

**ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN LATVIAN CHURCH OF TORONTO**  
200 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto, ON. M4V 1J6  
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING #616**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

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

**Clergy:** Rev. G. Grietins

**Staff:** Inta Baze, Normunds Goba

**Committee Reps:** none

**Regrets:** Anne Reinbergs

**Call to order:** 7:10 pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Grietiņš

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda:**

**Moved:** Astrida Ezergailis

**Seconded:** Lilita Tannis

**Motion Carried**

**2. Review and acceptance of Minutes**

**Council Meeting Minutes January 28, 2021#615**

**Motion to accept as written**

**Moved:** Ruta Silins

**Seconded:** Raimonds Rutitis

**Motion carried**

**3. Review of interim vote on motion(s) over email**

Voting took place on February 16, 2021 by email:

**Motion:** To contract Dominion Roofing to replace two flat roofs and the shingled sloped roof at 200 Balmoral. The value of the contract is \$78,870.00 plus HST/ \$89,123.10 HST in. The contract is attached.

**Moved:** Anda Kuksis-Kalvins

**Seconded:** Ruta Silins

**Motion carried**

4. **Clergy Update:**

- a. March Wednesday Lent Zoom discussions – March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>
- b. Forthcoming additional musical contributions

See written report for details

5. **Chair's update:**

- a. Working with Edward Jones to enable stock/equity donations
- b. Discussion with Latvian Centre manager re Maintenance and Rental space approach

**Action: KV** Draft Letter to St. Andrew's congregation inviting donation to roof reconstruction to submit before next St. Andrew's Council meeting

**Action: KV** to extend invitation to LELBA Canadian congregations who are without a pastor to participate in Zoom services/discussion group

6. **Administrator's /Treasurers Report**

- a. financial statements were not prepared (due to year end preparations)

**Action: NG** Budget and financial statements must be ready for review in preparation for AGM

7. **Committee updates:**

a. **Facilities Management:**

- Moving forward on roof, and other repairs  
see report for details

b. **Finance:**

- Finance Committee made majority decision to retain counsel due to time sensitivity on Saulaine Septic project

**Motion:** to endorse an initial retainer of \$5K for legal counsel (PAUL GUARAGNA, Partner Miller Thomson LLP) to take action on the Saulaine septic contractor matter

**Moved:** Lilita Tannis

**Seconded:** Astrida Ezergailis

**Motion carried**

**Note: \$8,000 deposit with Brooklyn Tanks was not returned to contractor as he requested, as advised by lawyer**

c. **Saulaine Management:**

- Septic: report from Raimonds Rutitis on status of contract  
see report for details

**Action: NG** to send Saulaine land survey to Lilita Tannis asap, esp of lots separate from main territory

d. **Fundraising:**

see report

e. **St. Andrew's Liaison:**

nothing to report

f. **Outreach / Aprūpe:**

nothing to report

**Note: MS** proposes various ideas for involving a younger crowd, eg SMIJ to use the basement next year; 'guest chefs' for coffee gatherings after services (consult with MS Ladies' Committee)

**g. Membership:**

nothing to report

- point ensuing from Fundraising discussion: request that membership tracking be handled separately from financial records for tax receipts

**Action: Membership Committee** review tracking of membership in relation to givings cheques

**8. Budgets review and approval:**

- Saulaine budget has been received and in review; General Budget pending completion of auditor's work

**9. Other Business**

- a. COVID-19 reopening plan:** Discussion: reopening for in-person services ; possible hybrid model in-person/zoom

**Action: Covid Committee** provide list of recommendations for the Council

**Action: Facilities** determine what needs to be done, with a timeline, for in-person attendance

**Action: LT + KV** connect with Roberts Adlers and Aldis Sukse re technical possibilities re hybrid, for further discussion with **Rev. Grietiņš**

- b. Status of Saulaine contractor** (Steve)

Karlis Vasarajs gives update of status of contractor relationship

- c. AGM planning:**

Discussion re moving AGM to March, but agreement as to proceeding with original April date

- d. Stock/equity donations:**

addressed in **Chair's Update**

- e. Churches on the Hill Food Bank appointment:**

Inta Gifford is stepping down after 6 years working on our behalf

**Motion:** to appoint Alex Gifford to become our representative at the COTH food bank

**Moved:** Ieva Osis

**Seconded:** Gunta Reynolds

**Motion carried**

**Action: Inta Baze** to prepare a thank you for Inta Gifford, acknowledging her long service

- f. Other:**

- Ieva Osis received thank-you cards from Sibilla Korulis and Mara Jansons for year end acknowledgments and gift.
- Ruta Silins expresses gratitude to Inta Baze for putting together and sending greeting and thank you cards.
- Gunta Reynolds: with Austra Kirkups' passing, the book collection/library needs attention  
**Action: Gunta** will take inventory of the book collection that was maintained by Austra Kirkup
- Need delegates for April 24 /25 Zoom meeting  
**Action: Gunta** invite Maija Sukse as LELBA delegate; any other Council Members consider participating
- Anda Kuksis-Kalvins: plaques for Rev. Ivars Gaide, Rev. Anita Gaide & Diak. Aina Avotiņa  
**Action: Inta Baze** contact Lilita Stripnieks re arranging acknowledgment plaques

**Action: Inta Baze** coordinate acknowledgment to Lauma Stikuts on her retirement from Kristus Darzs; **Ruta Silins** to deliver?

**10. Review Action items:**

- **Action: Astrida** send out rough draft of #616 – as is

**Adjournment:** 9:23 pm

**Closing prayer**

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Chair: Karlis Vasarajs

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Secretary: Astrida Ezergailis