# Minutes of the Emmauel United Church Congregational Meeting

April 21, 2024

**Welcome & Call to Order** Mario Finoro

# **Opening Prayer** Rev’d Tom MacNeil

# In Memoriam was led by Mario Finoro for the following members that passed away in 2023.

* Virginia Nicolades
* Irene Spencer
* Nora Sinanan
* Irene Balla

# **Opening Motions Mario Finoro**

*Motion*: Mario Finoro will chair this meeting and Diane Aikman will act as recorder at this meeting
(full members only)

**Moved by: Karen Carruthers Seconded by: Shirley Campbell**

*Motion*: To allow members and non-members to vote.
(full members only)

**Moved by: Vilia Fera Seconded by: Tina Robinson**

*Motion*: To approve the Minutes of Congregational Budget meeting December 3, 2023.

**Moved by: Tony Smith Seconded by: Don Ford**

 *Motion*: Approval of the Agenda as circulated

**Moved by: Helen Malcolm Seconded by: Don Ford**

# **Correspondence Mario Finoro**

None currently.

# **Nominations for 2024 Official Board Mario Finoro**

*Motion*: Approval of Slate of Officers for Official Board 2023-24 as published on pages 8 & 9 in the Annual Report.

**Moved by: Marjorie Knill Seconded by: Lorna Mc Gougan**

**Additions:** add Vilia Fera to Lay Care team, add Linda Gignac to a counter team

**Deletions:** remove Jean Ford as Secretary

# **Financial Report Don Ford**

Don summarized our financial situation for 2023. Part of our good income was due to bonds of Faith, help from the United church for payment of donna while on leave and return our investment. People are giving through PAR, on line and in person. We have updated our accounts and can now see the income for Mission and Service. M&S now shows up in our balance. Rentals are up and more community groups are using our church as a safe place to meet. Don went through the various pie charts in the budget reports to show how and were funds were used. Biggest cost changes happened in the property budget, especially for snow clearance.

Financial reserves were substantially reduced during the pandemic. Our stewardship drive (Bonds of Faith) was instituted to bring up our reserves, which are now in good shape. Done will be investing some of this to get some return on this investment.

We have moved to Quick Books on-line so that multiple people can access and work on the finances. Finance has cleared up and streamlined the accounts when making this shift. John has now taken over the treasure’s duties. The offering count has been simplified using the Accolyte program. We will be clearing up the tax and GST reports in the next few weeks.

Congregation thanked Don for all the hard work in updating the financial records and systems.

Don will be donating the funds from recovering the metal from the roof construction to the roof fund.

Mo*tion*: To receive the 2023 Year-End Financial Statements as circulated

**Moved by: John Layzell Seconded by: Helen Malcolm**

# **New Business**

## **Future of Emmanuel Rev. Tom MacNeil**

Shared a reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Matthew 28:18-20

Went into table groups to discuss questions to get us thinking of what is happening at Emmanuel.

1. Paul talks about a “thorn in (his) flesh. (3 Cor.13:7) What thorn is in our side?
2. Paul says this thorn was placed to “keep him from being proud” (2 Cor. 12:7) How is our thorn keeping us grounded?
3. How is God’s grace and power working in our community?

-getting volunteers to help with various aspects of the church ie. ushers, greeters

-money is up but costs are also up, but it is bringing us together to find solutions

-we are getting older and can’t do as much of the physical labour ourselves as we have in the past

-how do we reach out to people that describe themselves as spiritual to get them to communicate to us and find was to bring them into church

-change in the demographics, we are getting older, can we create an awareness and opportunities to involve more youth from our communities and perhaps from the local high school.

-people are stepping up with their financial donations

-look at all the new people that have come recently and how they have stepped up to volunteer

## **Update on Minister Rev’d Tom MacNeil**

Tom told the congregation that he has received a diagnosis of level one Autism and HD. This is a lower level and though he is functioning well he does require some help and support. This does affect his social skills and executive functioning skills. He can do well but can become overloaded at times and will need to have people be more direct and specific in their requests.

Congregation was very supportive and very pleased with the job that Tom is doing here at Emmanuel. Praise him for his courage to share his diagnosis.

Call to recognize Colin Persad’s ministry to be recognized and how important music is in the life and worship of Emmanuel.

# **Closing Prayer Rev. Tom MacNeil**

# **Benediction Rev. Tom MacNeil**

One: We know the church is not a building.
We know that the church is Your people gathered in community.
We know that Your work-the work of the church-
requires our hands, our talents, our gifts and our energy.
Give us the will to be the church in this place, and in the larger world community.
Keep us faithful, keep us strong, keep us loving.

**All: Amen!**

**Movement to Adjourn**

**Moved by: Helen Malcolm**

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**Mario Finoro, Board Chair Diane Aikman, Recording Secretary**