

**STRATHROY UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH , 2007**

CALL TO ORDER: Tom McIntosh called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: 81 People were in attendance.

IN MEMORIAM AND OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Jock Tolmay read the memorial list which included many long time faithful members and adherents. A moment of silence was followed by prayer.

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Mussell and seconded by Joan Carter to award voting privileges to adherents.
Carried.

AGENDA: **MOTION:** It was moved by Ian Carter and seconded by Norma Robertson to approve the agenda with the following changes: - Patti Krista to present the budget for 2007 and we received the Celebration Sunday Annual Report for information. People to contact the office if they wish to stand on this committee for 2007. **Carried.**

MINUTES: **MOTION:** It was moved by Joan Gentleman and seconded by Dr. Allan Marshall to approve the congregational minutes found on pages 26-33 of the Annual Report. **Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Oboe Stop for the Organ:

Edith Hanselman (Organist/Director of Choirs) advised the congregation that the Oboe Stop would have to go where the trumpet stop is now and a new box built to contain the trumpet stop. The quote from Dodington and Dodington was approximately \$22,000.

Edith will obtain a second an organ builder from Lucan give us a quote as well and report back to the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

1 Annual Reports - 1-21:

MOTION: It was moved by Roger Kennedy and seconded by Jim Van Horne to receive the reports from committees and groups found on pages 1-21 with the following additions and corrections:

1. The addition of Jean Nisbet's name to the communion com. report found on page 16/
2. In the Senior Choir report on page 17 it should read that John Greenslade passed away and not David. My heartfelt apologies for this error.

Carried.

2. Financial Report:

David Morton presented the financial report and started off by acknowledging and thanking the chair of finance, Patti Krista and the members of the finance committee, Marion Lockwood, Anne Pelkman, Kirk Skinner and Dianne Dixon. He also thanked Mike Bett for auditing our financial statements.

- 3.1 % increase in our Envelope givings to the General Fund
- 13.8% increase in our Fundraising. Special thanks to the Friendship Club for their donation of \$4,000 to our General Fund.
- Bequest Fund Interest in 2006 was \$13,967 with 1/3 of this amount going to the Mission and Service Fund and 2/3 going to the General Fund.
- Bequests were gratefully received from the Mary Kathleen Geddes estate, \$375,000 and the estate of Ella Blair -\$5,000.
- Our Mission and Service Fund - \$27,869
- With the generous bequest of Grace Crawforth - \$35,000 our Special projects shows a total for 2006 of \$36,971.

Financial Report cont'd:

- On our Balance Sheet we have a cash flow of \$16,194 at this time
- our investments are \$744,000
- our banking services have been switched from The Royal Bank of Canada to Libro who are providing us with the same services as at a lower cost as well as better interest on our balance.

MOTION: It was moved by David Morton and seconded by Anne Pelkman to receive the financial report for 2006 found on pages FS1-FS8 excluding the budget for 2007. **Carried.**

3. Mission and Service Fund Report and Allocation for 2007:

For the past three years we have not met our allocation of \$31,000 for the Mission and Service Fund and with a lot of thought and discussion the Outreach Committee put forth the following **MOTION.** It was moved by Jim Mussell and seconded by Dawn Bolduc that our 2007 objective for the Mission and Service Fund to be \$25,000.

Much discussion followed and the following concerns were raised:

- There was a challenge to reducing our objective from \$31,000 to \$25,000 and that we should be leaving it the same as last year and trying to make the goal and reach out to the broader church.
 - The United Church of Canada relies on our continued support of M&S for their many projects
 - we have been very fortunate to have received the bequests this past year and the person that gave the bequest was very much in favour of supporting the M&S fund.
 - the congregation was advised that we do not know when the bequest money will be coming in that is expected this year. The interest from this money and our other bequest funds is usually divided 1/3 for M&S and 2/3 for GF but that percentage is determined in November by the church council.
 - we had a surplus this year...should it have gone to the M&S Fund to help us reach our goal?
 - it was also noted that 20% of the bequest we received last year have been invested to be available if we need them for any shortfall in our General Fund.
 - in October we had correspondence from the United Church of Canada that they were behind their objective by 4.5% and our church at that time was 12% short of our objective.
 - Jim made it clear to the congregation that the extra mission and outreach work we do like our projects for the Salvation Army and the Women's Rural Resource Centre are not recognized as Mission and Service money. Also the Wells for Life campaign was an M&S Extra sponsored by the Division of World Outreach at the Presbytery level and does not count toward our Mission and Service Objective. The amount of \$3,446 sent in to Middlesex Presbytery is not M&S but M&S Extra.
- Call of the vote: Of the 56 people that voted 38 voted Yes and 18 opposed the motion. Motion **Carried.**

4. Election of Officers for Council 2007:

It was moved by Joan Carter and seconded by Jim Mussell that the following list of people make up our Church Council for 2007. Note we are still looking for a Chair of Church Membership and Growth, a Stewardship Chair and committee and an appointment for the Chair of Ministry and Personnel.

Chairperson of Church Council:	Tom McIntosh	Minister:	Rev. Jock Tolmay
Vice Chairperson of Church Council:	Jim Mussell	Ministry Personnel:	Cheryl Bolton
Past Chairperson of Church Council:	Joan Carter	Secretary:	Dianne Dixon
Treasurer: Dave Morton			

Chairpersons of:

Christian Education:	Marlene Dorrestyn	Communication:	Janet Johnstone
Finance	Patti Krista	Outreach	Jim Mussell
Worship and Music	Dawn Bolduc		
Members at large:	Marie Campbell and Norma Robertson		
Trustees:	Jim Ferguson, Clarence (Hoot) Gibson, Jean Nisbet, and Dr. Allan Marshall		
Investment Com:	David Morton, Patti Krista, Dr. Allan Marshall		
Presbytery Representatives:	Joan Carter and Bruce Lambert		
Alternate Presbytery Representatives:	Jean Campbell and Don Jackson		

Call of the vote - **Carried.**

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5. Auditors Report:

Mike Bett reviewed the financial statements for Strathroy United Church and found them in order. He commended our Treasurer, David Morton and the finance committee for their work keeping our finances in good order.

MOTION: It was moved by Mike Bett and seconded by Jim Van Horne to accept the Auditor's report.
Carried.

6. Election of Auditor for 2007:

MOTION: It was moved by David Morton and seconded by Patti Krista that Mike Bett be our auditor for 2007. **Carried.**

7. Operating Budget for 2007 found on pages (FS 2-FS4)

Patti Krista presented the 2007 budget to the congregation and explained how the numbers were calculated for this coming year.

- Patti noted that she had put our envelope givings at \$175,000 this year which is lower than 2006. Her reasoning for this is that we had two generous donations at the end of 2006 that we may or may not have for 2007.

- she estimated our interest to reflect the expected bequests coming in the last six months of the year.
- expenses are being held close to last years with the exception of the Property com. which has an increase that reflects the need for repairs for an aging building and the continuing increase in the cost of utilities.
- our Presbytery assessment is lower due to a surplus in Middlesex Presbytery's budget and we have been going through our membership lists and updating them to reflect a more realistic number.
- The result of these calculations is a proposed surplus of \$700.00

MOTION: It was moved by Patti Krista and seconded by David Morton that we accept the proposed 2007 budget.

- **Question:** What was the increase given to our staff? **Answer:** 2.2% across the board.
Call of the vote: **Carried.**

8. Investment Manager for the Bequest Funds:

Dr. Allan Marshall acknowledged that he has been privileged to work with David Morton and Patti Krista on the current Investment Committee. In lieu of our very generous bequest from the past and the ones that will be coming in the near future they would like to bring forward the following motion:

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Allan Marshal and seconded by Norma Robertson that this congregation contract an investment manager to manage our investment portfolio. This investment manager will be selected by an ad hoc committee consisting of the Investment Committee; Chair of Church Council, Vice Chair of Church Council, Secretary of Church Council, Trustee, Jim Ferguson and Trustee Jean Nisbet.

Discussion:

- David Morton spoke in favour of this motion as our current investments total 20 and they need to be monitored along with the new bequests that are coming in. He feels these larger amounts of money put us in a different league and should be turned over to an investment manager.
- could we have the committee report back to the congregation for their approval with a mandate to protect the principle and suggestions as to how the profits are to be shared along with a framework to get things started with the financial manager.
- a concern was raised that we are careful as to where our money is invested ie that it does not end up in a company that uses child labour. That would certainly be avoided at all costs.
- how much would this cost? - The cost of having an investment manager is cover by the commission from the spread of investments.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: It was moved by Yvonne Lambert and seconded by Don Langford that the Ad Hoc committee report back to the congregation with the investment policy for approval.

Call of the vote: Of the 47 people who voted to this amendment 35 voted yes and 13 were opposed.

Amendment was carried.

CALL OF THE VOTE FOR THE ORIGINAL MOTION: CARRIED.

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9. Long Range Planning Committee Update:

This committee met in May and made up a revised list of items. Work has been done to have quotes for

these items and another meeting will be called to go over these quotes and prioritize the list.

10. Special Project for 2007:

The Property Com. with the approval of Church Council are suggesting that a refurbishing of the Golden Jubilee Room be the Special Project for 2007.

The committee would like to have some input from the committees, congregation and groups that use the Golden Jubilee room.

They would like to upgrade the ventilation, windows, paint, possibly remove the stage and put in a closed in area to store the tables and chairs.

Pictures were circulated and this item will come back to the congregation for final approval.

Courtesies:

Jim Van Horne as the Chair of Ministry and Personnel complimented our staff at Strathroy United Church as being a pleasure to work with. He graciously complimented each of the staff members and asked the congregation to have February Resolution to at some time in the year 2007 - extend a comment, letter, email or phone call to extend a positive comment of "good work or well done" to the staff.

He thanked Cal and Claudia Thar for hosting a very nice summer barbeque and thank you evening for our staff.

12:30 p.m. the business portion of the meeting was completed.

Covenanting with the Church Council Members:

Rev. Jock took some time to thank the outgoing chairpersons, Jim Van Horne, Debbie Porte and Worship and Music Member, Marjorie Harris for their commitment and positive leadership.

The covenanting service followed.

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Grace for the luncheon.

Postlude:

Lunch was served and Norma Robertson and her helpers were thanked for providing the sandwiches, squares and beverages.

Amanda, Michelle Zimmermann and Tiffany Bolton were thanked for helping keep the children amused while the meeting was in progress.

Fellowship was enjoyed by all!

Chairperson: Tom McIntosh

Secretary: Dianne Dixon