

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN LATVIAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
200 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto, ON. M4V 1J6
Tel.: (416) 921-3327

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING #612
Thursday, October 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. on site and via Zoom

Present: Karlis Vasarajs (Chair) Astrida Ezergailis (co-Secretary) [Z]
Anne Reinbergs (co-Secretary) [Z]
Ieva Osis Anda Kuksis-Kalviņš [Z]
Lilita Tannis Larry Gifford [Z]
Ruta Silins Mara Strazdins [Z]
Gunta Reynolds Raimonds Rutitis [Z]

Regrets: Amanda Sebris

Staff: Rev. G. Grietins
Inta Baze
Normunds Goba

Committee Reps: none

Call to order: 7:10 pm. **Opening prayer:** Rev. Grietiņš

1. **Acceptance of the Agenda:** accepted as written.

Moved: G. Reynolds

Seconded: L. Tannis

Motion Carried

2. **Review and acceptance of Minutes**

a) September 20, 2020 AGM

Motion: To accept the Minutes for September 20, 2020 AGM with **amendments:**

- Add customary header with meeting identifier, date etc.
- Item #8, 2nd paragraph, delete comments regarding the name change for the Ladies Auxillary as follows: "The Chair encouraged participation in the committees ~~and noted that the Ladies Auxillary has been renamed the Fellowship Committee.~~"
- Item #13, 1st paragraph, add: "M. Sukse thanked Ieva Osis and her helpers for the work done, incorporating Covid-19 guidelines, to clean and prepare the sanctuary and lower level rooms for this Sunday's use."

Moved: R Silins

Seconded: I Osis

Motion Carried

b) Previous Council Meeting Minutes #611

Motion: To accept the Regular Minutes for Council Meeting, with **amendments:**

- Reformat document to show the following members as present:
 - Anne Reinbergs
 - Mara Strazdins

Moved: R. Silins

Seconded: I. Osis

Motion Carried

c) Council Meeting Minutes #610

Motion: To accept the Regular Minutes for Council Meeting #610, with **amendment:**

- Corrected spelling of Mashin

Moved: L Tannis

Seconded: G. Reynolds

Motion Carried

3. Clergy Update: See written report.

Rev. Grietiņš asked the council to begin planning for Christmas Eve services (likely with multiple services and pre-registration requirement).

4. President's Report:

K. Vasarajs provided recommendation for working together: start with focusing on immediate needs in a cooperative mode, and approach contentious issues with positive intentions.

5. Administrator's /Treasurers Report

N. Goba advised of address correction on staff list for D. Maksins to 42 Sloane

6. Composition of 2020-2021 committees.

Motion: To postpone the following Committee review and discussion until next Board meeting:

- a. Scope of committees
- b. Open or Closed? (Council member involvement; Church member involvement)
- d. Internal Review (Revizijas) committee
- e. Appointment of Committee leadership

Motion accepted by acclamation

c. **COVID-19 committee**

Members of current ad-hoc COVID Committee (R. Silins, I Osis, Rev. Grietins) have agreed to continue their work and are looking for new members to this committee.

6. Committees

Written reports provided by the following committees:

- i. Church Retreat 'Saulaine' Management Committee
- ii. Fundraising Committee
- iii. Membership Committee
- iv. Newsletter (Vēstis) Committee
- v. Christian Education – Bible Study Discussion Group
- vi. Women's Committee (DK)
- vii. Audio Visual
- viii. COVID-19

6.1 Finance committee

- To be tasked with a 2021 and five-year budget plan. Finance committee to assign expense approval thresholds within budget to improve budget management
- Request by L Tannis to ensure Saulaine is represented on the committee
- Request by K Vasarajs to ensure the committee is gender-balanced
- K Vasarajs to lead the committee; to be approved at next Board meeting

7. Saulaine Update

Motion: To approve capital expenditure to repair Saulaine custodians' house roof approximately \$9,500

Moved: R. Silins

Seconded: G. Reynolds

Motion carried

8. **18. Novembris – Involvement in Southern Ontario “Palidzibas Saini (Care Packages)” effort**

Motion: St John's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church of Toronto to support 18 November outreach/fellowship project with a financial contribution of \$500.

Moved: K. Vasarajs

Seconded: G Reynolds

Motion carried

9. **20-min Brainstorming session – List all key issues (1) overall and (2) in COVID times**

Motion: To postpone this brainstorming session until the next Board meeting

Motion carried by acclamation

10. **Action Items**

a. Christmas services (Agenda item 3):

- **G. Reynolds** to reach out to Davis Makšiņš re Christmas concert recordings
- **COVID Committee** to work on logistics for Christmas Eve Services and to coordinate with St Andrews
- **Rev. Grietiņš** to engage St. Andrews pastor for coordination of Christmas Eve Church services

b. Treasurer's Report (4b)

- **N. Goba** and **Finance Committee** to provide a summary of repairs and maintenance requirements for both the Church and Saulaine. The summary will include (1) scope, (2) estimated cost, and (3) timelines.
- **N. Goba** to forward the following documents to Board members by email:
 - Financial Reports incl. 6-year Income and Expense Comparison
 - General Operating By-Laws for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Latvian Church of Toronto
 - Legal Duties of Directors & Leaders of Churches & Religious Charities document
- **All Board members** to review the financial statements and the 6-year Income and Expense Comparison.
- N. Goba to communicate with St. Andrews Church regarding opportunity for Government Rent subsidies due to COVID

c. Committees (5/6)

- **All Board members** to review committee responsibilities for discussion at next Board meeting
- **All Board members** to consider which committees each will sign up for. Send in email to A. Ezergailis and K Vasarajs ahead of next Board meeting.
- **All Board members** to consider congregation members for potential candidates for each committee

d. Saulaine (7)

- **Saulaine Committee** to work with **Finance Committee** to begin a draft 2021 Budget, itemizing maintenance and repair requirements for 2020/2021. Capital costs to be ranked in order of importance (health/safety, infrastructure, other maintenance)
- e. 18. Novembris (8)
 - **N Goba** to create a list of all appropriate congregation members for receipt of “palīdzības saiņi (care packages)” for November 18, 2020.
- f. Brainstorming (9)
 - **All Board and Staff members** to consider church’s priorities, considering current COVID climate and overall, making an exhaustive list with prioritization.
 - a) Key questions for **Board members**:
 - What do we want to achieve during COVID-19 times?
 - What do we want to achieve as a congregation in 5 years time?
 - b) Key questions for **Staff**:
 - How can Sv Jāņa Baznīca improve our operations?
 - How can we better serve our membership?
 - How can the Board better support our Staff?
 - Be prepared to share and discuss at **November Board Meeting**
- g. **Other business (not listed in agenda):**
 - On behalf of the congregation, a Thank-you to be conveyed to Mara Jansons and Sibilla Korulis for their work on the Church Council. Inta Baze to consult w. Beta Ludviks re digital signatures for sending of a card and flowers.
 - The Church to recognize retiring St. Andrews Church pastor, Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart, with a card or gift TBD

11. **Future Meetings**

November 19, 2020 7pm

December 17, 2020 7pm

Adjournment 9:15

Chair:

Secretary: A