

St. Andrew's Council Meeting

Lois E. Carey Parlour

Tuesday March 12th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Opening (7:05 p.m.)	Doug McCausland welcomed Council members and guests to the meeting. This meeting was postponed from February 28 th , 2024. Kathie Smith joined by <i>Zoom</i> .
Attendance	Elizabeth Brownlee, Kim Delarosbel, Lorie Fairburn, Marg Fleming, Karen Gooch (Secretary), Garth Goodhew, Bill Ingwersen, Donna Landry, Pat Kirton-Bailey, Doug McCausland (Chair), Kimberly Robinson Nelles, Kathie Smith (Pastoral Charge Supervisor), Caitlin Smithers (Minister), Derek Stott, Howard Wurster (12)
Guests	Bill Downey, Ed Mounce
Land Acknowledgement	Doug McCausland acknowledged that we meet on Indigenous land and we offer thanks for the gifts of the people from the Nipissing First Nation as we work towards reconciliation.
Opening/ Touchstones	Doug McCausland read our touchstones aloud. Caitlin Smithers opened the meeting with a reading by Richard Wagamese.
Corresponding Members	Motion 010/24 Karen Gooch/ Pat Kirton-Bailey moved that Bill Downey and Ed Mounce be made corresponding members for this meeting. Carried
Agenda	Motion 011/24 Pat Kirton-Bailey/ Kim Delarosbel moved that the agenda be accepted with the addition of an item related to Loaves & Fishes staffing. Carried
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Motion 012/24 Karen Gooch/ Elizabeth Brownlee moved that the minutes from January 17 th , 2024 be accepted as circulated. Carried
Correspondence	A letter dated March 6 th 2024 was received from Janet Gear, Program Coordinator for Ministry Vocation informing St. Andrew's that our application for a Supervised Ministry Education Moving Grant (for Caitlin Smithers) was not approved due to a lack of available funding for 2023.
New Business	
Remit	A discussion was held about the Category 3 Remit Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Several Council members offered background information and comments about their understanding about what the remit will mean for Indigenous People and the United Church before a vote was held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question we must answer is: Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a

Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union; and
 3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.
- In 2019, General Council 43 approved the creation of a National Indigenous Organization, as a body equivalent to, and having the same power and responsibilities as, a regional council. Before the restructuring, there was the All Native Circle Conference.
 - Currently, any changes made to the way that National Indigenous Organization operates has to be approved by the whole church which amounts to asking permission. Approval of this remit will allow Indigenous People to remain associated with the United Church but provide autonomy to practice spirituality on their own terms. As an example, training criteria for Ministry Personnel can be customized to recognize Indigenous spiritual traditions.
 - This is a concrete action to follow up to the United Church apologies for our role in colonization of First Nations and in residential schools. It could be seen as an evolution in reconciliation that will allow First Nation People and the United Church to move forward.

Motion 013/24

Garth Goodhew/ Pat Kirton-Bailey moved that St. Andrew's Council approve the remit Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. **Carried**

Loaves & Fishes
Committee

Garth Goodhew spoke about a recommendation to create a new committee to oversee Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank operations that came out of the January 31st think tank.

- Garth began by acknowledging the Worship Team and thanking them for keeping our Community of Faith together through some difficult times. He also offered support to Caitlin Smithers as she settles in to her role as our minister. Finally, he pointed out that Lorie Fairburn and a group of dedicated volunteers have had a major impact on the Loaves & Fishes. Our food bank has had a major effect on our congregation and the community at large. St. Andrew's has been a strong supporter of Loaves & Fishes.
- In recent years due to societal pressures, the food bank has experienced a lot of growth and this has led to a number of issues. As a result, there is a lot of pressure on Lorie as Manager of Loaves & Fishes. These pressures are also being felt by all of the 16 food banks in North Bay and Lorie has spent some of her time working with other churches and food aid organizations, including other churches and the Gathering Place.
- Currently, Loaves & Fishes operates as a program of our Outreach Committee. One of the outcomes of the recent think tank was to establish a separate Loaves & Fishes Committee to oversee the operation of the food bank. This would include looking at fundraising options and strategic planning for the future. This would relieve some of the pressure on Lorie, who is currently working significantly

more than the 10 hours we are paying her for. Adding a new committee will require a vote from the congregation at the April 7th Annual Meeting.

Motion 014/24

Garth Goodhew/ Lorie Fairburn moved that St. Andrew's Council recommend to the congregation that the Constitution of St. Andrew's United Church be amended in order to establish a separate Loaves & Fishes Committee within the Living Mission team of Council. The purpose of this committee will be to oversee all aspects of the Loaves & Fishes program including identifying funding sources and applying to those sources for funding. **Carried**

Loaves & Fishes
Staffing

Pat Kirton-Bailey brought several recommendations concerning our Loaves & Fishes Manager, Lorie Fairburn.

- It was suggested that perhaps Lorie should take over the bookkeeping for the separate Loaves & Fishes bank account but it was determined that there is no reason to change the current system, where our bookkeeper, Janet Ross looks after this account along with the general fund account.
- Each year our food bank receives approximately \$20,000 from the John Carl MacIsaac Foundation. This money must be spent on food and supplies and cannot be spent on salaries. Currently, Lorie's salary is paid from the Loaves & Fishes bank account and in an effort to be more transparent when tracking food bank expenses, it was agreed that her salary should be paid from the general fund account in the future. This will add approximately \$10,000 to the annual budget.

Motion 015/24

Pat Kirton-Bailey/ Kimberly Robinson Nelles moved that St. Andrew's Council approve that the salary for the Loaves & Fishes Manager be paid from the general fund effective immediately. **Carried**

- Lorie was asked to leave the meeting during a discussion about her salary. Pat made a recommendation that we increase Lorie's paid hours from 10 to 15 per week. This will add \$3,302 to this year's budget (from April to December). Lorie routinely puts many extra hours each week on a volunteer basis. Several people commented positively about Lorie's leadership abilities and the contribution of her talents to our stewardship campaigns. Her work has resulted in increased donations to both Loaves & Fishes and the general fund.

Motion 016/24

Pat Kirton-Bailey/ Kimberly Robinson Nelles moved that St. Andrew's Council approve that the Loaves & Fishes Manager paid hours be increased from 10 to 15 hours per week effective April 1st, 2024. **Carried**

Donna Landry abstained

Technology Working
Group

Recent events have highlighted the need to review all the technology and related services that are used by our church staff.

- The unreliability of our internet service necessitated a service call to Cogeco. The modem was replaced, but the new modem did not work well with the rest of the older equipment (router and switches) owned by St. Andrew's. A local computer technician from CE Computers & Networking was brought in and he was able to restore internet service and update some of our equipment for about \$700.
- A few people subsequently met with the technician and he made several suggestions concerning the updating of our computer equipment and software. It

was decided that a Technology Working Group should be established to review the options and make recommendations based on what is actually needed and what is affordable.

- The following people have agreed to be part of this working group – Bill Downey, Lorie Fairburn, Karen Gooch, Doug McCausland and Derek Stott.

Motion 017/24

Kim Delarosbel/ Elizabeth Brownlee moved that St. Andrew's Council approve the establishment of an ad hoc Technology Working Group who will make recommendations to Council about updating the technology that the staff is currently using. **Carried**

2024 Budget Pat Kirton-Bailey presented a draft budget for 2024 with estimated expenses of \$236,952 for Council to review. Since, there were still a few adjustments to make including some related motions passed at this meeting about the salary of the Loaves & Fishes Manager, it was decided that a vote to approve the budget will be held at the next meeting.

Nominations Report Bill Ingwersen offered a brief update on the work of the Nominations Committee.

- Bill stated that they are on track to have a full slate for the Annual Meeting. A full report will be presented at the next meeting.
- Bill had a question about who is responsible for the appointing of committee members. Under our new Council structure, committee Chairs are no longer elected by the congregation. The Liaisons are responsible for communication between the committees and the Council. The Liaisons and the Chairs should work together to ensure that committees are functioning in an appropriate manner, including finding committee members. The Nominations Committee has no formal role in finding committee members, but if in the course of talking to people about taking on a Council role, they find people who may be willing to take on committee work, they should pass names onto the Liaisons or Chairs.

Other Business

Trustees Ed Mounce, who was in attendance at this meeting, will replace Garth Goodhew as the Trustee Council Representative. As this was Garth's last Council meeting, thanks was offered for his years of service to St. Andrew's. Garth then informed Council that he has decided to rescind his resignation as a Trustee that was tendered at the last meeting and he will complete his elected term which ends March 8th, 2025.

Round Table

Members of Council were invited to speak about anything they would like. Both our guests, Bill Downey and Ed Mounce expressed that they had a good experience at our meeting. One member stated that they were proud to have been a part of this meeting. Council members were asked to remember two long-time St. Andrew's members – Peter Haddow whose sister recently passed away and Carole Sawyer who will turn 90 years old this week.

Adjournment

Kathie Smith offered a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

St. Andrew's Council Meeting
Lois E. Carey Parlour
Tuesday March 12th, 2024

Council, Page 24020

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday March 20th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Lois E. Carey Parlour

Chairperson, Doug McCausland

Secretary, Karen Gooch