

Council Update – January 18, 2012 Meeting

Congregational Development: A half page ad in Vistas advertising the Christmas services and concerts to the community was followed up with RPUC bookmarks in the Bulletins for the Christmas Eve services, and the concerts. It appears that more people from the community are attending church functions/activities.

Communications: Actions to support the church website are underway. Website Practices – Guidelines and Process for Updating, has been drafted to assist those uploading material to the website. Volunteers to help with the live streaming and uploading of church services to the website are being sought. Marjorie Melick is looking after regular updating of website content until the end of February. Communications is assessing user friendly website management systems that would allow a wider range of people to do the posting.

Session has established a Marriage Policy study group and requested congregational input by mid February on providing space in the church for certain marriages on the basis of sexual orientation and allowing these marriages to be registered on the church record. Comments received have been positive.

Council has approved a new Rental Policy for church facilities developed by the Stewards to include the Sanctuary and facilitate a higher level of rentals.

Council has approved a revised job description for the Administrative Assistant position, supported a staffing action, and appointed a search committee. The job description reflects the wider range of duties that the Admin Ass't is undertaking.

The 2011 year-end financial situation showed a deficit of under \$6,000., which was similar to the 2010 result, but \$8,500. less than the budgeted deficit for 2011 – a generally positive outcome.

Council reviewed and recommended the 2012 Budget for approval at the Congregational Meeting. The 2012 Budget shows a break-even position for the first time in a few years (compared to a budgeted \$14,500. deficit at the start of 2011) and does not draw on the Reserve Fund (compared to \$5,000. in 2011). It's based on relatively conservative estimates. We can be cautiously optimistic.

Council received the final report of the 2012 Stewardship Campaign which showed 127 pledges to the new category – Area of Greatest Need – and 133 pledges to the Ministry & Programs Fund (M&P) resulting in a \$36K increase to the M&P Fund based on \$12K of increased givings, a reduction of \$12.5K in M&S pledges, and a decrease of \$11.5K in Property Fund pledges. Much positive feedback was received re. the Stewardship Campaign and materials.

Council reviewed and recommended the Long Range Property Renewal Plan 2012-2019 and the 2012 Property Plan for approval at the Congregational

Meeting. The Long Range Plan has undergone an extensive consultation process, with positive comments received and a few suggested additions. The anchor project for 2012 is the initiation of work on the office and library areas.

The UCW is organizing an event for the World Day of Prayer on March 2nd.

The Agenda was set for the Annual Congregational Meeting (Feb 12th, 11:15 am)

The congregation is invited to the visit from the Presbytery Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee at the next Council meeting (Feb 15th, 7 – 8 pm).

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