

Crescent Fort Rouge United Church (CFRUC) Leadership Team (LT) Meeting
CFRUC Lower Hall, 525 Wardlaw Avenue Winnipeg MB
Wednesday, March 16th, 2017

2015-1

Present: Murray Gibbings, Irene Greenwood (ex-officio), Linda Thorlakson, Ian Fillingham, Herb Neufeld, Kathy Desbiolles, Lauren Sawchuk
Regrets: Sharon Taylor-Henley, Lynne Dunford. Quorum present.

	Topic	Discussion	Action
1	Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Murray Gibbings, Chair.	
2	Lighting Christ Candle and Reflection	Irene lead the team through a time of reflection and encouraged us to recall 3 positive events which had occurred during the day. These were then shared with the group	
3	Approval of agenda/additions	The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on Stewardship to be added to No. 8, New Business (Irene).	
4	Minutes of Leadership Team meeting	The minutes of the meeting of February 16 th were approved as presented.	
5	Business arising from minutes:	None	
6	Standing Reports:		
	Ministry	Accepted as received. Concern was expressed by a member of the Leadership Team regarding the number of offsite worship services (nursing homes and care homes) staff and volunteers were involved in. Irene assured us that the number was manageable and that there was a cross section of volunteers involved in the various services. A request to invite Niigaan Sinclair to speak to the congregation on an upcoming Sunday morning was approved.	

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		There was consensus that, when a congregational meeting takes place after the regular worship service, that the service then be shortened in order to accommodate those participants who are unable to remain past the usual service termination time.	
	Ministry & Personnel Committee	Accepted as received.	
	Property & Equipment Committee	Accepted as received. Ian further reported that the annual chimney cleaning, as required by the City inspector, has been ordered. The company hired to complete the repointing of the bricks has indicated that they are ready to proceed with some preliminary work. MOTION: That we proceed with the repointing of the bricks based on a quote from DebRoc Concrete. Moved by Ian Fillingham, seconded by Lauren Sawchuck. Lauren and Linda both agreed to make an appeal to the congregation over the next Sundays asking for folks to make financial contributions towards this project.	
	Winnipeg Presbytery	Accepted as received.	
	Finance	Accepted as received. Regarding the Bequest, the Finance Committee has suggested that the LT begin to ‘brain storm’ as to how best to utilize these funds. It was agreed that a team approach be used which would include several members of the LT, Finance Committee and PATH2. This team will be established to review and determine options and possibilities for the use of these funds.	Herb to send a ‘thank you’ letter to the executor of the Estate expressing our gratitude and also advising on what the funds will be used for.

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		MOTION: That a separate bank account be established for the bequest funds from the Estate of Ruth Palmour. Moved by Linda Thorlakson, seconded by Kathy Desbiolles Bill Gillis has agreed to complete a CRA “Registered Charity” document outlining for them the various charitable ministries being offered by CFRUC.	
7	Ministry Group Reports:		
	House Groups	Accepted as received.	
	Publicity	Accepted as received.	
	Archives	No report was received.	
	Green Team	Accepted as received.	
8	New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planned Giving (Irene)—Kathryn Hofley will do a presentation as part of the worship service on September 17th. b) Stewardship (Irene)—Irene expressed the need for a formation of a committee to undertake this task. Irene has various materials available for the planning of a Stewardship campaign. c) Applebees Fund Raiser (Kathy)—Saturday, September 23rd is the date for this event. 2 members of the congregation have undertaken the responsibility of organizing it. d) Nominations (Kathy)—Kathy advised that nominations were going well and that she would report, hopefully in advance of the May 7th congregational meeting, as to who the nominees for the various positions are. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) ROW (Irene)—please refer to Addendum “A” which forms part of these minutes. LT agreed in principle with the proposal. f) Easter Breakfast (Irene)—2 members of the congregation have volunteered to organize this annual event. g) Artfest Sunday (Irene)—it was agreed to invite members of Harrow United and Churchill Park United to attend this morning service. CFRUC will be responsible for providing a light lunch since there are afternoon workshops which participants may wish to attend. h) Doors Open Winnipeg (Linda)—this annual event is slated for Saturday, May 27th and the LT agreed to participate in this event again this year. 	
9	Closing Benediction		
10	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.	

Chair: _____

Secretary: _____

Next Leadership Team Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 19th, 2017.

ADDENDUM 'A'

Proposal to Leadership Team to Expand our Outreach Ministry March 2017

For many years, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church (going back at least to the days of the Vietnamese “Boat People” in the 1970’s) has been involved in the support and settlement of refugees to Canada. We all know that the demand for support of this work right now is perhaps greater than it has even been. The influx of refugees from Syria and other countries in that region as well as the current influx of asylum seekers across the Canada/USA border in communities such as Emerson are evidence of the need. We also recognize that here at CFRUC our volunteer capacity and the level of our other resources limit us from being as involved as we once were and as we might like to be right now.

In light of this, we wish to propose that Crescent Fort Rouge U C establish a new partnership with a community group that is already at work in refugee sponsorship. This would enable us to expand our Outreach ministry in support of refugees. In turn, we would be supporting the community group by providing financial/administrative support in their work.

The community group is called Reaching Out Winnipeg (ROW). ROW is a program that started in 2012 to promote resettlement of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers in Winnipeg and beyond. They aim to be a hub of information and resources on LGBT resettlement and how to get involved to potentially save the life of international LGBT refugees. They have facilitated the efforts of several “groups of five” and have so far sponsored seven refugees. This is their stated purpose: “To relieve suffering and distress of SGM people whose human rights as defined by the United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees are being abused in foreign countries of origin because of their gender identity or sexual orientation by assisting them to resettle in Canada.”

ROW has not yet been able to gain status as a Registered Charity. By formally “adopting” the work of ROW as an outreach program of CFRUC donations designated to support their work would be received and receipted by CFRUC in the same way as we now do with all donations for our work. Disbursements authorized by ROW for their work would be made by the Office Administrator of CFRUC under the usual guidance of the Treasurer and Finance Committee.

We have been in consultation with legal counsel, financial services, and refugee staff in the United Church of Canada General Council Office in Toronto. They have assured us that this activity would be in full compliance with the regulations of the Canada Revenue Agency. They have provided us with examples of what others have done in similar partnerships. They have also provided templates for formalizing our relationship with ROW.

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If we were to agree to this partnership and if ROW agreed to this it would be advisable to set up a new separate account with our bank to handle the funds for this project.

This concept was discussed at the recent meeting of PATH 2 where there was agreement that it “fits” with what we heard from broad consultation within our congregation about how we want to go forward. Outreach came out very high on the scale of importance. Outreach to seniors and children/youth were two areas in particular focus and work is underway toward expansion there. Those endeavours would see partnerships with Fort Rouge Children’s Centre and Gladstone School. We believe that this proposed new partnership would be further expansion of our outreach ministry and would not involve a significant amount of either volunteer or financial resources. It is reassuring that ROW has a track record of about five years, has been very successful and has wide community support and recognition.

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