

# Council Approved - pending Congregational Approval

## MINUTES of the NEW COMMUNITY of FAITH CONGREGATIONAL and BUDGET MEETING of SUNDAY, Jan 16, 2022 (formerly St. Andrew's United Church [SAUC] and Deer Park United Church [DPUC])

Check-In : Zoom Host, Jennifer Aldous, confirmed names and admitted people to the Zoom session. She also checked names with the membership lists and confirmed how many people were sharing devices.

1. Call to Order - John Palmer:

Due to the COVID pandemic restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom only.

Due to discrepancies in the links circulated to members, the start of the meeting was delayed until the Zoom link being utilized was distributed and participants were able to log-in to the Zoom session.

John called the meeting to order at 11:40 am. He welcomed everyone to the first congregational meeting of our new community of faith and thanked everyone for their patience while connecting with everyone.

John informed participants that he was sharing a slide presentation in order to follow the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer - Rev. Hillary Van Spronsen:

Hillary offered a prayer of thanks for this gathering as one community of faith and thanks for the hope, strength, love, care, mercy, grace and blessings as we come together.

3. Guidelines - John Palmer:

Zoom Host - Jennifer Aldous

Co-Host - John Palmer

Primary Zoom Assistant - Cathy Herr

Other Zoom Assistants - Rhonda Blakney, Merle Ann May

Email and Phone Monitors for Voting - Shelley Spence, Rhonda Blakney

Email: [votechurch2021@gmail.com](mailto:votechurch2021@gmail.com)

Phone: 403-278-8263

John requested participants to mute their microphones unless using it to speak, and to vote or request to speak by raising hands in the video screen or using the Raise Hand icon or use the Chat Box on Zoom or \*9 if phoning in.

Voting was done by:

- Zoom Poll - if more than one person using the same device, the second person must phone in or email their vote.

- Email

- Phone

Vote Options were: In Favour / Opposed / Abstain

A test poll was undertaken to ensure that voting worked for participants.

4. Procedural Motions:

a. Quorum:

Prior to proceeding with motions, John Palmer verified with the Zoom Host and Assistant that the minimum quorum of 20 members was exceeded. There were 105 participants.

b. Approval of Chair and Secretary:

**Motion 1:** Moved by Jan van Egteren, seconded by Cathy Herr, that for this meeting John Palmer be appointed as Chair and Barb Reid as Secretary. **CARRIED**

A poll in combination with email and phone-in votes where there was more than one participant

on a device was used for Motion 1.

Given the challenges and time delays in receiving the email and phone-in votes it was agreed that the remainder of votes be done by a show of hands in the Zoom session with the Primary Zoom Assistant with the assistance of the additional assistants confirming the vote results for the remainder of motions.

c. Approval of Agenda:

**Motion 2:** Moved by Merle Ann May, seconded by Rhonda Blakney, that the agenda as presented be approved. **CARRIED**

d. Voting Privileges for Adherents:

**Motion 3:** Moved by Donna Betts, seconded by Anne Morgan, that Adherents in attendance be granted voting privileges for this meeting. **CARRIED**

5. Vote on Name for the New Community of Faith:

**Motion 4:** Moved by Shelley Spence, seconded by Rhonda Blakney, that the name of the new community of faith be "Fish Creek United Church".

Discussion: Members of the Naming Committee shared criteria for the name selection, which included: the committee had members of both communities of faith; the name was to be completely new and was to include "United Church"; the name should reflect our journey toward the future; the name should be location based; the congregation was to be asked for feedback. A concern was raised that the acronym for the name could be misconstrued. The committee recommends that the name never be shortened beyond "Fish Creek UC". A question arose asking if there was only one name for which to vote. The committee, after much feedback, had recommended the one name.

There being no further discussion, voting on the motion took place. **CARRIED**

6. Election of Council:

**Motion 5:** Moved by Cathy Herr, seconded by Geoff Weekes, that members for council for the New Community of Faith be approved as presented.

Chair - John Palmer

Vice Chair - Jocelyn Gelinias

Secretary - Barb Reid

Treasurer / Stewardship & Finance Committee Representative - Jan van Egteren

Ministry & Personnel Co-Chairs - Anne Morgan / Donna Betts

Property / Facilities Committee Representative - Jim Adamson

Worship Committee Representative - \*\*vacant

Children, Youth & Young Adults Committee Representative - Heather Campbell

Chinook Winds Regional Representative (1 of 4) - Richard Betts, Merle Ann May,  
Shelley Spence, Rhonda Blakney

Social Justice, Affirming, Outreach Committee Representative - Esther Hudson

SAUC Regional Ministries Chair - Merle Ann May

Fellowship / Congregational life Committee Representative - \*\*vacant

\*\*Council will attempt to fill any vacancies until the pastoral charge elects a replacement. (UCC Manual - B.7.3.6 Vacancies)

Discussion: Upon suggestion, there was a call for anyone interested in filling vacancies or other positions on council. There were no expressions of interest.

The question was asked if Trustees will be represented on council. John replied that once the

Trustees are elected they will be represented on council.

There was a request to speak about the SAUC Regional Ministries. John Palmer shared that it is a ministry of the new community of faith, Fish Creek UC; there are terms of reference governing this ministry and it has its own designated funds that are managed separately from the community of faith funds. The committee will be reviewing its terms of reference including any changes needed to reflect the new community of faith. The committee's next meeting is February 3, 2022. Recommendations for adjustments to the terms of reference will be brought to the new council for approval.

There being no further discussion, voting on the motion took place.

**CARRIED**

7. Trustees:

**Motion 6:** Moved by Richard Betts, seconded by Karen Decoux, that the resignation of John Palmer from the Board of Trustees be approved with thanks for his service.

Discussion: By UCC polity, all members of the Board of Trustees from the former communities of faith be part of the new Board of Trustees. Resignation of a trustee requires a 2/3 majority at a congregational meeting.

There being no further discussion, voting on the motion took place.

The 2/3 majority required was obtained / CARRIED

**Motion 7:** Moved by Jocelyn Gelinas, seconded by Jan van Egteren, that Dennis Miller has completed his term on the Board of Trustees with thanks for his service.

Discussion: This is a completion of term and not a resignation, therefore the vote requires a simple majority, not a 2/3 majority.

There being no further discussion, voting on the motion took place.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 8:** Moved by Anne Morgan, seconded by Merle Ann May, that members presented for the Board of Trustees for the New Community of Faith be confirmed.

Richard Betts

Wendy Campbell

Bruce Dean (2027)

Jan van Egteren (2024)

Donna den Otter (2027)

Pamela Scott (2023)

Rick Solinger (2024)

Geoff Weekes

\*\* Note: Rev. Hillary Van Spronsen to be Chair of the Board of Trustees\*\*

Discussion: SAUC did not set length of term for the Board of Trustee members. In the absence of Rev. Hillary, Lisa Penzo or Brenda McKellar, both Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs) could chair. Rev. Hillary also has the option to appoint a Deputy Chair.

A request arose to change the motion to include the name Fish Creek United Church rather than the New Community of Faith. Merle Ann May and Ann Morgan both agreed to the friendly amendment.

The amended motion then read:

Moved by Ann Morgan, seconded by Merle Ann May, that members presented for

the Board of Trustees for Fish Creek United Church be confirmed.

Richard Betts

Wendy Campbell

Bruce Dean (2027)

Jan van Egteren (2024)

Donna den Otter (2027)

Pamela Scott (2023)

Rick Solinger (2024)

Geoff Weekes

\*\* Note: Rev. Hillary Van Spronsen to be Chair of the Board of Trustees\*\*

There being no further discussion, voting on the motion took place.

**CARRIED**

8. M&P (Ministry & Personnel) Committee:

**Motion 9:** Moved by Shelley Spence, seconded by Karen Decoux, that members for the **M&P** Committee for Fish Creek United Church be:

Donna Betts & Anne Morgan - Co-chairs

Donna Kernaghan

Shirley Lisson

Merle Ann May

Dale McKnight

Barb Reid

Monica Stewart-Bittner

Nancy Swerhun

**CARRIED**

9. Information and Q&A's:

January 18, 2022 will be the first meeting of the new council.

The budget will be presented to council and once approved will be brought to the congregation for approval.

Guidelines will be established on working together, dates for meetings, transition work that continues on finance, facilities, communications (webpages, newsletter, new branding, logos, etc.). Shelley Spence will be helping with communications changes.

John thanked everyone for their continued work to maintain smooth operations. He thanked everyone for all the work done over several years to bring us to this point.

10. Closing Prayer - Pastor Cindy Christie-Brooks:

Cindy offered a prayer of thanks to God for blessing our new community, for the gifts of leadership, and vision, and a prayer that we at Fish Creek UC may work toward God's grace.

11. Adjournment:

Shelley Spence moved for adjournment.

John Palmer declared the meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.