

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 #614
Sunday, December 13, 2020 - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

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

Regrets: none

Staff: Rev. G. Grietins
Normunds Goba
Inta Baze

Committee Reps: none

Call to order: 7:10 pm.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Grietiņš

1. Acceptance of the Agenda:

Moved: Lilita Tannis

Seconded: Raimonds Rutitis

Motion Carried

2. Review and acceptance of Minutes

a. Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 2020 #613

Motion to accept, subject to clarification of 9.a

Moved: R. Rutitis

Seconded: I. Osis

Motion carried

b. Council Meeting Minutes December 13, 2020 #614

Motion to accept, subject to clarification of 8.c

Moved: Anda Kuksis-Kalviņš

Seconded: Ieva Osis

Motion carried

3. Clergy Update:

a. Zoom worship improvements **Actions:** record and post Zoom worship services; enable donation during online service ; **Astrida** website calendar update Sv. J. 1st& 3rd Sunday; Sv. A. 2nd & 4th

b. Coordination with St. Andrews' new pastor

- c. LELBP synod online April 23-25: delegates sought **Delegated:** Karlis V. & Gunta R.
- d. Aprūpe/Outreach – continues **Action:** investigate reviving information blast (Norm had wider list) for 2xmonthly Kas Notiek

See written report for details

4. Chair's update:

- a. applause heard from membership & Sv. Andreja re Zoom worship
- b. welcoming Māc. Dag Demants – good connection made with him and family
- c. plans to contact Māc. Dāvis Kaņeps and Jānis Grīnvalds
- d. Hamilton stats – Zoom meetings double attendance
- e. Andreja draudze stats – Līga Miklašēvics (new chair?) commented: turnout for Sid events, worship, day camp in 2020 activated a different group – younger, families **Action:** Mara S. reach out to Emils Matiss (LNJAK) re inviting participation in Outreach/Aprupe
- f. re Donor tracking & acknowledgement
- g. themes emerging from one-on-one discussions w/ Council members:
 - Support active work – show up to Zoom worship, encourage others
 - Keep in touch with congregation, maintain all levels of communication with everyone

5. Administrator's /Treasurers Report

- a. Question: have we responded to Sept. announcement of federal rent relief/operating costs to non-profits, also in re Saulaine **Action:** Norm will look at Federal Covid-19 rent relief programmes
- b. Question: re Northern Birch (KredSab) account changes and clarifying account 'ownership': Ansamblis account associated with Gunta Reynolds; similarly, Sunday School/Anne Reinbergs; Ladies' Aux/Maija Sukse **Action: Norm** clarify with Northern Birch manager: no personal accounts linked to Church accounts
- c. Treasurer indicates that Finance Statements were late because of other requests **Action: Padome/Council members** hold non-time-sensitive requests until middle of the month, caveat **Facilities management**

6. Committee updates:

a. **Facilities Management:**

- Replacing cross – seeking input re inspect & repair/reinstall, or just repair/reinstall? **Action:** continue discussion in **Finance Committee**
- Roof replacement – 4 quotes around \$100,000
- Minister's office/Chancery – leak source: roof/flashings/ventilation; General -- N. Sebris recommends assessment by HVAC engineer; temporary patching & painting by custodian, D. Maksins
- Comment from Chair: Sv. Andreja Chair, Liga Miklasevics, is open to cooperating on Facilities, along with Sv. Andreja Admin, Sarma Gaide
- Commending contribution of N. Sebris, which is ongoing

b. **Finance:**

- Refer to reports: note key findings from meeting minutes **Action: Karlis** to seek construction law firm for advice

c. **Saulaine:**

- all bookings will be advised 2 months prior re Covid-19 closure
- promote other rentals: motels, manse, camp sites, possible glamping tent

- alternative to Saulaines pusdienas: online lottery, other online events
- planning for 2022 70th anniversary
- considering the divestment of excess lands to bolster reserves – NB any sale needs 2/3 approval from AGM
- capital repairs etc. see budget
- Septic: expecting quote from new contractor

d. Fundraising:

Roof & Cross target : 100,000 – 125,000 (to date raised 30,000)

Saulaine target : 15,000

ideas:

- add a line to annual givings sheet for capital funds
- “why it’s good to donate” –
- in-kind donation tax receipts for experts
- acknowledge large donors – establish categories
- other forms of thank you, eg incl. in tax receipt mailing
- plaque for mega-donor
- communication, eg ‘Kas notiek baznīca’
- social functions
- make it easier to give – e-transfers & ‘donate’ link
- develop communication strategy

Action: Fundraising committee review how givings/donations are recorded and acknowledged

e. Sv. Andreja Liaison:

- **Action: Liaison committee** develop internal priorities, coordinate with Andreja draudze

f. Outreach / Aprūpe: confirmed with Maris Lūsis that he continues to organize the Outreach/Aprūpes grupa effort and plans to do so for the foreseeable future. Sadly Austra Kirkups, a valued member of the committee and a perminder, passed away since our last meeting. Her contacts have been divided up among the remaining members.

7. Budget review and approval:

- Budget tabled – not ready

8. Other Business

- a.** Termination of Saulaine contractor (Steve): **Action: Finance Committee** seek counsel, formulate opinion, come to Council with motion (may be emailed before Feb meeting -- time sensitive)
- b.** Setting the AGM date:
Motion: hold AGM on April 18, 2021 subject to confirmation with relevant Corporation Laws (Canada or Ontario?)
Moved: R. Rutitis
Seconded: A. Reinbergs
Motion carried
Action: KV look into implications of reducing Council numbers in by-law ; **Astrida** check re Corporate Laws

9. **Review Action items:**

- **Action: Astrida** send out rough draft of 615 – as is

Adjournment: 10:25 pm