

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Opening Prayer: Rev. Geoff Ross opened in prayer.

Appointment of Secretary:

Motion: That Kim Shepherd be appointed recording secretary. Moved: Pam Loree, Seconded: Susan Jess. **AGREED**

Adoption of agenda:

Motion: That the Agenda as presented to adopted **AGREED**

Approval of Minutes of Previous Congregational Meeting:

Adoption of and Business Arising from Minutes of November 22, 2020: Moved Jean Bradshaw, Seconded June Young **CARRIED**

Reports of Session, Committees and Groups:

We heard Committee chairs share highlights of the past year and updated us on plans for 2021.

Food Bank: attending Regeneration once a week and have started purchasing more fruits and vegetables as requested by Regeneration. Appointment is required for all clients.

Mission & Outreach: Eunice thanked everyone for their prayers and support after John's passing. Faith in ACT!ON is being worked on – some projects: masks, food, care packages, gardening. Faith in ACT!ON is being led by Robyn Kirkpatrick – reach out to Robyn Kirkpatrick if you would like to help and/or have a project idea. Eunice invited Rev. Babar Allahditta to give a report on the Southeast Asian Outreach Ministry (SEAO-M).

Babar thanked everyone for the privilege to give this report. The Lord led him to reach out to St. Andrew's (Pastor Ross, John Boyd, and Session) and the congregation for accepting the SEAO-M in St. Andrew's. The afternoon service continues to worship, via Zoom, every Sunday and also lead Sunday school, Women's Group and sharing the Gospel in Brampton (Hindu, Urdu, and Punjabi). Babar is very thankful to Pastor Ross for his guidance; the Refugee Sponsorship Team and most important to the English congregation. Sunday school for the children is held on Saturdays via Zoom and the Women's Fellowship meet every other Wednesday also via Zoom.

Property: a busy and interesting year – any questions? Access to building, please send email to entryteam@standrewsbrampton.ca, a member of the entry team can let you in the building as there are only 8 keys issued. There is a sign in sheet at the door off of Union Street and also at the door off the parking lot, along with Covid questions.

Christian Education:

Worship: Colin Young thanked everyone and announced that St. Andrew's has not missed one Sunday since the pandemic hit and we had to close our doors. Worship started in Geoff's dining room and then to the sanctuary. Colin expressed how proud he is of the Worship Committee. Colin the following people for their time and dedication to the worship services: Geoff Ross, Regan Ross, Peter Shepherd, Simpson Ross, Justin Kelly-Boxe, Thomas Dewar and Shelagh Tyreman.

Stewardship: Helen Collins, thanked all committees, members of Stewardship, blessed to work with everyone. Stewardship will be doing the Hanging Baskets and the Poinsettia's again in 2021. Helen thanked May Jackson for her time and dedication over the past 18 years as Treasurer. Helen also thanked Stan Loree for stepping in as Interim Treasurer.

Clerk of Session: Kim Shepherd thanked all participants on our various committees, teams and event volunteers, for their work during a very tough year and our Elders who are working tirelessly to keep the Church property safe and working through the pandemic. Kim asked for prayers and patience for all, especially our worship tam that is working Sunday services.

Congregational Care Ministry: Please send word if you know of anyone who needs pastoral care. Congregational Care ministry email wecare@standrewsbrampton.com Everyone is encouraged to reach out to members of our congregation.

Motion: That we receive all the reports as submitted in the annual report. Moved: May Jackson, Seconded: Paul Willoughby, **CARRIED**

Board of Trustees: Stan Loree advised the report is there for all to read. This past year we lost members of our congregation and friends and family made financial donations on their loved one's behalf.

A Moment of Recognition for John Boyd

Stan: 30 years ago, Stan first met John at St. Andrew's Annual Golf Tournament – had a lot of laughs. 15 years later Stan served with John on Session. When John spoke, people listened. John was not afraid to take a stance that was different. For 5 years, John was member of the Kiwanis Club where he is known as “the Joke Master”.

John joined Gord Warren, Stan Loree and Mary McLean as a Trustee. John always eager. Even as he was fighting cancer – ‘anything I can do, ask’. John’s hope was to make the year at this meeting.

Geoff: John the Surveyor, lay of the lands. Even though John’s term on Session, where he served as the Presbytery Representative, came to an end – John was still invited to attend Presbytery meeting and be an apart of the meetings. John was an Elder’s Elder. **Thank you John!!!!**

Report from the Treasurer: May Jackson thanked all the Committees and Session for all their hard work during this horrible year. You all stepped up. Thank you to the Congregation for your support and looking after the building so that we can come back. George Ormsby, our Auditor, passed away in March 2020 and Christopher Ormsby could not continue, as Christopher was not the Auditor. Thank you to Stan Loree and Anna-Marie Dewar for finding our new Auditors, RLB Chartered Professional Accountants.

Although with building closed, we do still have some expenses. We have to look after the building or it won’t be there when we come back. Our Line of Credit was at Zero at the end of the year (2020), completely due to the less expenses that we had.

Auditor’s report: Presented by Brooke Billings, representative from the RLB Chartered Professional Accountants, who thanked St. Andrew’s for their help in making things go well and smoothly, as it is not easy changing Auditors. We are happy to be working with you. Completely clean audit opinion.

Motion: That we accept the audited financial statements as printed. Moved: May Jackson, Seconded: Helen Collins **CARRIED**

Motion: That we keep RLB Chartered Professional Accountants as the Auditor(s) for the fiscal 2021-2022 year. Moved: May Jackson, Seconded: Helen Collins CARRIED

Motion: That we appointment Valerie Warren and Bea Embling as Envelope Secretaries. Moved: Anna-Marie Dewar, Seconded: Jean Bradshaw CARRIED

New Business:

Standing Orders: Session Prep Team: Pam Loree was asked to speak on behalf of the Session Prep Team. May Jackson voiced her disapproval of this motion. May stated that the Congregation is to approve the Standing Orders and that the Trustees need to an odd number. Geoff thank May and advised that the Chair of the Trustees, very much like the Moderator does not have a vote. Geoff reiterated that he is not a member of the Board of Trustees, as was mentioned by May Jackson, he is ex officio to attend when invited, and has no vote at all. The Board of Trustees is made up of members of the congregation.

Molly voiced that it was her understanding that the Standing Orders need to be approved by the congregation and when we made changes to Session to Term Service, we decided to have an odd number to avoid a split vote.

Kim Knox asked for clarification if out of the 4 Trustees only 3 of them would be voting? Geoff answered correct. The chair of the committee does not vote unless there is a tie. With respect to the number, this was what the Trustees themselves recommended based on their opinion on how to operate at their level.

In terms to bringing this to the congregation and after seeking advice we were told it was an act of Session and that is why we are having it at this point. I don't have the Standing Orders, at this point, to go over it. The discussion regarding the size of the Trustees was debated for 3 months at the Session level and this is the result of this vote. We can ask for the congregation to vote, we are not trying to hide anything, which is why we brought it to this meeting.

Motion: That we change the Standing Orders to reflect the Board of Trustees be changed from 5 Trustees to 4 Trustees. Moved: Pam Loree, Seconded: Ray Scanlan. Carried (41 - 7)

Motion: That St. Andrew's nominate the following members to fill the Board of Trustees for 2021: Stan Loree, Gord Warren, Deborah Warwick and Henry Peyer. Moved: Pam Loree, Seconded: Jean Bradshaw Carried (46 - 2)

Geoff thanks the new Trustees and current Trustees.

Vote of Thanks: Geoff thanks everyone from the Trustees, the Session, and the Committees, to the teams that work behind the scenes, and to you the members for everything that continues to be done during this time of Covid. It was a leap of faith in March in 2020 while we did the first service, with Simpson holding the cell phone in our dining room. I give thanks for your faith, for your patience, for your trust. We have all learned, although we knew it before, the Church is not a building, it is a people. The fact that you are all here today, for not only the Worship service but for this meeting is a testament to your connection and your involvement. First and foremost, we have to thank God for the blessings of our health, being able to meet and serve.

Colin quickly thanked all the readers and embracing the learning curve of videoing the readings.

Kim thanked everyone for the continued support and as I mentioned in the closing of the Session report - As difficult as 2020 has been, we find comfort in knowing that God is with us, guiding us, comforting us and healing us. It is through Him we will come through this pandemic together. Lastly, a huge thank you to Felicity who is a blessing to this church for not only putting the newsletter together and also delivering the newsletter to our members who do not have internet. Felicity I am blessed to know you.

Jean, on a personal note, wanted to thank her husband and daughter for driving around making deliveries on her behalf to members of the church.

Pam advised that she is the one who does the eblasts and if you are not on the list, please provide your email to her and she will add you to the list for eblasts. Pam also shares that the church has a yearly subscription to Right Now Media, it does not cost you, the members. It is a huge resource of devotionals, children's videos, and many bible studies.

Geoff, thanked Pam (Past Clerk), Kim (Clerk of Session) and Jean (Deputy Clerk) for all their hard work this past year in March/ April & May we were meeting daily, then weekly and then we got to a point that we didn't have to meet as often and then would get busy again. The Clerks are a giddy group when tired and are dubbed Charlie's Angels or should I say 'Geoff's Angels". They have worked very hard and continue to work on your behalf. They have done countless hours over this past year.

Motion to Adjourn: As is a tradition in Session, Richard McMechan made the Motion to adjourn.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Geoff Ross closed the meeting with prayer

Upcoming Congregational meetings:

Budget meeting: November 21, 2021

Annual General meeting: March 27, 2022