

**Windermere United Church
Integrated Worship and 2016 Annual Meeting
Sunday, March 26, 2017**

The 2016 annual meeting of Windermere United Church was integrated with regular Sunday worship on March 26, 2017 with approximately 35-40 people in attendance. Because quorum was not achieved, the meeting became a “gathering” of the congregation; no motions could be made, and all straw votes or agreements became information for Council. These notes include the “business” portions of the gathering.

Procedural matters

Minister Alexa Gilmour explained the issues involved in not having quorum and asked whether the congregation was open to Mardi Tindal being named as chair and David Allen being named as recording secretary. The group AGREED to this suggestion.

Mardi and David assumed their roles. Mardi constituted the gathering in the name of Jesus Christ to guide such business as should properly be brought before it.

Mardi asked whether adherents (non-members) of Windermere United Church could be full participants in the gathering. The group AGREED to this suggestion.

Agenda

Mardi outlined the agenda and asked whether there were any new items to be discussed. No new items were added.

2015 minutes

The group AGREED that the minutes of the annual meeting of 2015 held on Sunday, May 15, 2016 contained no errors or omissions.

Council accountability

Mardi made a number of remarks about the work of Council over the last year (Appendix A). No questions were asked.

Thanks to retiring members

Mardi offered thanks of the congregation to Jennie Keating and Linda Cameron as they completed their service on Council. Mardi spoke about Jennie’s gifts, and Christine Hughes offered thanks to Linda. The gathering responded with applause.

Introducing New and Returning Council Members

Mardi introduced new and returning Council members, contact people and Trustees (Appendix B).

Priority setting conversation

The group divided into four sub-groups to have conversations about music, discipleship, property, and welcoming and community life. What are the priorities in these areas? Notes from each of the groupings are found as Appendix C.

2016 financial statements and 2017 budget

Jennie Keating and Annabelle Edge made some comments about the 2016 financial statements and the overall financial position of the congregation. They offered thanks to auditor Ken Boyce. They presented the 2017 budget as proposed by Council. The gathering indicated its support for the 2016 financial statements and the 2017 budget.

2017 Mission & Service Fund objective

The group AGREED that the 2017 Mission & Service objective be \$17,000.

Annual report

The group AGREED to receive the 2016 Annual Report for information.

New and emergent business

Jennie Keating expressed thanks to those who will be taking up responsibility for the library - Christine Hughes, Diane Clipsham, Ariane Baines and Charlie Monago will look after the children's portion of the library.

Close

Mardi presented gifts to a number of people to acknowledge their work and contributions within the congregation. She declared the gathering closed.

Mardi Tindal
Chair

David Allen
Secretary

APPENDIX A

Council Accountability Report to 2016 AGM by Chair Mardi Tindal, March 26th 2017

At last year's AGM you elected Council members to a two-year term within a governance structure that allows for flexibility. I'll say more in a moment about who serves and in what roles, but first, here's what we've been up to:

You gave us a two-year **mandate** to: "facilitate conversations and processes about who we are as a church and who we are becoming or wish to become... a balancing act of visioning and management."

We're in the middle of that 2-year mandate and as you will see from my written report, have been doing what you asked of us through a number of congregational conversations and celebrations, unpacking our IMNA survey results, our 'halo effect', we have engaged in dynamic, engaging dialogue with Community partners such as through our Stone Soup program - which I remind you is a program of this congregation - along side of book studies, Sunday school and other programs. And of course, we engage actively with our refugee partnerships too. **Accompanying people on their journey and putting faith in action characterizes much of who we are and what we do - our identify and our mission - along with being a welcoming church that cares about faithful discipleship.**

Council also facilitated conversation about four United Church of Canada remits and submitted our congregational votes - approving all 4 proposed changes - according to your direction. We'll facilitate conversation about remit #6 regarding One Order of Ministry in the upcoming year.

In addition to visioning, the work of management has been faithfully attended: defining jobs more clearly, ensuring appropriate compensation and good support to those we employ. Such management included an outside audit to review our financials and ensure best practices. The auditor's recommendations will receive our attention.

As for direction-setting and decision-making, we've taken an adaptive approach to emerging questions and issues raised in our church and community.

Ongoing, open conversations help us to be resilient and responsive between AGMs when unpredictable needs and opportunities arise. Growth is happening here, with initiatives coming from everywhere.

As Anne Shirley Sutherland noted in her report as Council Chair to last year's AGM, we're not short on imagination. So Council does its best to discern and respond to our congregational call — to love God and love neighbour — while assessing available energy in human and financial terms, and taking decisions and actions accordingly.

Offering Thanks to Retiring Members for Their Service: Jennie and Linda

Introducing New and Returning Council Members: responsibilities of voting members and corresponding members, and roles of several committees.

**AS WE PREPARE FOR THIS NEXT YEAR OF SERVICE, I INVITE YOU TO
GUIDE US IN PRIORITY SETTING... INTRODUCTION OF 5 DISCUSSION
GROUPS (See notes from these in Appendix C.)**

APPENDIX B

**Council Members
2017 – 2018**

Council:

- Chair – Mardi Tindal
- Secretary – David Allen
- Treasurer – Annabelle Edge
- Chair of M&P – Christine Hughes
- Member at large – Susan Hinchcliffe
- Member at large – Sarah Dabit

Corresponding Members:

- Trustees – George Jardine
- Pastoral care – Jane Clendenning
- Worship – Kristine Greenaway
- Property – John Mohler
- Faith development – Amy Crawford
- Renewal – Linda Cunningham
- Stewardship - vacant
- Refugees – Martin Boyd
- Stone Soup Network – Doug Tindal
- Presbytery rep – Anne Shirley Sutherland
- Presbytery rep/alternate – Linda Cunningham
- TRC – vacant
- Welcoming and Community Life – Arianne Baines

Trustees:

- George Jardine, chair
- Linda Cameron
- Lawrence Lacey
- Ron McConnell
- Gary Hinchcliffe

Ministry & Personnel Committee:

- Christine Hughes – Chair
- Tasha Povea-Brown
- Pending

Finance Committee:

- Annabelle Edge, Chair
- Jennie Keating
- Ron McConnell
- Cec Mutton

APPENDIX C

Notes from Discussion groups about proposed Priorities at 2016 AGM
March 26, 2017

Discipleship in our Current Context

Discipleship is about giving and receiving, taking in what's going on and bringing back to your community, finding the good, expressing that to others

Response to being loved, created and alive; my relationship with God, Christ is the guide to how response is lived out

Strong within, things happen encouraging people about God, talking to homeless, doing whatever you can to help.

Being in the house of the Lord

**Giving, sharing, receiving the love of God in everything you do
Gathering with rest of God's children to bring together, sort out the chaos of everyday world**

Listen really closely to Jesus. Learning, questioning, getting it wrong, needing to learn how to be a disciple the other 6 days of the week

12 disciples spread the world, go out to the people

Coming in to be renewed; the Book of Acts, e.g. of going out in the world; deepening my own understanding of what it means to be a disciple

"Blossom from the root up"

Thirst of being a disciple, a need to learn more and live by the word of God

**Worship and book study and bonding in intimate relationships;
Outreach in interfaith activities, while needing to articulate our own faith if we are to be in conversation with others; balance of inter and extra.**

Considering the future of Windermere's Music Ministry

SUMMARY

Based on the discussion in our focus group:

We place a very high value on the role of music in worship:

It must be integrated with the theme of the worship: scriptures, prayers, music and homily all reinforce each other (implies coordination, planning)

It should enable participation and engagement by the congregation; the cantor role is important

It embodies a deliberate variety of musical forms and styles (from the Celtic combo to conga line)

More choir please (music that arises from within the congregation).

We tilt toward the contemporary:

Traditional hymns are beloved and

We'd also like to see more contemporary music

We welcome soloists and performance groups such as the Celtic music leaders

Two said clearly, "We should get rid of the organ," none spoke against that.

We understand that music also has a role in Christian formation and community outreach

Ideally, the sanctuary (the space on risers) should be remodelled to make it more flexible as a performance space

Ideally, those responsible for "Sunday school" would also have capacity for leading children in music.

Personal Reflection:

Think of the phrase "music ministry." Do any passages of scripture (or other pieces of inspirational writing) come to mind? Please write them down.

Come and find the quiet center

Praise the Lord

Singing into my soul

Celebrate...

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord

Be thou my vision

Hallelujah (Cohen and Chorus)

Music moves us

Music as meditation

Make a glad noise unto the Lord

Psalms

Property

We discussed concerns, ideas and priorities:

Concern that the building isn't accessible or energy efficient;

Given how much we rent our space, we're squeezed for space for our own purposes which is a bit sad: What about groups like Scouts? other meetings related to the church?

Could we become less dependent on the financial income from rentals? (two echoed this); the reality is that we're currently dependent on rentals;

We once considered building on top of the current structure to create condos but learned that the structure wasn't sound enough to support that kind of development; pursuing that idea again is worth it;

Wonder if we could make better use of the balcony (maybe behind glass for babies and parents) but stairs are currently steep and dangerous

There was general enthusiasm for renovating the sanctuary - it's a great space not being used for everything it could become for our use and for the community's use.

Rearranging the sanctuary should be our priorities for the upcoming year - it's do-able, may mean moving out all of the pews, creating a better stage at front, may require serious upgrading of electrical to support fresh approach to audio/visual options. (There

were a couple of concerns re: who would set up chairs if we removed all of the pews; not sure we'd need to level the floor.)

This is a good priority for funding and fundraising.

Welcoming and Community Life

THE SIGN out front is fantastic people read it stop take pictures and it informs the community of what is happening at and in the church.

Question: When we welcome and invite people into community life here at WUC, what do we do well.

Responds: The greeters offer a warm welcome.

Having coffee for the congregants creates a comfortable warm feeling.

Getting the coffee gives them an opportunity to talk and meet other people.

No pressure.

What might we do better:

Suggestions:

- for new members having a card available in the pews, where they can leave their info and also

Get information about our other programs.

- I know we have info on the envelopes in the pews, but often newcomers don't use those for their offering, they put money on the collection plate, so don't see info.

I don't know if we have a mission statement, but having one out there is good.

WUC Website:

Improve website: THIS IS WHAT WE ARE and THIS IS WHAT WE DO.

More info re Book Club, what books we have read and are going to read, might get people interested, so they will come out.

Sunday School update, somebody mentioned there are names on there of people who are no longer with WUC.

Facebook: post pictures of Fellowship time, gatherings???

Sorry forgot priorities:

Update Website

Pew cards

Greeters hand out info to new comers.