

St. Andrew's Congregational Meeting

Held by *Zoom*, North Bay, ON
 Thursday October 1st, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

- Welcome (6:35 p.m.)** Rob Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Susan Whitehead, Administrator from the Canadian Shield Regional Council (CSRC), for her technical help. Rob Smith lit a candle in memory of Greg Brewer.
- Attendance** There were 42 members and adherents from St. Andrew's attending this Congregational *Zoom* meeting.
- Guest Rev. Rob Smith. Rob was acting Chair for this meeting.
- Agenda** The agenda was circulated electronically through our website ahead of this meeting.
- Holy Manners** Rob Smith spoke about the principal of *Holy Manners*. We were reminded to keep God at the center of our interactions, to separate people from problems and to honour the group decisions we make. We are encouraged to welcome the conflict of ideas. Listening without interruption is important so we can really hear the story and recognize the gift of the holy spirit.
- Traditional Territory** Rob Smith offered an acknowledgement that we meet on Traditional Territory.
- Affirming Statement** Karen Gooch read the St. Andrew's Affirming statement from May 5th, 2013.
- Opening** Rob Smith opened the meeting with a reading by Joyce Rupp about gratitude.
- New Business**
- Search Committee Treanor Greer-Delarosbel offered a report for information from the Search Committee:
- The committee has completed the first part of their mandate with the recommendation that we hire Tracy Davis to be our full-time minister, which was approved by Council and the CSRC.
 - The second part of their mandate as approved at the AGM was that we hire a part-time Congregational Designated Minister (CDM). The committee feels strongly that Tracy needs assistance and supports hiring a CDM however at this time there are concerns about our financial position.
 - The committee will put its search on hold until we have a clearer picture of the finances. There may need to be further discussion about the length of any contract as well as the number of hours per week.
- Belfry Update Several people provided an update for the belfry project and members of the congregation were given a chance to ask questions:
- Pat Kirton-Bailey stated that we have signed a contract with Priestly Demolition for \$259,000 to remove the top 18 - 20 feet of the belfry tower. The work is scheduled to begin on October 13th and will take 2-4 weeks. They will weatherproof the remaining section and we will then proceed with the rest of the project, including roofing and masonry work. There is ongoing discussion about the timing any further work.

- Reid Milne offered a brief history of the whole project to date. He has been working closely with Ian Hill from Critchley Hill Architects and engineers Al Evans and Rob Suppa. He has spent time with managing staff from Priestley Demolition. They are arranging sidewalk and road closure permits and they should be able to maintain access to the Algonquin Street entrance throughout the demolition. Priestley will be saving some of the bricks for use during the final phase of the project - repair work on the lower portion of the tower.
- Reid has also spent time with a film crew from the *Salvage Kings*. They plan to air the footage in an episode next April. They may be interested in the old carillon speakers that were found in the belfry.
- Reid is also planning to speak with reporters from *Bay Today* and *Cogeco News*. This will bring the project to the attention of the community which may help with fundraising efforts. It is important that we use the next few months to profile St. Andrew's and all of its history in the community as well as the many local outreach projects we have been engaged in.
- Bruce Downey has volunteered to work on a capital matching campaign to raise money and has started to reach out to members of the wider community. He also hopes to connect with people who may have been married or baptized at St. Andrew's or may have a long standing family connection to the church.
- Bruce thanked Reid for all of the work he has put into this project.
- We will need to get quotes for the rest of the project. Bruce made the suggestion that we hire consider hiring one company to oversee the rest of the project. Another suggestion from Garth Goodhew is that we should be very clear about deadlines for quotes to avoid confusion.
- Garth also spoke about the role of the trustees and believes there is some misunderstanding about this. They are required to follow the direction of Council and only in exceptional circumstances can they challenge a Council decision. He also is recommending that it would be a good idea if the trustees were represented at Council meetings so they can have more understanding about what is happening with the congregation.
- Rob Smith added that there is also misunderstanding of the role the regional council plays when it comes to projects such as this one. They take action based on recommendations from the church councils and cannot overturn decisions.
- There was a question about how long this project will take to complete. It depends on a number of factors however we do not want to drag things out too long since this may lead to higher costs.
- Reid will be discussing the issue of reinstalling the carillons with Ralph Johnston and Al Evans and a plan will be developed to incorporate this into the design.
- Documentation related to the belfry issue can be found on our website.
<https://standrews-northbay.ca/belfry-tower/>

Financial Update

Karen Gooch provided a brief outline of our financial situation:

- The investments as outlined in the July 4th, 2020 letter from Margaret Reid and Julia Morton are invested in money market funds which are generally unaffected by stock market volatility. <https://standrews-northbay.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SAUC-Financial-position-May-2020.pdf>
Some of this money will need to be re-designated to use for the belfry project, but there is almost enough to cover the demolition costs if required. Fundraising

will be needed to cover the rest of the project. The choir has agreed to provide \$30,000 of their designated funds for this project and may provide more if required. We have also been given approval from the CSRC to borrow from our Manse Fund. As well we are applying for loans from the United Church of Canada and the federal government in the form of the business pandemic loan.

- Unfortunately, our new Treasurer, Samantha Gravel has not yet had time to prepare a statement of income and expenses to date for the General Fund. We still have some money in our bank account and have not yet had to make use of our \$50,000 line of credit, but we are likely running a deficit for this year since it appears as if donations are down from last year. We have however, received many generous donations to *Loaves & Fishes* which has seen an increase in the number of clients.
- Karen Gooch, Council Secretary will be working with Samantha as she gets set up in her new position.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Rob Smith offered a closing blessing and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Executive Meetings

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's
St. Andrew's

Next Council Meetings

Tuesday, October 20th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom
Zoom

Chairperson, Pat Kirton-Bailey

Secretary, Karen Gooch