

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting
Trinity United Church in person and online
Sunday, March 12, 2023

Attendance: Mikayla-Aimee, Diane Best, Vicki Bellan, Giceline Beaudet, Delores Best, Diane Best, Rahul Bhowmik, John Boone, Irma Brathwaite, Jennifer Bridgman, John Bridgman, John Brosseau, Julia Budd, Sheri Cameron, Sheila Cannon, Jenn Carroll, Shirley Cartmill, Judy Ciciola, Stacey Ciciola, Carol Cunningham, Charles Dougherty, Norman Doré, Eric Garceau, Sarah Garceau, David Garland, Garry Garland, Sabz Heffernan, Veronica Heffernan, Dave Ingham, Patrice Laporte, Dolton Lucas, Philip Massarelli, Kobina Odoom, Gail Pallente, Claudette Petrauskas, Heather Purcell, Warren Purcell, Michelle Richard, Ivylin Scott, Natalya Scott-Sandy, Rev. Read Sherman, Gary Tompkins, Rev. Stéphane Vermette, Rosemary Warren, Kim Wildenmann,

1. Welcome

Meeting Chair Rosemary Warren welcomed everyone in person and online. The meeting was constituted at 1:50pm.

2. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Read Sherman offered a prayer to open the meeting.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Rosemary spoke words of thanks to the peoples who have stewarded the land for generations, and who shared it with us today.

4. Memorials

Rev. Read led a time of candle lighting and remembrance for Trinity members and friends who had died since the last Annual Meeting. Some we knew well, including **Robin Macaulay, Vera Studnicki, Josette Spencer, and John Lewchuk**. Others we knew less well, but whose families were connected to Trinity or who chose us to help them celebrate the lives of departed loved ones, including **Muriel Jessie Wheatley (Blake), Alexander Bartoshuk** (Angela Silver's brother), and **Emilio Alberto Cianfarano**. May God keep each one's spirit close, and for those we knew, keep their memories alive in all of us.

5. Motion for Adherents to Vote

MOTION Moved by Mikayla-Aimee, and seconded by Stacey Ciciola, to allow adherents to vote.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

One item needed to change: "Student Ministry Award" would become "Special Recognition of Student Leadership."

MOTION Moved by Sabz Heffernan, seconded by Jennifer Carroll, to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Trinity 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 20, 2022

Discussion: Carol Cunningham asked that her statement in the second paragraph under Approval of 2021 Reports (page 16 in the Annual Report, page 4 in the Minutes document itself) be amended from "Carol Cunningham asked to see in the reports a balance between the numbers and people as this is a

community.” To “Carol Cunningham asked why there was no report from the scouting group as in previous years. Was anyone contacting them to get it? The scouting group is a part of our community and they should be reflected in the annual report.”

MOTION Moved by Stacey Ciciola, and seconded by David Garland, to approve the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 20, 2022 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

8. Adoption of the Notes from the “Town Hall” Meeting held September 18, 2022

These are notes, and not “minutes” as Rev. Read Sherman was away so it could not be a formal, voting meeting. Shirley Cartmill suggested one correction: it was Rev. Jan Jorgensen, and not Rev. Neil Whitehouse, who presided at the service prior to the Town Hall.

Rosemary Warren raised two “action items” to be added. On page 2, paragraph 7, regarding “mass emails,” that regarding using Constant Contact to send mass emails “the strong recommendation to add to Sheri Cameron and Rev. Read Sherman a third back-up person to the account, with Rosemary suggesting she would be willing to serve as such.”; and second, to add a paragraph 10, “For trustees an acting chair needs to be designated. Action: Trustees should meet and decide on an acting chair and communicate this to the congregation.”

MOTION Moved by Stacey Ciciola, and seconded by Diane Best, to adopt the notes of the Town Hall Meeting held September 18, 2023, as amended. MOTION CARRIED

9. Adoption of Minutes from Trinity Budget Meeting held February 19, 2023

MOTION Moved by Gary Tompkins, and seconded by Eric Garceau, to adopt the minutes of the Trinity Budget Meeting held February 19, 2023, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED

10. Report from Trinity Council Sabrina Heffernan

Sabz thanked all the Ministry Team leaders for all their hard work, and was willing to answer and questions that might come up.

11. Reports from Ministry Teams

a. Buildings and Grounds:

Norm Doré reported that the concrete slab in front of the church needed to be replaced after cracks were found in it that allowed water slowly to work its way into the Den. Another similar project was coming up, to repair the brickwork on the laneway and other areas around the top of the 7th avenue wall. Doing this repair work is critical to maintain our insurance and reduce risk (and the resulting liability) to passersby. (It was noted that the congregation had approved adding the emergency part of the brickwork repair to the budget three weeks earlier at the Budget Meeting).

b. Christian Development:

Veronica Heffernan reported it had been a pleasure to work with Sheri Cameron once again! At the beginning of the year it was hard to know due to COVID what kind of a Sunday School we could have, but happily, as the virus decreased, we could meet in person again. Highlights were the Best Gift Fund shopping for needy kids in December.

c. Congregational Life:

David Garland reported that many activities we normally would have held had to be put on hold due to COVID. Highlights however included Rally Day, including delicious corn! Visitors joined in from the Ukrainian community who came to make a donation, allowing us to fund another Congregational Life fundraiser.

d. Fund Development:

Diane Best reported we'd had some rental requests but some had fallen through. She hoped to do more fundraisers, like a garage sale, which usually brought in \$500 dollars or more.

Rev. Read asked for a round of applause for Ashley Verhaeghe and Christine Tatarewicz who sacrificed many hours of time over three weeks, morning to night, to monitor the movie shoot that took place at Trinity during the summer. The movie dramatized the story of abortion rights coming to Quebec, with the title "Désobéir: le choix de Chantale Daigle." It was now out on Crave. It brought in \$17,000 in rental income, and we couldn't have done it without them. A round of applause was given with our thanks!

e. Media:

Mikayla-Aimee reported her amazement that the media booth had been completed a little over a year ago – it seemed like so much longer – and a big accomplishment. She'd struggled to fix the "audio gremlins" that had come up from time to time. It related to a manufacturer's defect in our hybrid mixer that had no fix, but she'd found a way around it, helping solve the problem. She hoped we'd make small investments each year, like to replace the screen in the sanctuary with a big screen TV instead – to greatly improve the visuals (the expense had been approved for the budget at the Budget Meeting).

f. Membership and Pastoral Care:

Mikayla-Aimee reported that she hadn't been able to accomplish much over the year. She had made progress in maintaining the hard copy and digital copy of our current members list and flagging those who needed to be moved to the historic roll. She'd hoped to digitize the historic roll but it hadn't happened. Something to be done in the future!

g. Mission and Outreach:

Stacey Ciciola reported that due to COVID not much had been done. She thanked everyone who kept donating either through regular giving or through Diane's Fund Development activities. She asked for suggestions of fundraisers that could attract people to come out, either for the spring or if not, then, for the new year. (Rosemary thanked Stacey for the great chili served prior to the meeting; no total raised was available as of yet, however!)

h. Worship:

Heather Purcell reported it had been a challenge to find people to read during Rev. Read's sabbatical. She thanked the amazing students and volunteers, lay people who were willing to step up and take over.

12 Église Sainte-Claire Update:

Rev. Stéphane Vermette reported his gratefulness to everyone for their support and partnership we had established, something not common in the United Church of Canada! "We are breaking ground together." In its third year of existence, the Église Saint-Claire community was in a phase of growth and consolidation. Money remains a big challenge – a study says it takes eight years for a new congregation

to reach sustainability. At present, he had grants for three years – after that, he still didn't know. He'd been encouraging those who attend to give a little, maybe between zero and \$20 a month, if they hadn't yet contributed, or more as able. They averaged about 17 people on Zoom per Sunday, but more may watch it afterwards or on YouTube Live. He'd been connecting with hundreds of people through Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and more. Although hard to quantify if numbers, he felt positive Église Sainte-Claire was making a difference, preaching Good News, putting it out there. He again thanked Trinity for its support and asked for our prayers.

Stéphane gave a special shout-out to Philip Massarelli, who had been working hard (lots of late-night emails) regarding the Sainte-Claire budget. Thank you, Philip!

13. Nominations Committee:

Sabz Heffernan offered the names of those nominated for Leadership Roles in 2023-2024.

Chair of the Congregation: Rosemary Warren

Secretary of the Congregation: Natalya Scott-Sandy

Chair of Council: Sabz Heffernan

Communications: Gary Tompkins, Sheri Cameron

Ministry & Personnel: Heather Purcell, Judy Ciciola

Spiritual Affairs: Gary Tompkins, Sheri Cameron, Mikayla-Aimee

Treasurer (an appointed, versus elected role): Beverley Bridgman and Judy Ciciola

Ministry Leads

Buildings & Grounds: Norman Doré

Christian Development: Veronica Heffernan

Congregational Life: David Garland

Fund Development: Diane Best

Finance: (Sabz said they'd return to this position later)

Membership & Pastoral Care: Judy Ciciola, Christine Tatarewicz

Mission & Outreach: Judy Ciciola

Worship: Heather Purcell

Media: Mikayla-Aimee

Regional Reps: Jenn Carroll, Elsa Beaumont

Youth Regional Rep: Diane Best

Ministry & Personnel appointments: Heather Purcell and Judy Ciciola

14. Trustees Report:

Rev. Read Sherman reported that due to COVID among other reasons, the Board had not met over the year (until just this past week!), but our Investments Team had continued to meet to manage our money. He hoped the trustees would get back to regular quarterly meetings. He asked that the organizational chart on the website be changed to show the Board of Trustees as part of our governance structure.

15. 2022 Annual Report:

Sheri Cameron reported that the Annual Report was getting "shorter and sweeter." She had asked for reports but fewer were being submitted. She pulled together what she could as best she could, offering a good synopsis of the year, including COVID challenges, and coming back in person. She hoped next year there would be more to include!

MOTION Moved by Sabz Heffernan, and seconded by Rahul Bhowmik, to receive the 2022 Annual Report as submitted.

Discussion: The question of using so much colour for the Annual Report was raised. It used a lot of ink to print it out that way. Sheri responded that she could offer both colour or grey-scale options in future.

Philip sought to clarify that the current motion covered the secretarial reports of the Annual Report, but not the financials, which this year were not included with the Annual Report, and as in the past, the financials would be voted on separately later in the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

16. Report from the November 18-19 Regional Meeting “Deep Spirituality”

Charles Dougherty reported he had attended one of the two days. He encouraged anyone with interest to attend Regional Council meetings, whether as an official rep or not, because you learn a lot about what other churches are doing. Examples were a Westmount congregation involved in a collective garden, and a West Island church sponsoring and supporting refugees. Also, the Regional Council had voted to begin an educational process to consider becoming an Affirming Ministry, ensuring the work of Regional Council would be a safe, supportive space for LGBTQIA+ individuals. He enjoyed the experience and learning!

17. COVID-19 Reopening Committee

Sheri Cameron reported that we’d continued to promote people wearing masks to help our older, more vulnerable members to stay safe. She acknowledged the challenge because the government has relaxed the rules; also, we’d just eaten chili together at tables without masks. Did we want to continue our mask wearing at Trinity? A recent trip with the youth to Parkdale United in Ottawa found everyone there still wearing masks to protect the more vulnerable people there. In Sunday School, they’d stopped wearing masks among themselves, but still put them on when in the sanctuary. Schools no longer require mask wearing. We’ll need to look at how to move forward for our context.

18. Special Recognition of Student Leadership

Rev. Read gave thanks for the leadership offered by ministerial students Erika Leung and Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil while he was away on sabbatical. These opportunities were great for them to practice their skills! They, along with Aaron Miechkota, who happened to be in town for the recent communion service at Anjou – and was happy to assist as co-president – showed the long and rich history the congregation has enjoyed at supporting and training people called to ministry. As Erika was pursuing her studies at United Theological School part-time, he hoped she’d continue to be around for a good while yet. He asked for a round of applause for Erika and Jean-Philippe, and hoped others would come in the future who felt the call to serve the church as ordered ministers. (A round of applause was given!)

19. Correspondence

Trinity’s Mission and Service donation for 2022 totaled \$3,679.00! Rev. Read thanked everyone for the donations that go beyond our walls to help important causes both in Canada and around the world through United Church of Canada partners. (A round of applause was given for this good news!)

20. Update from Action Items from 2021 Annual Meeting*a. Affirming Ministry Initiative*

Sabz Heffernan reported that not much had happened on this initiative as of yet. They hoped to get it going in the next year. If anyone was interested in helping, please see Sabz.

b. Poll to Change Worship Time

Dating back almost a year, Rosemary reminded everyone that a poll had been conducted offering four possible worship times to consider. Feedback was brought to the Council meeting on April 13, resulting in the decision to set worship for 11am moving forward (Anjou Sundays would remain at 10:30am).

Rev. Read added that at a recent Anjou United Board meeting, the Board had supported a decision to continue to worship jointly with Trinity, and hosting the joint service at Anjou on the last Sunday of every month. At this time, there was no plan to go back to separate weekly services.

21. Update from Action Items from Town Hall on September 12, 2023*a. Third-Person Back-up on Constant Contact*

Sheri Cameron reported that Diane Best had been given access.

b.) Deputy Chair of Trustees

Rev. Read indicated that the trustees hadn't met while he was absent, so no Deputy Chair had been designated. He mentioned that Dave Ingham had ably served as chair for a number of years and could be asked to continue in that role if he was willing.

22. Financial Report

Director of Financial Affairs Philip Massarelli reported that he'd been working with Treasurer Beverley Bridgman, in addition to our church secretary Christine Tatarewicz who'd begun to use our accounting software as part of her hours to make entries. The financials had been finalized only last night, but even then, some envelopes had come in this morning that would change the numbers a bit. The government sends some tax forms late, making it always challenging to get the financial report ready. What he had for today was a consolidated financial statement. He described the pages of the report and the aspects of Trinity's life and work to which each corresponds. He also mentioned the items related to Église Sainte-Claire, for which Trinity serves as financial agent as an expression of our mission of outreach as a congregation, receiving the grant monies in that support Sainte-Claire's budget, disbursing expenses, etc.

He explained how he came up with the numbers proposed for the 2023 Budget. He sought feedback from what different groups in the church hoped to do. He estimated what rental income might be from different types of groups. Some revenue was onetime, like the \$17,000 from the movie production rental. Some were ongoing. He came up with the revenue estimate for 2023 of \$84,000.

He mentioned we rent to three other congregations but said what we charge them doesn't add up to very much versus the expenses of running the building. With a nearly \$100,000 deficit, he felt we'd need to ask for more in order to survive. Many of our costs were fixed. Trinity was responsible for 75% of certain shared expenses, Anjou covering 25% (especially costs related to the minister's salary and expenses).

Total expenses were projected as \$178,000. That's a big difference from projected revenue of \$84,000! He asked for anyone with ideas of how to address the gap to please speak with him. He offered this budget as his best attempt at a realistic picture of what we could expect.

Sabz Heffernan was recognized by the chair. Sabz proposed the following motion:

MOTION Moved by Sabz Heffernan, seconded by Delores Best, to postpone discussion and a vote on the 2023 Budget to a meeting to be held on Sunday March 19 at 12:15 p.m.

Discussion: Sabz said it had been discussed at Council that the congregation would need time to digest the numbers. A lot of information had been presented, all of it important, and we wouldn't want to rush a decision. They hoped once people had a week to digest the numbers, that a 10-15 minute meeting after church next Sunday would be sufficient to vote on it.

Charles Dougherty spoke to the motion, reminding everyone that to postpone would require at least 20 full members to be willing to attend the next meeting, lest we lack a quorum and have to postpone again.

Kim Wildenmann expressed the concern that postponing a vote on the budget could put off funding the emergency brickwork that needs to be addressed right away. She asked if it would be possible to just approve the emergency work funds now to get it done, or would we risk an insurance nightmare by waiting.

Shirley Cartmill supported the idea of approving the emergency repair money now. She felt enough members would stay for a meeting to approve the budget held immediately upon close of worship, held in the sanctuary (especially if the minister cut short his sermon!).

Some felt holding the meeting in the sanctuary wouldn't work as the Baptists come in for 1pm and needed time to do their tech set-up.

Jennifer Bridgman suggested either voting now, because she felt the numbers weren't going to change, or that we ask people to send any questions they have in advance of a postponed meeting, to save time (and maybe Rev. Read could really work towards a short service, to allow 20 minutes for the meeting). Kim, Carol and Sheri agreed we could cut the Moment for All Ages for next week, possibly allowing for 25 minutes for the meeting.

Philip responded to Kim's concern, suggesting we could vote on use of the Reserve Fund (page 7 of the financial handout), while postponing discussion on the wider operational budget. He asked to amend the motion as follows: "to approve the congregational supported fund budget."

Sabz agreed to the proposed amendment and restated the motion:

MOTION Moved by Sabz Heffernan, and seconded by Delores Best, to postpone discussion of the congregational supported fund budget and vote on the 2023 budget in a meeting to be held on March 19, 2023, following close of worship. MOTION CARRIED

Rosemary asked that questions for the meeting be forwarded to her at congregation@trinityuc.net or call her at 514-725-4826.

Philip referred everyone to the Reserve Fund Budget (page 7 of handout), which was money taken from our trust fund, which includes investment advisor expenses, tech expenses, reserve building fund, and the line item \$13,683.64. This was the budget item that included the approximately \$11,000 plus tax required for the brick work. It also included \$3000 for tech gear approved at the Budget Meeting.

MOTION Moved by Philip Massarelli, and seconded by David Garland, that the 32-100 Reserve Fund budget on page 7 be approved. MOTION CARRIED

23. Motion to Hire an Accounting Firm for Audit

Sabz Heffernan asked for more time before bringing this item up for discussion, and it was agreed to postpone to later in the meeting.

24. Elections/The Question of Creating a New Position on Council

Rosemary explained how voting would proceed. Sabz thanked everyone who had worked so hard in their roles in the past year, and how without volunteers the church couldn't do what it does. They asked if anyone would wish to shadow them over the next year because they wouldn't be able to continue (due to the 5-year term limit per our Trinity Handbook).

Gary Tompkins inquired if the motion discussed at Council to create a new Director position would be considered. Rosemary answered that it couldn't be discussed today because it required an amendment of the Trinity Handbook at a special meeting called for that purpose. Since it couldn't be created, it wouldn't be in order to elect someone to fill that position. Rosemary said she had a plan to call for such a meeting, perhaps in late May or early June. She said she would be pleased to help craft the wording with Gary for such a motion.

Gary disagreed with the chair's ruling such a move out of order, suggesting we could amend the Trinity Handbook now. He moved a motion to do so.

Rosemary ruled Gary's motion out of order, relying on the support of advice received by her on the question from the Rev. Daniel Hayward, Pastoral Relations Officer for Nakonha:ka Region. She read from an email sent by Dan to her in support of her ruling.

Shirley Cartmill suggested we go ahead with the motion, thinking that the rules of the Regional Council didn't consider the governance needs of smaller congregations.

Philip Massarelli spoke in favour of Gary's motion, and agreed to second it if it would be allowed to come to the floor, reasoning that adding a new position to Council was actually an idea he had raised from the first year of Council, feeling the need to have more perspectives represented. The Handbook had anticipated that Council would bring back to the congregation ideas of how the structure could be improved. The intention to add a position was not like we were proposing to eliminate a position, which would be more serious.

The Chair responded that the motion remained out of order and that it could be discussed at a meeting called for amending the Trinity Handbook.

Other voices were raised in favour of moving forward with Gary's motion.

Mikayla-Aimee spoke of her desire to be elected to a position on Council, preferably the new position to be created, but if not that one, she'd be interested in Director of Spiritual Affairs. She had a love for the congregation, and felt she brought a new perspective as someone newer to the church. She was results-oriented, turning words into action. She hoped to bring her gifts to Council to help the church move forward.

Rosemary asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. As none were made, she declared that nominations from the floor were now closed.

Eric Garceau asked if Gary's motion could be voted. Rosemary said again that the motion was out of order, so we would proceed with the election, starting with members of Council.

Jennifer Bridgman expressed her frustration that a technicality was getting in the way of the congregation being allowed to open this new position for someone like Mikayla to fill. She felt with the future of the congregation at stake, being able to keep our beautiful building to have discussions like this, allowing the people here to vote – maybe they'd say yes, maybe no – made sense. "The Handbook doesn't get to sing, we get to sing."

Julia Budd asked if this wasn't like the motion to allow adherent to vote, an opening up of the rules to be more inclusive. Perhaps we could bend the rules here too to consider Gary's motion.

Warren Purcell asked if it was possible to take a vote to see if people here agreed with adding a position. If it got passed, then a Handbook meeting could be called to make that change. Rosemary responded that according to the advice she received, this approach would be a problem.

Mikayla said she felt the Handbook provided guidance for the congregation, but that the congregation had the right to act as they chose.

Philip said he appreciated Rosemary's perspective and comments. He suggested that Council could have pre-meditated the need to amend the Handbook, but that didn't happen. He asked if we could vote for a person for the position today, so that if and when the Handbook is amended, we wouldn't need another meeting to hold an election later. The person so elected may or may not join Council, depending on how the amendment goes later.

Sheri spoke as one of the people involved in creating the Trinity Handbook. It was created to be a help to the congregation. We had someone here today in Mikayla saying she wanted to help the congregation. It didn't make sense that someone from Regional Council was saying that we can't do that.

MOTION Moved by John Boone, seconded by Mikayla-Aimee, to temporarily suspend the meeting for 5 or 10 minutes and then convene a special meeting to add the position, and then resume our present meeting to continue with the election.

Discussion: Rosemary responded that notice for such a special meeting required two full Sundays, and the announcement had to be read from the pulpit. This meant such a meeting could take place no earlier than Sunday March 26, 2023.

Rev. Read asked if a “both/and” solution could be considered, along the lines of Warren’s and Philip’s comment, to get a moral sense of this meeting regarding the desire to add a new position to Council, and maybe even about the person to fill it, pending the needed meeting to amend the Handbook with required proper notice. Rosemary responded by asking John Boone if he’d agree to add a specific date to his motion, or it could be upon the call of the chair. John said his motion was to hold the special meeting today, so he decided to rescind his motion.

MOTION RESCINDED

MOTION Moved by Mikayla-Aimee, and seconded by Veronica Heffernan, to add a position to Council and nominate or appoint someone to that position today, on the understanding it was not currently binding, but that it would be rectified with a handbook amendment meeting dated in two weeks from now.

MOTION DECLARED OUT OF ORDER

Rosemary asked for a motion to call for a special meeting to amend the Trinity Handbook in two weeks’ time, to allow for the wording to be crafted and things done in the proper order.

MOTION Moved by John Boone, seconded by Jenn Carroll, to call a special meeting for two weeks from today (March 26) for the purpose of amending the Trinity Handbook.

Mikayla-Aimee asked to amend the motion to include postponing all elections to March 26, so that all positions would be known to be available prior to elections. Rosemary called for a vote first on Mikayla’s amendment, which was defeated. Rosemary then called for a vote on the original motion.

MOTION CARRIED

25. Elections

a. Chair of the Council:

There being no other nominations, Sabz Heffernan was acclaimed.

b. Director of Spiritual Affairs:

Sheri Cameron spoke of herself as someone who gets things done, and she felt called to bring that energy to the position of working with the Ministry Team leaders to help them coordinate and organize. She’s liked doing Communications for the past few years but was ready for a new call.

Gary Tompkins said he had done the job for the past four years, but knew they were limited to five years. He said he’d be okay changing, and would be willing to serve in any way the congregation asked him to serve.

Mikayla-Aimee said she was passionate about bringing some change to the congregation, and would bring her detail-oriented sense to the position. She had good leadership skills, but had made some mistakes too. She’d tried to learn from the mistakes, listening to others, an important aspect of any role.

The vote was called, and Mikayla-Aimee was elected.

c. Director of Communications:

Gary Tompkins had been nominated, and Sheri Cameron nominated herself from the floor.

Sheri spoke of the experience she'd bring after being in the position for four years.

Gary expressed being torn between wanting to support Sheri and the possibility of not being on Council in the coming year!

The vote was called, and Sheri Cameron was elected.

d. Director of Finance

As no nomination had been made to the Nominations Committee, the position was still vacant, with the Council able to appoint someone at a later time. The question was raised about Philip Massarelli being willing to stand for election to the position again. Mikayla explained how the nominations process had worked. One nomination had been received by the committee, but the person when asked had turned it down, leaving the position vacant. She expressed her hope that Philip was willing to serve again, and that it was just an oversight that this hadn't been communicated to the Nominations Committee. After further discussion, Natalya Scott-Sandy nominated Philip Massarelli to be Director of Finance. Philip consented to the nomination.

Philip said it had been a rough year for him, but that he was happy working with the finance team he had instituted, showing them the many "bells and whistles" that come with the role.

He spoke of the skill set needed to be Director of Finance, and suggested because of it the role might be better served as an appointed, rather than elected, position. This is the case for the role of Treasurer, and the Director of Finance and the Treasurer work hand in hand. That question could be considered when the Trinity Handbook got reviewed for possible changes.

Philip said he had hoped to have the books ready for someone else to take on for this year but it hadn't worked out that way. Although surprised to hear the position declared vacant, he was willing to offer himself again.

Kim Wildenmann said she agreed with Philip that the Director of Finance role required a person with the right set of skills in accounting. She seconded Philip's nomination.

Rosemary called for any other nominations. Jennifer Bridgman nominated Beverley Bridgman. Beverley did not accept the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Philip Massarelli was elected.

e. Director of Ministry & Personal

Judy Ciciola and Heather Purcell had been nominated but Judy was not present for the meeting to speak to her nomination. Heather Purcell said she'd been on M&P many times before. She had a background in social services which could be helpful in dealing with employees. She can stay calm when issues get raised to be able to deal with them.

A vote was called, and Heather Purcell was elected.

f. Treasurer

As this is a Council appointed role, Council will deal with this at their next meeting on March 15.

Beverley Bridgman and Judy Ciciola have been nominated.

g. Trustees

Based on our current Trinity Handbook definition of our Trustees, we have the need to elect one of the following Council positions to join the Minister and the Director of Finance to be a trustee: Director of Communications (Sheri), Director of Ministry & Personnel (Heather), and the Director of Spiritual Affairs (Mikayla).

Discussion ensued regarding why the additional trustee had to be another member of Council. Couldn't it be anybody? Dave Ingham explained that trustees in the past had been nominated and voted with the understanding it was a life-long responsibility until such time as they resigned, were voted off by the congregation, or died. For the Council positions in the Handbook, these were now one-year appointments. Rev. Read affirmed Dave's comments. He said that at the time the Handbook was approved, we had erred in not recognizing the ongoing nature of the trustees who had agreed to serve in lifetime appointments. At its recent meeting, the trustees discussed this and would be putting a proposal forward to amend the Handbook to include the ongoing trustees. Part of that proposal would include the recommendation that one lifetime appointed trustee each year would consider resigning, in order to offer themselves as willing and able to serve again but now for a new 5-year term.

Sabz Heffernan raised the point that at last year's Annual Meeting, the Director of Communications and Director of Ministry & Personnel were already trustees, and therefore not needing reappointment.

Dave Ingham announced his desire to resign his lifetime appointment as a trustee. He had served faithfully for the last 15-20 years after Louise Falconbridge had asked him to serve, and he had accepted. He said he was willing to continue as a trustee should the congregation so desire, but for the new proposed 5-year term. Rosemary responded that Dave's resignation and re-election would need to be taken up later, following the Handbook Amendment meeting, because the current Handbook didn't recognize the existence of the ongoing, lifetime appointed trustees.

All recognized and regretted the awkwardness of this situation and sought a way forward that recognized the dedicated service of all trustees.

MOTION Moved by Jennifer Bridgman, seconded by Gary Tompkins, that the special meeting called on or after March 26, 2023 will also include on the agenda "to redefine and clarify the definition of trustees."

26. Adjournment

MOTION Moved by Gary Tompkins, to adjourn.

Discussion: Gary was concerned that there was another booking for the Gym starting at 5pm. Rosemary said that moving adjournment would mean that all further business, including the open motion above, would be moved to the meeting on March 26.

Rosemary proposed additional wording to the motion as follows:

MOTION Moved by Gary Tompkins, to adjourn the meeting to reconvene on or after March 26 to finish the discussion about the trustee clarification and to move what's left of the elections and all new business to a day on or after March 26. MOTION CARRIED

Rosemary asked for those in positions for which elections hadn't yet been held to continue in their work until such time as elections were held. She encouraged as many people as possible to come out on March 26 to ensure a quorum so that we could complete the business before us.

Rev. Read thanked Rosemary for the thoughtful and considered way in which the meeting had been conducted. He also acknowledged the need for grace, and flexibility too as much as possible, to help us as we moved forward. He thanked by name the many people who had stepped up over the past year, offering volunteer leadership, doing tasks, serving on committees. All volunteer leaders were invited to take home a card and a plant as a token of our gratitude. He thanked all staff as well for jobs well done. (A round of applause was given).

Following a closing prayer, including a prayer for Gary and his aunt Evelyn Dinsmore, who was nearing the end of her life, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Secretary of the Congregation Diane Best,

Read Sherman