

MINUTES FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

This meeting convened online via Zoom and in the sanctuary of Unionville Alliance Church (UAC) at 4:00 pm on the 20th of September in 2020. There were 46 members and 6 adherents in attendance.

1. Call to Order

Don Roe, Chair of the Board of Elders, called the meeting to order, thanking everyone for their presence despite the circumstances, and opened with prayer.

2. Reflections from Pastor Kevin Rutledge

Pastor Kevin welcomed and thanked everyone for attending despite having to do so online. Pastor Kevin opened his reflection with the word “unprecedented”, acknowledging the situations the pandemic has forced the world to reckon with. The pandemic having caused many lives to change, shutting down businesses, schools and sending people to work from home a few weeks before Easter. For the church, it caused many people to work hours upon hours to be able to continue with online services. It was frustrating and difficult. Pastor Kevin reflected on the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, that he remains sovereign even in this new environment. Jesus said he would build his church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. In Jerusalem, the Christians had faced severe persecution and had to scatter for their lives. Jesus saw that opposition as an opportunity for good, to spread the Gospel to other regions and to grow his church. Pastor Kevin stated that we need to anchor ourselves to Jesus because he is still building his church and still in control. Jesus can and does work in all situations, including the one we are living through now.

Reflecting back on Easter, when we were relegated to run services online, Pastor Kevin was able to successfully invite two of his neighbours who previously had not been willing to come to church. He saw that God is still working and that we're reaching a new audience which is more willing to attend church privately online. Pastor Kevin explained that doing our ministries online has seen consistent attendance, more growth, and a greater reach as people from all over have been connecting with our church services.

Pastor Kevin impressed the call on the congregation to be the church to our neighbours, to invite them to watch the service, and to see this season as the opportunity it is. He asked for prayer for our ministries and our leaders. He expressed his gratitude for the numerous volunteers who serve and the congregation's faithful giving. He stated that giving has seen a small decrease, however the budget has been adjusted to compensate. Thank you for our elders, our lay leaders and our staff

Pastor Kevin expressed his gratitude for all the elders, lay leaders and the staff. He implored that we continue to trust that Jesus is building his church and Hell will not prevail.

3. Approval of Minutes from 2019

The Chair sought confirmation of the approval of the previous year's Annual General Meeting minutes. Motion approved by Terry Doner and seconded by Winston Miller. Approval was unanimous.

4. Election of Elders

Pastor Kevin presented two new elder candidates as nominated by the Nominating Committee. He expressed his gratitude for the wonderful, dedicated men who are serving and caring for the church as elders. The two new candidates were as follows: Les Miyata and Nesa Gulasekharam.

Pastor Kevin stated that Wayne Nishimura has completed 2 terms, serving with distinction, and is now stepping down. Don Roe was up for re-election for his 3rd term, however with the challenges of COVID-19 and the increased demands with his work and at the church, he has decided to withdraw his name from the election. Pastor Kevin thanked Don for his faithfulness both on and off the Board.

5. Appointing of the Auditor for 2021

Wayne Nishimura, the Treasurer, presented the new auditors. The past few years we've had Nethercott & Company prepare our financial statements, however this past fiscal year end the company no longer existed. The Treasurer informed us of the switch to Norton McMullen as the new company that had audited UAC and prepared the financial statements for 2020. The Treasurer moved to recommend the appointing of Norton McMullen as the auditors for 2021. Tony Miles seconded the motion.

Pastor Kevin opened up the online vote for the Election of the Elders and the Appointing of the Auditors for 2021.

6. Financial Report

The Treasurer expressed his gratitude for the congregation's faithful giving and their trust in the Board with the stewardship of the finances. He specifically thanked Tammy McLennon, the bookkeeper, Pastor Kevin and his administrative staff for their work. He thanked all the volunteers in various ministries, with a special mention for Terry Doner and his technical team. He thanked his wife, Barb, for her support in his faith journey.

The Treasurer presented the financial summary from the 2020 fiscal year. The financial statements had been sent out by email earlier this month. They were as follows:

INCOME STATEMENT - For the year ending June 30, 2020

	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$ 781,465	\$ 147,188	\$ 19,740	\$ 948,393
<u>Expenses</u>	\$ 708,494	\$ 138,903	\$ 150,040	\$ 997,437
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<u>Net Income (deficit)</u>	\$ 72,971	\$ 8,285	\$ (130,300)	\$ (49,044)

NOTE: Capital Expenses include amortization of \$101,635.

The Board of Elders noticed operating giving was down in Fall of 2019. The concern was that major capital expenses in the beginning of the fiscal year were paid out of the Operating Fund. Therefore the Board of Elders put a hold on major capital expenses in the 2021 budget.

The bookkeeper prepares monthly income statements for the Treasurer to review and present to the Board. The Board reviewed and approved the fiscal year-end financial statements and the auditors, Norton McMullen, approved and stated that the finances were presented fairly, in all material respects.

7. Presentation of the 2020-2021 Budget

The Treasurer presented the 2020-2021 budget. He stated that the Board of Elders had determined it prudent to put together a 6 month budget in light of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. The budget will be reviewed when some of the uncertainties would be established and revealed. As previously stated, all major capital projects have been put on hold, perhaps excepting the necessary sewer hookup that is anticipated to move forward in the New Year.

FINANCIAL BUDGET

	<i>6 mo. Budget 2021</i>	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2019</i>
Giving	\$ 457,240	\$ 948,393	\$ 1,060,395
Disbursements*	\$ 462,710	\$895,802	\$824,928
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NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (5,470)	\$ 52,591	\$ 235,467
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*Disbursements excludes amortization		\$ 101,635	\$ 89,878

The Treasurer mentioned that giving had been down due to the pandemic and affected our operating giving from March to June 2020. After comparing the givings from the July to December period from the previous year, the budgeted operating givings have been reduced by 10%, the Missions givings averaged at \$7,000 per month, Community Care at \$4,500 per month, and estimated around \$18,000 for Summer Student Grants and Subsidies. In addition, they budgeted no rental income from York Region District School Board for the ESL program, Bible Study Fellowship, Unionville Mandarin Alliance Church and other sundry rentals.

He explained the compensation expenses, stating no raises were made for the current job descriptions, no staff were laid-off, and an allowance made for a full time salaried Music and Worship Pastor, including potential moving expenses, and an overlap of the **future Children's Pastor with Pastor Verna** for part of December. He continued to explain that facility costs are fixed and the Missions and Community Care expenses were based on current commitments.

8. Other Business

The Chair opened by reading a statement made 2 years ago at the AGM 2018 by the Board of Elders regarding the role of women in leadership in the church. After which,

the Chair stated that due to the serious challenges the church is currently and will be facing with the pandemic, the Board has decided to revisit the role of women in leadership in not less than 2 years.

The Chair opened the floor for any questions, emphasizing that the Board asks for prayer in this matter, and that the desire is for us to walk forward in love and as a church family. Several comments were made expressing the importance of the decision and that they desired to have this decision resolved sooner rather than continually postponed. A comment was made expressing hurt for the discrimination they have felt at UAC making it increasingly difficult them to attend, whereas others stated that they have never felt as though they have been discouraged from any role in the church. A comment was also made **that not only does this decision needs to be based on God's Word**, but a meaningful discussion needs to be had as to what to do with women in the church who are blessed with leadership and pastoral giftings. Furthermore, the Board is always available for people to come talk and share their suggestions, and we should respect their decision and their efforts. Questions were also raised regarding the process in which the Board plans to make the decision. The Chair stated that women have been previously consulted and would continue to be consulted, that there will be a sermon series based on Scripture regarding the issue before putting the decision to a vote, which may also include the congregation. The Chair continued on by stating that the Board has been very blessed to have a group of ladies that pray for good decisions to be made in their meetings and asked that the congregation pray for the weeks and months ahead as UAC pushes forward through the pandemic.

Pat Wade raised a question regarding the plans for the land at the back of the church property. The Chair responded that the land will remain as status quo, and that it continues to increase in value.

The Chair thanked the congregation as it has been his pleasure to serve the church as an elder for the past 6 years. He thanked the elders for their constant support through his health issues and loss. He also thanked them individually for the expertise, guidance and dedication they brought to UAC.

9. Prayer

Johnny Chan Kin took the opportunity to bless the church, the Board, Pastor Kevin and the new Elders. He closed the meeting in prayer.

10. Adjournment

The Chair announced the results from the vote. Les Miyata and Nesa Gulasekharam have been voted in to serve as elders on the Board of Elders for UAC. Wayne Nishimura motioned for adjournment.