

## **Council Update – November 16, 2011 Meeting**

Those who regularly attend the 11:15 service were thanked at a November 13<sup>th</sup> lunch for their sharing of the 11:15 service with Emmanuel for over a year, and were assured that the 11:15 service will be continuing.

Council discussed aspects of creating a safe and welcoming space in the church for the LGBT community. The need to increase our awareness and learn more about creating a welcoming space was underlined.

Session is studying United Church Remit 6, Declaration of Church Doctrine, including the 1925 Basis of Union, the 1940 Statement of Faith, the 1968 A New Creed, and the 2006 A Song of Faith. Session will vote in January.

The 2011 financial situation was reviewed. As of Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, Rideau Park had a deficit of \$32,000 in the Ministry & Programs Fund, with approved transfers of income from the Britt Fund and capital from the Reserve Fund included. It is encouraging to note that this represents about a \$10,000. improvement over the same period last year. Nevertheless, Council noted that we have a ways to go to break even in 2011, and will need the generous support of the congregation in the year-end Christmas Appeal to stabilize our financial position for the new year.

Council learned that the Fall Stewardship Campaign has gone well and should result in an estimated 2.5% increase in the value of pledges over last year. In particular, pledges to the Ministry & Programs (M&P) Fund and to Area of Greatest Need have resulted in improved allocations to the M&P Fund for 2012.

The 2012 Budget Overview is cautiously optimistic, with essentially a breakeven forecast for the M&P budget (compared to the \$14,500 deficit forecasted in the 2011 budget). Revenue increases are projected from Stewardship pledges, rental of premises and fund raising (for M&P), while expenditures would be reduced for the financial review and eliminated for the Observer. The 2012 Budget, however, includes similar, modest transfers from the Britt Fund and Reserve Fund, and a generous contribution from the UCW as in 2011.

Council appointed Susan Vaughan as a Member of Trustees, subject to confirmation by the AGM. Reserve Fund Guidelines were approved. The Trustees will take responsibility for promotion of gifts to the Foundation Fund.

Stewards are close to completing their review of the Rental Policy. The promotion package for rental of premises will be uploaded to the RPUC website.

Consultations with various church committees on the new Long-Term Property Plan are continuing. It will be reviewed by Council & the AGM in early 2012.

Erin O'Neil and Debi Brown are updating the website, with advice from Kyle Merrithew. Changes to the RPUC website format and content are under study.

Council approved the closure of the church office for Dec 28-30. Debi Brown will be at the office on Dec 30 in the morning to receive year-end donations.

The UCW reported on a series of successful events, including the Nearly New Sale, the Trivia Night and the Bazaar. Council expressed its appreciation.

Council decided that the AGM on February 12<sup>th</sup> will start at 11:15 am, with lunch served at the mid-way point. There will be one service at 10 am.

The Presbytery Pastoral Care & Oversight Committee will meet with Council on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The congregation will be invited to this part of the meeting.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Wayne Bond, Chair of Council, or Mary Lynne Holton, Vice-Chair of Council.