

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 #623
Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Anne Reinbergs (Vice-Chair) Astrida Ezergailis (Secretary)
Ieva Osis Peteris Avenins
Gunta Reynolds Larry Gifford
Karena Grasmanis Mara Strazdins
Raimonds Rutitis

Clergy: Rev. G. Grietins

Staff: Normunds Goba

Committee Reps: Maija Sukse, Ruta Silins, Anda Kuksis-Kalvins

Regrets: Karlis Vasarajs (Chair), Inta Baze, Amanda Sebris, Lilita Tannis

Call to order: 7:05 pm.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Grietiņš

1. Acceptance of the Agenda:

Accepted, with date amended, by acclamation

2. Review and acceptance of Council Meeting #622 Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes October 29, 2021, #622
Motion to accept as written

Moved: Gunta Reynolds
Seconded: Raimonds Rutitis
Motion carried

3. Clergy Update:

- Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica reelected as head of Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide (LELBP)
- LELBA sending thank-yous and gifts to Latvia's doctors
- in person services have been going well with COVID-19 protocols in place
- planning several months forward: eg. special worship service including Rev. Demandt's installation 1st Advent Sunday, Nov. 28th, 3 pm; Dec. 5th service will be followed by coffee and sale of gingerbread cookies baked by the Ladies' Committee.

4. Chair's Update:

- Rentals: Friday evening Latvian high school; request from French day camp – 30-40 children aged 5-12, M-F, 8-5 2nd week of July-3rd week of August not yet confirmed, needs discussion by FC
- Do we need to plan for Christmas services overflow? outcome of discussion is that a screen

and seating can be planned for the basement hall, plans finalized closer to the date.

5. Administrator/Treasurer's Report:

Saulaine septic expenditures are significantly greater than projected. Current Total is \$280,000 including GST.

Bowman \$43,120; ARS \$121,505; Gunnell Engineering \$35,134; Pumps and Steel \$8262; Pumpouts \$5349; Brooklin tanks \$53217; Piping \$4286; Excavator rental \$3794; Legal Services \$5795

Discussion of need for monthly finance report to identify special project expenses clearly as separate line item

6. Committee updates:

a. Facilities Management:

- clean-up of various church spaces must happen; stage must be cleared for eventual return to use as a stage
- audio problems with Zoom worship – reportedly the complexity of the multi-camera set-up is causing significant audio problems for Zoom participants. Multiple complaints have been made. Everyone who has complained has stated that their main concern is to be able to hear the service.

Discussion of strategies for clean-up and tackling sound problems on Zoom services.

b. Finance Committee:

no update

c. Saulaine Management:

- Cookie baking for Kristus Dārzs LTC; call for volunteers with time and date is forthcoming
- November 13th service in cooperation with Latvian Relief Society of Canada, with social after, including an update from Alīde Forstmanis. starting 1 pm

see attached report

d. Discussion group:

- looking at continuing discussions (initiated on Retreat) on tolerance and related issues with broader participation – planning together with Māc. Girls to continue

e. Ladies' Auxiliary:

- Christmas season coffee after December 5th service, fundraising with sale of gingerbread cookies - \$15 for 250g
- November 21st service – Ladies have decided to donate \$5,000 toward the carpet, and will present it after November 21st service
- November 28th Rev. Demandt's installation

f. Fundraising:

- MS is preparing a mailout
Discussion re coordinating mailout with Vestis newsletter

g. **Other committees:** no updates this month

7. **Other Business**

- a. **Balmoral & Ave Rd. development:** Development application - 438-440 Avenue Road and 169-171B Balmoral Ave Nov 23, 2021, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. online meeting
- b. **By-law revision:** Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA)– 3-year deadline to revise existing by-laws
- c. **Code of conduct:** as pertains to roles, transparency, etc. Discussion tabled
- d. **Saulaine excess lands listing:** Saulaine Management Committee reports that listing for Parcel #3 (5792 20TH SIDE Road) is pending, and Parcels #8/9/10 (LOT 21 6TH LINE) have been listed
- e. **Camp Saulaine:** R. Rutitis reports that childrens' camp needs someone to plan and run the camp this year. More information in Saulaine Management Committee report
- f. **Other:** Next Council meeting December 2, 2021, at 7 pm

8. **Review Action items**

Adjournment: 9:00 pm

Closing prayer Rev. Grietins

In Camera

Chair: Karlis Vasarajs

Secretary: Astrida Ezergailis