

Minutes of the 114th Annual Congregational Meeting

March 16, 2021

Attendance and Constitution:

Members and adherents of St. Andrew's gathered over a Zoom web conference on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 for the 114th Annual Congregational Meeting with over 100 in attendance at one point.

Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald served as Moderator and welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting was not held in person, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, so the Clerk of Session, Debby Dorcas, explained the unique procedures that people would need to follow for raising questions and voting on various motions presented at the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Tim presented reading from Ephesians 3 and then led the attendees in prayer.

Appointment of Secretary, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes and Adoption of 2020 Annual Report:

1. Moved by Cathy Millar, seconded by Shona Murray that Kevin Macfarlane be appointed Secretary for the meeting. **CARRIED**
2. Moved by Sylvia Shaw, seconded by Craig Murray, that the agenda be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**
3. Moved by Andrew Wiswell, seconded by Hugh McFadzean, that the minutes of the 113th Annual Congregational Meeting be approved. **CARRIED**

A prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance was offered for the members and adherents of St. Andrew's who passed in 2020:

Mary Astle	Mary MacDougall
Rita Elliott	Harry Mann
Allison Grant	Carol Olton
Linda Haines	Eva Sanders
Marian Hay	Isabel Whitney
Clayton Howe	Marion Kelly
Steve MacDonnell	Esther Klemp

4. Moved by Cathy Millar, seconded by Dolly Forcade, to adopt the 2020 Annual Report. **CARRIED**

Comments received from the congregation:

- Shona Murray, with concurrence by Craig Murray, that the Annual Report was beautiful, clear and an inspiring presentation of the highlights of the year.

Rev. Dr. Tim then reflected upon the year of Revision and Renewal and the work of the two years which led to it. As he met with Session the day he preached for the call in 2018, there was a standing ovation in support of renewal to reverse the decline in attendance at St. Andrew's. The creation of the ReVision

and Renewal Task Force and the work done with Session and the congregation to create the Vision: Growing LIFE Together with God, prepared us well to face the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic. Our creative and, often, digital response resulted in the maintenance of our fiscal health and, hopefully, our spiritual health. Renewal continued during 2020 with the creation of new ministerial job descriptions, a recently presented Mission Statement: “Woven into our neighbourhood, growing disciples who love like Jesus” and a series of Values that we aspire to.

Lori-ann Esser, a new arrival to St. Andrew’s during 2019 then spoke to all of us with an inspiring story of what has attracted her to make St. Andrew’s her church home.

5. Reflections on the 2020 Financial Report – David Townsend

The balance sheet shows over \$100,000 in unrestricted funds and various other amounts in restricted funds. Questions were asked about investment income generated by each of the Legacy and SFC Funds and the answer was that in total approximately \$100,000 had been earned. A suggestion was made by David Platt that we must be cautious that we do not become dependant upon returns from our investments to pay for our operating expenses. Alex Grant made a general comment that the last installment of a 5-year commitment from the Memorial fund of \$5000 / year had been applied to the general revenue of the congregation. Rhonda Wishart extended thanks from all for the talents and generosity of all four ministers, Evan Mounce and the office staff who served us this past year.

Moved by Rhonda Wishart, seconded by Elizabeth Dolan, to approve the 2020 Financial Report.

CARRIED

6. 2021 Growing LIFE Together with God Financial Plan Presentation – John Cuthbertson

John recognized the other members of the Finance Team who have worked so hard on this budget in the period of approximately 2 months: Cathy Millar, Dolly Forcade, Dave Townsend and Shona Murray. We are particularly blessed as two members are professional accountants. We should be proud of the fact that our church exited 2020 with a “rounding error” deficit. With the aggressive adoption of technology to provide online ministry, donations to St. Andrew’s for the year dropped from the previous year by only 10%. For the year 2021 we have already received 5-year supplementary pledges of \$50,000 per year to help us overcome the loss of revenue from the Coptic church and the prior commitments from the Legacy and Memorial Funds.

The Finance Team wishes to explore potential for the Legacy Fund to fund things like special music and Presbyterians Sharing in the future, but this has not been included in the 2021 budget. A line-by-line review of the content of the 2021 proposed budget followed. The capital budget for facilities was reviewed and sources of funds for these expenditures were discussed. This was followed by a discussion of the 5 year plan.

Comments received from the congregation:

- Flemming Nielsen suggested that a younger group of volunteers for facilities support be recruited. Flemming would be happy to help these recruits. He would not recommend continuing with the company we have dealt with for cleaning support.

Moved by Flemming Nielsen, seconded by Tom McIntyre, to engage new younger members to be added to the Facilities Team. **CARRIED**

- There was quite a lot of discussion around the 2021 proposed budget. Concerns and support were voiced, questions were asked, and clarification provided where possible. It was obvious that not everyone was on the same page with how to move forward.

Moved by John Cuthbertson, seconded by Cathy Millar, to approve the 2021 Financial Plan as presented at the meeting. **CARRIED**

This was followed by a moment of silence for us all to gather a calm and collective consensus going forward and then a prayer of thanksgiving by Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald. Rev. Tim then thanked the Finance Team for their excellent work and the congregation for their active engagement in respectful discussion of all the issues.

Moved by Cathy Millar, seconded by Craig Murray, to adjourn the 114th Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. **CARRIED**

Closing prayer and Benediction was offered by Rev. Jared Miller.