

St. Andrew`s Christian Church Board Minutes

February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. – Google Meet – Rockland, Ontario

Welcome and opening of meeting:

Chair: Bill

Secretary: Marie

Expected Attendance: Jane, Jacquie, Brian, Rudy, Barb, Hazel, Sue, Colette, Ray, Bill, John, Nancy
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Regrets: Colette

Trustee Rep: Hazel

Visitors: Yvon Larocque

Motion: To grant visitors to this meeting correspondent status:

Moved by Rudy. Seconded by Jane. Carried.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Opening prayer Brian.
2. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion: To adopt Agenda (with amendments if any) Moved by Barb. seconded by Ray. Carried.

3. **Minutes of previous Board meeting** (January 20, 2022) were sent out electronically. Errors or omissions:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 Board meeting. Moved by Marie, seconded by Barb. Carried.

Chair invited Yvon to make a presentation on the Full Bellies program.

Full Bellies is a corporation that has been running locally out of St. Isidore for the last year and a half. As a corporation, they experience less red tape, but abide by all government regulations, including those from the Board of Health. They are not a non-profit corporation. A small group began the program by purchasing second-grade produce in bulk from a warehouse in Montreal and sharing it among several large families. Since then, the program has grown to include 3000 members. They have other local outlets in operation (Van Leek Hill, Casselman) and now wish to expand to the Rockland area.

The self-select produce is available to clients at a cost of \$35 per box, or \$17.50 for half a box. Arrangements can be made to accommodate various income levels.

If Pangborn Hall were to be available to this program, Yvon Larocque has volunteered to be in charge. Yvon worked in the food handling industry for 40 years and volunteered in the Green Box and Food Bank (Cornwall) programs. Yvon has volunteers already lined up. The food would arrive on Wednesday, be distributed Thursday, and clean-up would take place Friday by lunch. Leftovers have been given to

farmers as feed. All buying, long-term storage and financing would be done by the St. Isidore organizer. This would benefit primarily Rockland, but other clients would not be turned away.

Yvon requested a three-month trial period, but also indicated it could possibly be managed with a shorter trial period. No refrigeration would be utilized. Yvon would take care of all interior clean-up plus ensure that the walkways were cleared of ice or snow.

4. **Business Arising:**

- a. Update on NHSP. There has been no word from them. We cannot contact them. It will be adjudicated by the end of February. As soon as I know, I will send an email.
- b. Rental contracts: Rockland Community Church rental will be \$50./month for six months and to be revisited at the end of the six months. Their service will be on Sundays at 3:00 pm in Pangborn Hall.

The Église Évangélique d'Rockland rental is \$100./month for weekly services, 8:30-9:30 every Sunday; in addition to the \$50/month for bible study meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, for a total of \$150.00 month starting March 1st.

The Rockland Community Church does receive a grant from Presbyterian Outreach Church for part of the pastor's salary.

C. Reopening of church: Our own use of the church will be up to the Worship Team. We will have live streaming for two more weeks and begin hybrid livestream/in-person services March 20th.

It was suggested that the Senior's Group could be started next week. They will continue with asking for proof of vaccination and will continue wearing masks. Provincial rules will be followed.

MOTION: Pangborn Hall Senior's Group, following provincial guidelines will start March 1st.

Moved by Rudy. Seconded by Hazel. Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report – Jane

The heating has really gone up but is attributed to the cold weather in January. We had budgeted \$3500.00 for annual assessment from the United Church and they've assessed it at \$2725.00. The \$10,000 GIC has matured after three years. It was put in an accelerated GIC where the \$10,000.00 is guaranteed. It paid out \$11,888.00 for three years with a gain of \$1800.00. I would like permission from the Board for Rudy and me to go in and invest the principal plus the interest. We have always taken the interest as part of our needs, but we are in good shape this year. There is \$1500 already set aside, hoping by the end of the year we would still be able to invest that. This would increase our holdings. This could help in the Strategic Planning. I think this should be reinvested.

A question was asked, if we reinvest it, would you be proposing to tie it up for a period of time? Jane indicated yes; this is not unrestricted. Unrestricted we have \$1500.00. The \$4500.00 is set aside for insurance in July. One year now pays about a half percent. The bank will offer different programs, different rates of interest but they won't quote that over the phone. You have to go in and talk to them. I would suggest that if we can get the same deal again that we do that and if not, get the best rate that we can negotiate. The EOORC (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council) has an investment strategy

that First United is using but it's an annuity that is locked in for thirty years. Several of those programs cannot guarantee the principal. It is not something I would recommend using. Our options are guaranteed investment through the bank.

A concern was raised with the state of the world and inflation should we be reinvesting that whole amount or keep the interest out for an emergency.

We have already set aside \$1500.00 from last year in unrestricted, hoping that in December 2022 we could invest that.

A question was raised about the outcome of the meeting with Alex Mirhady to review the financial statements. They have all been approved. There are three letters, one for each year. They will be filed in with AGM minutes and a copy with the books.

Question: Would you be doing a redeemable or capital investment that might have a decent interest over the time period where in worst case scenario we could get at it and that our principal was secure. We had a total of \$15,000.00 that was tied up in GIC's. The \$10,000.00 was in for three years. The other GIC's each \$2500.00, one is cashable, the other one is yearly that rolls over automatically. We have access to \$5000.00. In any guaranteed investment in a bank if it is needed, you can always break a GIC but you forfeit the interest.

A concern was raised if the Treasurer was able to shore up the process of the Syrian refugee fund. When a donation is indicated on an offering envelope for the Syrian Refugee fund a receipt would be given at year end. Rockland Community Church will be contacted by the treasurer to transfer the money. The contact is Chris Cornthwaith. The Syrian Refugee fund is at \$3500.00.

The definition of an honorarium was addressed. A CRA representative was contacted for clarification. It is a token thank you not a value for work and any amount has to be reported. Under \$500.00 has to be reported. CRA has indicated any amount has to be reported as income. A few years ago, that if an honorarium was \$500.00 or less the church did not have to issue a T4 slip. After that we had notification from the United Church that all honorariums had to be reported.

MOTION: Jane and Rudy be given permission by the Board to go to TD to renegotiate GIC \$10,000 plus the interest.

Moved by Jane. Seconded John. Carried

MOTION: To accept the Treasure's report. Moved by Jane. Seconded by John. Carried.

Regular Reports:

- a. Benevolent Fund: Brian, Barb. No report.
- b. Fellowship: Barb. Will be having a meeting shortly to discuss future events.
- c. Ministry and Personnel: Rudy. Will be attending a course.
- d. Missions: Colette. Two-month report will be submitted next month.
- e. Music: Jacquie. Nothing to report.
- f. Pangborn Hall: Nancy. Nothing to report.
- g. Pastoral Care Report: Barb. In binder and emailed.

- h. Regional Council: John
- i. Property Management: Rudy. John: The FOB is getting ready for installation. Next week possibly.
- j. Rockland Manor: Sue. By the 28th hopefully to two sittings per dining room.
- k. Social Club: Jane. Will go ahead on Tuesdays.
- l. Stewardship: Ray. Compliment Barb on regular emails sent out from Pastoral Care.
- m. Sunday School: Nancy (on hold)
- n. Trustee: Hazel. Review of all material and manual that was received from Rudy/Jane. Rudy is hoping to take all documents, scan them and store in the safe at the church. Rudy and I will meet with Walter in the spring.
- o. Worship Supplies: Brian has ordered palm crosses. There may be some in the freezer. If they are located they will be used.
- p. Pastor's Report: Brian. It has been a normal month. I've assisted John with the emailing of the tax receipts. He expressed his appreciation of Marie's help with the technical side of things. He has been trying to reach Allan Turmaine, who indicated he would help with the technical work but as of now I haven't had an answer. He expressed his appreciation also to Barb's efforts with emails on the pastoral care side of things. It is very heartwarming to see the conversations between members.

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

New Business:

1. **Motion: Brian.** For the annual renewal of VAM (Voluntary Associate Minister) status of Robert and Hilary Merritt. Moved by Jacquie. Seconded by Jane.
Two years ago Robert and Hilary approached us about being VAC. They needed a church to take them on for licensing to conduct weddings and such. At their request to become VAM, they indicated that their involvement with us would be limited because of other commitments. There is a form the secretary needs to sign in the cubby hole.
A concern was brought forward whether we are expected to give them money. The answer is no. If they were hired as supply, then we will.
2. Strategic Planning:
Motion: The goal is to put the planning of our facilities on a firmer path in the long term so we will not be forced to live from year to year. This would enable us to look at how to finance for future endeavours/commitments.
Moved: Rudy. Seconded Hazel. Carried.
Bill indicated he will chair this if the Board agrees. A few more volunteers are needed. Rudy has volunteered. Financial input will also be needed. He will draft a plan for the committee to review. We will eventually present it to the board. Jane has also volunteered.

There was a question with regards to more input from perhaps other members who may have experience in this area. For the time being, it will be kept within our interested group, Rudy, Jane and Bill.

Motion: If the mover of the motion accepts the idea that Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Bill with Rudy and Jane as members be stood up. If the mover accepts this, a vote is done and all are in favour. None opposed. Carried.

New Business

Motion: To accept Yvon's plan to set up a satellite Full Bellies program in Pangborn Hall, Rockland, on a three-month trial basis, from Wednesday afternoons until Friday afternoons. Moved by Jane, seconded by Nancy.

Questions were raised about the use of the hall during these three days by other groups, such as Bible Study, Bridge Club. The response was that the study groups are prepared to continue meeting online and the Bridge Club is not returning. There was a question about storage of boxes – apparently this is not an issue, and we will not be storing any. Further questions came up about Hall insurance, Trucker Convoy support, our church charitable status, and the financial stability of the organizer. These have been assigned to Board members to research further. Also set aside for further research are questions about the impact of this program on our local grocery stores and Food Bank.

“Incorporated status” was explained, and Yvon indicated previously that any profits were turned back into the business, its facilities, and its ability to reduce prices for clients in greater need.

Another question referred to the possible much-lower quality of “second-level” produce. This also bears looking into, but with Yvon having so much experience in the field, hopefully problems could be avoided. As well, the question was raised as to how this program would affect our own Outreach program. Should we be charging rent to the program to cover our expenses? The time frame of three months was also questioned.

In order to more fully consider this program, the length of the trial, and to do more research, it was decided to table the motion for two weeks. This decision was carried. Yvon will be informed. The single issue meeting to discuss this issue will take place Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7 p.m. Board members are invited to contact Yvon to ask any further questions before that time.

MOTION: To defer the decision on whether we support this proposal by Yvon Larocque, until a special meeting on March 10, 2022 at 7 pm., pending sufficient investigation on these points that have been raised.

All in favor. None opposed. Carried.

Next meeting scheduled for March 24th at 7:00 p.m. Special single-issue meeting scheduled for March 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Closing prayer Brian.

Adjournment at 9:05 pm Moved by Jane.

Attachment: Strategic Planning's information.

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.

ATTACHMENT

New Business Item: Strategic Planning

For discussion at the Feb 24th Board meeting

Proposing to form a Strategic Planning committee/subgroup - possible alternate names:

Planning

Long Term Planning

Development Management

Management Planning Objective

Planning

Purpose

This is largely related to the church property/facilities. Its function/purpose would be to look at what needs to be done and when, set priorities, develop costed projects, develop (phased) funding plans, explore funding/financing sources and options, including loans and repayment considerations (including "self-loan" from reserves and loans from Regional), use of grants to fund or augment funding for projects and activities. All ideas welcome.