

Nashwaaksis United Church
Council Meeting
October 11, 2011

Church Council met on Tuesday, October 11th, 2011, with the following persons in attendance: Rev. J. D. Kennedy; Priscilla Geisterfer; Bonnie Crandlemere; Barb Simmonds; Jeanie Whitehead; Jackie Saunders; Shirley Gourley; Eva Colpitts; Bob Andrews; Keith Traer; Florrie Schlosser; Krista MacMillan; Maureen O'Hara; Krista Fullarton; Heather Brannon; Lola Crawford; Jessie Rowe; Harold McLeod; Ian Gilchrist; and Paul Smith.

The agenda was approved as circulated. The minutes of the September 13th Council meeting were declared accepted as circulated.

Business from the Minutes

It was noted with great appreciation that the Property Committee had installed a timer to turn up the heating system in the Sunday School classrooms, with the result that the children and their leaders are much more comfortable.

Godly Play demonstration

Priscilla Geisterfer presented a Godly Play story based on the Good Shepherd and the concept of Communion. The Council now has a much better appreciation for this new program which is being introduced into the Sunday School this fall.

Establishment of Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC)

Paul Smith summarized the outcome of the Congregational meeting to establish a JNAC and reminded Council that it was delegated the responsibility to appoint persons to this Committee. He presented the following list of persons who had agreed to participate on the JNAC: Maureen O'Hara; Krista MacMillan; Melissa Bailey; Donna Dykeman; Lynn McCann; Shirley McKinney; Tom Austin; Glenn Whiteway.

It was ***moved by Jeanie Whitehead, seconded by Shirley Gourley***, that these persons be appointed to the JNAC. ***Motion Carried.***

Reports:

1. Family Night

Krista MacMillan identified some of the activities proposed to date for the coming year, but expressed concern over the low response rates. She advised that she would like to

find someone else to take the leadership of this program so she could participate in other church opportunities. There was some discussion on whether the concept was “tired” and a change might be needed.

2. Faith Development Coordinator

Priscilla Geisterfer noted there was an extended workshop on Godly Play in November with a fee of \$25 per person. Council agreed to offer up to \$100 to offset costs for those working on Godly Play in our church, at the discretion of Priscilla. She outlined a new initiative of Godly Play for Moms and Tots (2-4 years old).

Priscilla proposed another new initiative based on a “Wonder Cafe” concept for adults and children to be held on Sunday morning from 9-10 am starting October 23rd for a 5-week trial. Because Priscilla wishes to work with the children during this time, she advised that she would recommend Darlene Brewer to facilitate the adult sessions. It was ***moved by Maureen O’Hara, seconded by Lola Crawford***, that Darlene Brewer be hired to facilitate the adult portion of Wonder Cafe for 5 Sundays starting October 23rd and that she be provided with an honorarium of \$50 per Sunday. ***Motion Carried.***

3. Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care

Rev. J. D. commented on the remaining sermons of his series on “**Raising G-rated children in an X-rated world**” and indicated he is considering a different sermon series in the new year. He is also contemplating a Bible Study in January focused on the Book of Genesis.

4. Worship Committee

Jeanie Whitehead thanked the decorating team for the Thanksgiving theme. The Committee raised the issue of possible changes to the times for Christmas services with Christmas falling on a Sunday this year. After a brief discussion it was agreed to defer this matter to the November Council Meeting. A final draft of a Baptism Policy was circulated and discussed. Council agreed to approve the Policy as amended.

5. Pastoral Care Committee

It was reported that this Committee is working on improving the visitation process and the timely distribution of information to our attendees.

6. Outreach Committee

The Committee described its activities in supporting the lesser-privileged children in our immediate community, and advised Council that its funding via the Benevolent Fund was inadequate to meet these needs. There was discussion on ways to encourage the Congregation to increase their givings to this important initiative.

7. Finance Committee

Ian Gilchrist summarized the current financial status of the church and noted that it plans to initiate a Stewardship Program in November. The Committee has also asked Keith Murray to assess the need for upgraded computers and software for the church.

8. Property Committee

Keith Traer reported that all systems in our facility appear to be in good shape and there are no issues at this time.

8. Ministry and Personnel Committee

Shirley Gourley commented that the Committee is getting ready to start its annual performance reviews with all church staff.

9. Presbytery Representatives

Jackie Saunders outlined highlights from a recent Presbytery meeting.

10. Other Business

It was pointed out that many favourable comments have been received in relation to the use of the screen and computer projector in recent church services. Heather Brannon would appreciate help from volunteers to operate the system during the services.

Council noted its appreciation to Maureen O'Hara and Stephanie Brannon for their work in renovating the church website.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8th, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Paul Smith, Council Chair
Acting Secretary