectful and proper for this Board to consider advancing the charitable aim of meeting the needs of our community, of those in poverty and young families, if the Board chooses to do so. We are not locked into our previous decisions. He wanted to make that clear. He states that it is the responsibility of the Board to make sure that all the members know what their options are when there is a decision to be made. Bill stated that the examples given, cooperating with a for-profit organization are somewhat different than the situation here. In most cases we were purchasing goods and services. In this case we are subsidizing their operating cost for no return. Brian reiterated meeting a charitable aim with our organization is a return.

Statement and question. Several members of the Board work at Full Bellies. A question was asked, what would a reasonable cost be that would show the church that it is covering whatever costs we have about electricity, etc. Full Bellies has been charged \$200 a month for the past few months. Question: How much would we have to increase that to allow them to continue until December? Questions will be asked why they've left St. Andrew's and went to another church? We will have to answer those questions. Full Bellies is a mission and they are doing God's work and the people benefitting from it are certainly appreciative. Member stated he would hate to see it come to end on August 31st. He feels every board member should have the opportunity to say something about it and then put it to a vote as to whether to extend that lease beyond the August 31st deadline.

Chair stated that at some point we can do that but not at this meeting. It is not on the agenda. We have a lease until the end of August. If we need a special meeting we will do it.

Point of Order by Rev. Wilkie: It was pointed out that it is on the agenda as business arising as a review of Full Bellies. Motions can be made by board members.

Concern raised: We've been working with an advisor from the United Church. We have reviewed Jane's financial statement and realized that we are going to be put into a situation of more financial precariousness than we have been up to now. We have received a notice that there will be a higher gas prices being charged in the future. It was felt that until we sort out this situation with the advisor, now is not the time to making long-term arrangements without at least running it by our advisor.

Dan Willis pointed out that this is business and he understands that. At the end of the day, regardless of how this ends, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. They have worked mission fields, urban ministry, foreign ministry, and he has preached from a pulpit. At no point, regardless of how this turns out, at any point from Full Bellies, will there be animosity. He wants to be very clear about this. The ethics and integrity of Amy and himself, regardless of the decision made here tonight, are never going to slander or speak ill of this church, as this was the birthplace of Full Bellies' opportunity in this community. He does feel, as a Full Bellies' representative, that they can give every assurance, even with the divisions we've had in the past, with different arrangements we've had as we've grown; nothing will not be made public. This is one of the benefits they have as being a for-profit organization. We disseminate what we choose to disseminate and that is never to speak ill of those who have helped to build a program on volunteers, your buildings, offering your time and efforts. He could not in good conscience leave the call with any cessation of this lease, that would lead to us in some way being maniacal or slanderous. It absolutely will never come from the lips of anybody in my organization that this church did anything but right by us.

Chair thanked Dan for his comments. He stated the implication is that we've done something wrong which he doesn't believe we have. He believes we've acted responsibly as stewards of the congregation and our church community. Amy Willis expressed her views from her perspective about our church earning a profit from a for-profit business that does not receive profit. Chair stated that this is not correct. We want a rent that is proportional to the type of organization that is renting.

Chair closed the discussion on Full Bellies.

- b. Ministry and Personnel and Chair have been talking to Reverend Kenney. We are following the United Church process in the search for a new pastor.
- c. Progress report on music director's replacement. Rev. Wilkie has not been able to get a decision from either Heather Vos or Heather Lamarre. He must pass on this task to whomever the board decides to pursue that. He has included the contact information in his Pastoral Report.
- d. Progress report for replacement of treasurer. Emailed report. It is in process and we haven't had any further conversations at this time and will update the board as soon as we have something.
- e. Replacement for missions as Colette has resigned. Chair asked that the nomination's committee take that on as an additional task. Hazel agreed.

3. Treasurer's Report: Report emailed and filed.

Question raised: The \$150 for rent was that from the Église Évangélique de Rockland? Answer: This was from the volunteers of Full Bellies from the breakfast for Rev. Wilkie who rented the hall.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Jane seconded by Hazel. Carried.

Regular Reports:

- a. Benevolent Fund: Brian, Barb. No draws. One of the people we help regularly has been completely out of contact for the last month. There is some mail in the office for this person. If anybody has been in contact please let us know. We need to get some important mail to this person. Yvon mentioned this person contacted him earlier and they responded. He will let the person know of the mail waiting in the office. Jacquie has offered to help Barb with the Benevolent Fund. Barb thanked Jacquie and mentioned that Carol Larabie is also helping.

- b. Fellowship: Report emailed and filed. Barb. She is waiting for the contact information from Rev. Wilkie for the farewell potluck lunch. He said he would respond soon.
- c. Ministry and Personnel: Rudy. Report emailed and filed.
- d. Missions: Report emailed and filed. Colette has resigned this position. Chair thanked Colette for her service. Jane has been in contact with Colette and Suzanne Yelle. The mission for the Guatemala mission has been remitted in full as has Mercy Ships. The totals that Colette reported, there is a discrepancy between the numbers we had agreed upon in July so she will refer to her to make sure everything is paid in full which will only leave the M&S Fund, Food Bank and Benevolent Fund to deal with at the end of the year. She has also remitted the \$100 dollars that we usually send for the Daily Bread.
- e. Music: Jacquie. She is sending in the hymns to CCLI that we have been using. She must do that until September 30th. She will be filling in from now until we find, through our advisor, a replacement pastor. f. Pangborn Hall: Nancy. Nothing to report.
- g. Pastoral Care Report: Emailed report and filed. She is going forward as usual.
- h. Regional Council: John. Nothing to report.
- i. Property Management: Rudy. Emailed report and filed. We ended up buying an 8x20' shed and the boxes are behind the church near the deck. Ray asked if we have the funds to hire a contractor to remove the old shed, put the footing for the new one and put the new one together. Rudy responded, we require a building permit because it is over 108' and it has been applied to the town. He does have some family members who are willing to assemble the shed.
- j. Rockland Manor: Sue. Nothing to report. With Brian's departure, Barb, Rudy, and Jacquie will be filling in the void. Bill thanked Brian for his service at the Manor.
- k. Social Club: Jane. The numbers have dwindled over the summer as is normal. We've had a couple of BBQ lunches which was appreciated. Jane is leaving the church as of the end of this month. She needs to find a place where she is fed spiritually. Unless we have someone else to take over the social club, Brian is not going to be there to open the door. She is the only member who is there every week. She will start informing them next Tuesday that the social club will be closed. l. Stewardship: Ray.

Ray expressed his concern about where the church was going. There are many obstacles facing us. We've lost several good solid members. Where we are headed in the next few months, he has no idea. It is a really difficult time right now to be a member of St. Andrew's. The people that have left have always been some of the hardest working members in the church and strong supporters of the church.

We haven't had the face-to-face, hugging, hand-shaking regular church Sundays, where everyone got along well. We are allowed to have a different opinion, however, we also have to know how to forgive and move forward.

Fellow Board Members,

Back in March 25, 2020, I sent an e-mail titled 'Expression of Gratitude', to the members of the Rockland Board. In the email, I made reference to a Nora Saunders (General Secretary of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council) EOORC Newsletter article titled 'Gratitude for your Essential Services During COVID-19'. In part, her article to United Church Ministers and Church leadership read as follows:

Your leadership during this time is very important to your congregations and the communities you serve. In many respects, you will be an essential service to your communities. We know it isn't very easy, and are grateful for all that you have been doing and will be doing as the pandemic advances.

Since March 2020, it has been a very long and tiring two and one half years. And unfortunately, we are still being reminded, on a daily basis, (sometimes several times a day) that the pandemic has not yet gone away. Who would have thought, back in March 2020, that it was going to last this long? In my March 25, 2020 e-mail to the board members, I thanked Reverend Brian for all of the hard work that he took upon himself to provide live-streaming Sunday Worship Services to his Church family. Also, I expressed my sincere thanks for his determination to continue to provide Discipleship Groups and other Bible Study Groups through ZOOM.

It is now mid August 2022, and I want to re-iterate these expressions of gratitude. Thank you Reverend Brian and Good Luck in all of your future endeavours.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11-12

The Chair concluded with; we are having hard times but we are embarked on a process to move ahead and he is looking forward to doing that.

Bill expressed his thanks to Brian for taking the initiative, specifically at the beginning of the pandemic but it's also important to acknowledge that there was a full worship team involved with some donated equipment and a lot of hours put in with Reverend Wilkie throughout this period.

A concerned raised: Even though Brian is leaving and is going to a new ministry in Aylmer, I am sure he is feeling troubled by the fact that he is leaving a church that is in trouble because I am sure he'd like to see us get through these obstacles that we are facing right now. Once we have the opportunity to get back together as a board and meet together, shake hands, etc. but to always be respectful of one another and always appreciate what each one of us is doing as a member of the board. Never to be critical, always to be constructive and helping along the way. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the pandemic.

A sentiment expressed with the belief that Brian has led us in a good direction. Member believes that we are a strong board. We should be moving forward and not dwelling on the past. Let us pray that in the future we move forward. I.

Sunday School: Nancy. Nothing to report.

- m. Trustee: Hazel. Report emailed and filed. Rudy, Walter and Hazel have reviewed the insurance. She wanted to point out that insurance was up \$801.30, just due to claims from other churches that had circumstances, particularly when they were closed during the pandemic. She suggested that we take a look at our insurance early next May to give some time to look into the matter. She believes the due date is July 15th. Something to note Mr. Chair.
- n. Worship Supplies: Barb and Jacquie will be able to manage the worship supplies in the next little while with reordering from Christianbook.com and keeping an eye on whatever else needs to be done with changing the church's décor.
- o. Pastor's Report: Report emailed and filed. There has been a lot of work doing technical training videos so that people can learn how to use Video Psalm. A number of those videos are now on YouTube on a separate channel so that people who want to learn what is involved in preparing agendas in Video Psalm and doing the broadcasting can learn it. It also has been a job that John Douglas and Brian have been doing, of trying to document all the technical aspects related to Google Workspace and RockRMS Church Management Software and the Azure cloud computing platform. John has a list of login credentials of the various services and the various ways to access these things. He has a certain amount of understanding of what needs to be done to keep on top of these things. There is a lot of technical aspects that has allowed us to continue working during the pandemic and being able to continue to reach out with live streaming. Also to simply organize our information, like lists of names and addresses, offerings and tax receipts that are done through the RMS. There is a bit more documentation for John and him to go through and they will send that full document to the board so that knowledge is known everywhere. John has the list and it should be printed out and put in the church's safe.

There are two items that need serious attention. The cloud computing platform that we use, requires a two-factor identification and up to now that was done through the treasurer's telephone. A text was sent to that telephone when someone wanted to sign in. Brian tried to set it up so it would use the church's telephone as most phone systems allow a text to a landline conversion so that you can get the text by voice on the phone. We have not been able to establish that with the phone with Microsoft two-factor authentication. Bill has volunteered his phone number. When it is set up, it will send a verification code to him and then he will need to give Brian that verification code so he can confirm that Bill's telephone number is valid.

Bill expressed his need to be involved to some extent with the technical aspects Brian and John have been working on, so John is not the sole contact.

Brian stated that Microsoft Azure requires a credit card to be registered as a payment method, even though there is no cost. Bill has again volunteered. All these tasks will be done Sunday.

Brian has included in the report a list of potential pulpit supply people for arranging pulpit supply between now and when you get a more permanent minister. He has also included the contact information for the music search. He wants to apologize that he hasn't had the time to install the replacement door on the side of the sanctuary or the new door hardware on the sanctuary door or the office door. Given the difficulty of finding people in the church with the time and ability to do these things, he suggested that some of the new anti-hate grant be used to hire installers for those things, just

as you are hoping to hire someone to install the plexiglass on the windows. He also pointed out that he was able to purchase a new senior's laptop which is currently being used in the sanctuary, but it is for the senior's group as well. He was not able to find the audio assistive device. The information about what he was looking for is in the report. The Bluetooth LE audio broadcast standard was just approved this year and the products just haven't hit the market yet. When they do, they will work with mobile phones and people who connect their hearing aids to mobile phones, will easily be able to connect to the audio stream in the sanctuary. It is a good option for assistive listening. Bill again has volunteered to accept this cause.

Bill asked Jane if it was March of next year to close this file. Jane stated that when we submitted the grant application, we gave an end date of October 31st. If you need an extension, you can email them. They look at March 31st as the absolute end. We submitted an end date of October 31st and at that point they will need a final report. If you make any changes, you have the email information.

Brian stated that it is difficult to see the struggles the church is going through as I depart. This is my last report to the Board. I want to thank all the people that have contributed to a wonderful 17 years of ministry here. I have learned much from each of you and met much patience as I learned from my own mistakes. Together we have had the opportunity to bless many souls in this community. Many have grown in Christ who are now with the Lord. Others have gone on to service in other parts of the country, and the world. Each of you will continue to carry the faith that you have cultivated, sharing Christ's love with family friends and strangers – wherever he leads you. I know this transition year has been and will be challenging for all of you. My prayer is that God's wisdom, patience, grace and joy will overflow in each of you as he leads you into the future. In the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: I pray that we all go forward in peace; go in faith; go in love. Blessings.

Bill expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to Rev. Wilkie for his spiritual leadership and advice to the Board over the years. We wish him well in his new calling as he moves forward.

Motion: To accept all regular reports as presented. Moved by Jacquie. Seconded by Hazel. Carried.

Next meeting scheduled for September 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Closing Prayer: Brian.

Adjournment 8:13 p.m. Moved by John.

St. Andrew's Christian Church respectfully acknowledges that Clarence-Rockland is situated on the unceded traditional and ancestral land of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations.