

Council Update: June 15, 2011

Wayne Bond welcomed Councilors to the meeting. Doug Robinson led Council in prayer and a reflection about spiritual growth, risk taking and trusting God.

Under Business Arising, it was noted that the Emmanuel congregation will be with us until mid-August. Rideau Park and Emmanuel will continue alternating leadership of Sunday services throughout the summer.

In reference to Correspondence received, the Pastoral Care Committee is organizing a special Sunday afternoon church service and Communion for “shut-in” seniors this fall. Transportation will be provided. Access to services is also provided, among other ways, by retirement residence shuttles to church, services conducted by Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald in retirement residences, and online access to services.

The Congregational Development Team reported that they will be collaborating with Christian Development on a September 18th Open House for the community in conjunction with the Welcome Back Brunch and activities. There will be an opportunity for all church groups, choirs and services to have displays, demos (e.g., Bell Choirs), and provide information to the community.

Council discussed ideas and themes to advertise the Open House with a full-page ad in the community newspaper, *Vistas*, a sign on Alta Vista, and other venues.

Council discussed the upcoming Fall Stewardship Campaign in light of input received from the Congregational Survey and Meetings, and the Council Retreat. Highlights of changes discussed included:

- Incorporate the *Observer* subscription on the Pledge Form.
- Ask the congregation in an early letter and during the Campaign to consider giving/apportioning more of their pledge to the Ministry and Programs (M&P) Fund, which is in deficit.
- Provide the Inventory of Ministry in the Stewardship package, which illustrates the many programs and services provided through the M&P Fund.
- Note the new fund raising initiatives, in addition to the efforts at controlling costs, as part of the package.
- Work on revising the Pledge Form to give the congregation the option of (a) directing their givings to the 3 Funds (M&P, M&S, Property) as in the past, or (b) allowing Stewards to direct their givings to the area of greatest need.

Many features from previous Stewardship Campaigns will remain the same since they have been working well.

Session reported that the 60th Anniversary Service will be held October 23rd with Rev. Ted Colwell as the guest speaker. The new RPUC Photo Directory will proceed with an early photo session in October, the main session in the winter and a delivery of the Directory targeted for April 2012.

Council approved the hosting of the Ottawa GO Project for nine days in mid-summer 2012—a new UCC youth and young adult program emphasizing hands-on community development experiences. This opportunity will be financed via the UCC Vision Fund, the Scrivens Fund, the RPUC Foundation and youth fundraisers (e.g., pancake supper).

New Financial Initiatives: Most of these were reported at the May 29th Congregational Meeting, with the presentation being available on the RPUC website. Several initiatives remained for discussion, as follows:

- The facility rental policy will be adapted to permit rental of the Sanctuary for certain kinds of events, starting in early 2012.
- Facility rental will be more actively marketed on the RPUC website starting in August with a rental package developed by Erin O'Neill. Proceeds from rentals will go to the M&P Fund.
- Stewards would continue to take the lead on coordinating/facilitating fund raising.

Financial Update: The Treasurer reported that we our operating deficit is at about the same point this year as in 2010. M&P givings are down a little while rental revenues are up a little.

Council approved the Auditor's Report for 2010. No issues of concern.

About 100 members attended the UCW Potluck in June, with two life memberships and a special award given.

UCC General Council will be held August 11-18, 2012 here in Ottawa. Online volunteer sign-up will be available. An information pamphlet is on the bulletin board across from the Sunday School counter.

Communications Team reported that a "Donate Now Button" has been added to the RPUC website to provide the opportunity for online donations. The list of community newspaper, radio and TV advertising venues will be updated and distributed to event organizers in August.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne Bond, Chair of Council, Mary Lynne Holton, Vice-Chair of Council or Sandra Weedmark, Member at Large.
