

St. Paul's United Church
Critical Congregational Update Meeting
June 23rd, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Present: Brad & Erin Webb, Etta Davis, Jane Banks, Debbie Allison, Kelly Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Carole Peacock, Gail Simmons, Alanna Palmer, Hugh Lautard, Patty Trail, Meghan Roebuck (minute taker), Jaedyn Williams, Ann Krause, Joan Shaw, Rev. Michelle Armstrong, Tammy Coughlan, Florence Bartlett, Lois Paterson, Deborah West, Mary Stickles, Chris Grant, Kimberly Keech, Ron Naugler, Derrick Grant, Beth & Shawn Meister, Sharon Pond, Dean Jones, Ivy Bujold, Greg Morton, Marilyn Brewer, Barbara McGuigan, Lois Walker, Bill Paterson, Andrew Steeves, Hope Steeves, Mel McGuigan, John Davis, Cathy Simpson, Annie Simpson, Cathy Davis.

Present Via Zoom: Ann Raper, Sadie Miller, Jane Blakely, Roger Miller.

1. Opening Remarks: Ann Krause at 12:06

- Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Opening Prayer: Rev. Michelle

3. Report from Trustees about the Property Sale: Carole Peacock

Trustees: Andrew Steeves, Alanna Palmer, Carole Peacock, Lois Walker, Bill Paterson, Mel McGuigan, Frank Goddard, Mary Dingee Jacobs, Rev. Michelle

Good morning, I am speaking on behalf of all the Trustees. My goal is to elaborate on how we have come to the point of having an extraordinarily good offer to present to Council much sooner than any of us expected.

At the annual meeting on April 7th, the following motion was passed:

... the Congregation chooses to proceed with the sale of the sanctuary, hall, and parking lots subject to approval of the Region.

Later in the meeting, a second motion was approved:

... the Congregation directs the Property Development Working Group to undertake the work to list the sanctuary, hall, and parking lot property and to bring back recommendations following the closing of the listing in the fall of 2024.

As you recall, at that time, there was a Property Development Committee in place made up of various congregants from the Leadership Team appointed in the fall of 2023.

That Committee, in its deliberations, believed that the Region in its Property Handbook insisted that the property had to be listed for 90 days before receiving or considering offers, which would have meant in the fall at the earliest. This would have created a closed bid process.

Upon closer inspection of the process laid out in the Regional Property Handbook, the Property Development Committee wrote to Trustees saying that "... almost everything going forward lands on the Trustees." So, the Committee disbanded and provided a to-do list to Trustees.

There were 3 major hiccups in that to-do list:

1. First: The idea of having a closed-bid process was lost in translation and there was no mention of it in the to-do list. As Trustees, we began our work by selecting a real estate agent. Our process was described in detail in the eNews Special Edition issued last Wednesday.

2. Second: The assumption that the property had to be listed for 90 days before an offer could be accepted. When Trustees sought clarification on this part of the process, the Regional Property Committee confirmed that such is not the case. Yes, a 90-day listing was required (we've listed it for 12 months) but an offer of full fair market value or better could be accepted at any time and the listing closed. Marketing photography and videography through our agent are scheduled for next week. This will also provide a record for the St. Paul's archives.

3. Third: The assumption that details of an offer could be revealed to the congregation for a decision. In fact, in the world of real estate, the offer document is confidential between the parties involved... these being the vendor (in cases involving the United Church of Canada the vendor would be Trustees who hold the property in trust) and the potential purchaser, together with their lawyers and realtor. Trustees have negotiated with the potential buyer so that members of Council and Regional Property Committee are included in this confidential group. The only information that can be more broadly shared is to tell you that it is a full fair market value offer and is eligible, therefore, to forward to Regional Council for approval. Trustees have negotiated for what the congregation has expressed it wanted in terms of possessions and tenants, and ensured that the potential purchaser, with whom we have met, is committed to respecting the historic nature of the property.

I just mentioned fair market value. The eNews laid out how the fair market value was determined using 2 very different ways of calculating it. \$689,500 was determined to be fair, given that the estimate (from an engineering study 2 years ago) for essential repairs is in the neighbourhood of \$2M. So essentially, the price is \$2,689,500.

Since we have received an offer far earlier than anyone anticipated, we can expect to move earlier than originally planned. In negotiating a closing date, Trustees considered:

- weather conditions, especially wind and rainstorms in the upcoming hurricane season and then snow and ice in the winter,
- the condition and age of the structure, the roof, and the boiler,
- the costs of winter heating,
- the liability of an accident especially due to our roof, i.e. sheets of copper falling off the steeple a few years ago
- and the costs of an expensive leak or repair that the congregation simply does not have the money to fix.

The Congregation has elected Council members and Trustees. Trustees have a fiduciary duty to the Congregation that we take seriously. We have provided updates to Council and also circulated a detailed update to the congregation via eNews on Wednesday, June 18th.

As Trustees, we feel we have done what Council told us to do and, in fact, have done more by extending the selection of a realtor to a pool of 5 not just the required 3 and to abiding by the rules set by the Regional Property Committee.

We have confidence in recommending this offer to Council for its approval and forwarding to Regional Property Committee for final approval.

Rev. Michelle: given what Trustees have said, are there any comments from you, our congregation?

Question: Greg Morton

What happens to St. Paul's? Where do we go and what are we doing?

Rev Michelle: That's a great question. One of the pieces we have been working on is the Ecumenical Shared Ministry. Alanna, do you want to come talk about their willingness to let us come be with them.

Alanna: I am the spokesperson for the Joint Ecumenical Shared Ministry, that includes Bill and Carole (Trustees), Tammy, and Debbie, and we have been in discussions with Saint Andrew's who have invited us to join them in an ecumenical shared ministry where we would remain a United Church of Canada congregation and they would remain Presbyterian, and we would work together as a shared thing. Saint Andrew's told us, (the ESM agreement is still in draft form, we've met with the different groups and the Treasurers and so on but it's not all finalized) that we are welcome to join with them for worship and to use their premises before the ESM agreement is agreed to and signed, that we are welcome there so we can carry on in their building, as St. Paul's United at any time.

Question: Greg Morton

How does the team feel about that?

Alanna: We are very happy with that. We think that's ideal, it smaller, more up to date modern church, built of brick not stone so it's much easier to repair, it has a brand new roof on it and the operating costs for it are much lower than for this big church, so it would be an economical way. One of our very next steps is to put together representatives from both congregations to decided what possessions and equipment and furnishings from here we want to take there and where they will go. We can't take the organ with us because it's too big to fit anywhere and too expensive.

Question: Etta Davis

Do they have a clergy yet?

Alanna: No, they don't. The JESM committee have recommended that Rev. Michelle be the first minister of that shared ministry. But that hasn't been approved yet. But that would be our recommendation.

Rev. Michelle: It is not unprecedented for groups to join together before the agreement is finalized.

Alanna: It is not unprecedented for groups to join together before the agreement is finalized and then work through the kinks. So, Rev. Michelle will come and then we'll figure out how to flip flop between / go back and forth between the Presbyterian and United Church minister that meets the needs of both congregations. The worship committees have met and came up with some commonalities.

Question: Greg Morton

How does that work on a Sunday, 1 hour will be for....

Alanna: No, it will be a joint service. That's what we're suggesting so far that it be one service, much like the Downtown United services are except the service would not be a Presbyterian service, it would be a joint service that meets the needs of both congregations. We have to figure out baptisms and all those things so both denominations get what they want.

Question: Sharon Pond

The Fredericton Organist Association and me are very worried about what's going to happen with the organ.

Alanna: Speaking on behalf of the Trustees, we recognize the importance of the organ and we have talked to the potential buyer about that and about his willingness to let other groups come in and rent or use the organ and so on.

Question: Sharon

And they will maintain it?

Alanna: I can't speak for that, but you would think, wouldn't you?

Question: Sharon

It's a gem for the city, the best in the city, the second best in the province.

Alanna: I can't speak for them, and that's one of the hard things about a sale, is once it's sold it's sold. But there are ways to approach the new owners and make pitches to them and advise them and so on but...

Question: Etta Davis

Can we rotate our organist/director with theirs?

Rev. Michelle: It's ok to say that some of these things have not been fully decided yet.

Alanna: We are negotiating that. Sharon has met with their organist, and they have talked about sharing the position of organist of the joint place. But nothing has been signed.

Question: Chris Grant

Is that one of the things that should be ironed out before the sale is signed?

Rev. Michelle: So the details that need to be ironed out before moving over to the JESM will be ironed out. Some of the foundational pieces around like talking about organists, because they are the first group we would visibly see changes in, we got them together quite early on. The other piece, that has started already, is looking at staffing. At the last meeting, as we were aware that our timeline may change, one of the discussion points came up about bringing all the staff and then sorting us all out when we get there. So does it need to be signed before we sign the deal? No, I think in good faith we can all make this work.

Question: Chris

I'm just wondering about the actual sale, is there no mention about the preservation of the organ in that bill of sale?

Rev. Michelle: There is preservation of the historic nature of the building and the person had been talked to in regard to the significance of this organ for the city.

Question: Joan Shaw

With regards to the sale of the church, has there been or is there going to be a legal document drafted to make it very clear that this church can never be torn down and made into a condo. Sometimes we assume that no one is going to tear it down but once that sale is signed, unless you have completely airtight legal documents drafted to protect the building, you take a chance with it. My main concern is that 5 years down the way, am I going to see a backhoe tearing the building down because a document didn't get drafted by a lawyer.

Rev. Michelle: So, a couple of things the Trustees and the Board had learned before going into the sale. 1) is that the city had said that if anyone even threatens to destroy this building that they will slap historic

status on it at the city level. It is also marked in the plan that the city is drafting for this area as a space of special interests, so there is great number of eyes on this property. And the National Historic status designation also protects the historic building. So to do anything like what you're talking about, the would have to go to the national historic society and get permission to make those changes.

Question: Joan

Is it just the sanctuary that's historic or is it the hall part included?

Rev. Michelle: Lovely question. So, our historic status is designated for the sanctuary, but the city has said that the hall also has historic status. When we were talking about working with Kindred Works a while ago, the congregation had affirmed that we would be willing to see changes to this part of the building, when we were going to do that work earlier.

Question: Joan

What protects the outside of the building?

Alanna: The National Historic Registry, which is part of Heritage and Parks Canada, Federal government, describes the interior and exterior of the church being of significant historic report so both are protected.

Question: Brad Webb

I'd just like to ask to confirm that the apartments are excluded in all these conversations.

Rev. Michelle: Our apartment complexes are not included in the sale that we are currently discussing. Just the sanctuary, hall and parking lots.

Question: Derrick Grant

I just want to make a couple observations on the news, and I have to say, and this is no way criticism of the group of Trustees for putting this together, but I was quite surprised that what was considered to be a fair offer, based on the properties selling around my home, and also basing it on the historic value of this property. That's one thing. The other thing that stood out to me when we met initially and made the vote, I had the impression that we had more time and other people did as well, we're talking longer term. And also, that we were a part of some decision afterward once an offer was made, which I feel like that's not true now that it's been turned over it's basically out of our hands.

I think, Michelle, you pointed out last week when Jane read her message, that she read it kind of quickly, I think this thing is very impactful, this sale and to let you into my thoughts, in my mind I am wondering if this is not a mistake to go ahead with it. I get it, I see both sides, I know there is a lot of money required for repairs but when I thought about, we're kind of like waiting for the worst-case scenario situation that would make that really necessary, like the roof to blow off or something like that. So, I do wonder if it's a mistake and it's not reversible obviously when we make the sale but those are some thoughts and concerns I've had about this situation.

Rev. Michelle: So, when we talk about the roof blowing off it's not unrealistic seeing as last Good Friday a piece did come off the roof.

Andrew Steeves: I'm asking Patty to come up because if anyone has lost sleep over flying roofs, it's Patty. I think it's very important, Derrick, I am glad you're asking this question. This is really going to get to the heart of it. What are we going to do, we have to let go. If we could spend the 2 million dollars, by the way that 2 M estimate is of 2 years old, the prices of material, labour and so on since then. But we could spend

the money, maybe someone wins the lottery and gives the 2 million, maybe 3M to us. But that's just the beginning of repairs. The building is old, and we could replace the roof, but the steeple also has considerations. If you've read the Shoalts report, we've discussed it before, that's what drove it at the end of the day for me is not the initial repairs, but the repairs are just going to on coming. We know about the Anglican church on Nashwaaksis, once the mold gets into the building prices go up. We have heard this morning on CBC new talking about St. Patrick's church in Halifax where it has been put off limits with no egresses allowed because they are afraid the steeple is going to fall. We have relied on volunteers to do this, this is not what we are good at, this is not what we signed on for, but this also not what is going to allow us to carry on. How many people are in this room today? We've got a sanctuary that holds 1000 people, I think it's one of the largest in the city, and week in week out, we don't have 1000 people, maybe some day we will but if we are busy doing repairs, the structure is getting in the way of the church, the structure, building, repairs are getting in the way of the congregation. Patty, can you share some of your thoughts on this? This is important.

Patty Trail: Well, my thought is that before Christmas we had a rainstorm here in which we had 6 leaks in the sanctuary. Those were all leaks enough that we had to put a pail under them, so that was the first time we ever had that many leaks. I came back the next rainstorm, Meghan and Jaedyn keep me up on this and make me come in, and had not 6 leaks but we still had leaks in those same places. And it's not just the roof, the other thing that we have is when we lost the piece off the steeple, which again fell on the sidewalk, we also have now a visible ripple in the roof, when we had Shoalts in here, he told us we had about 5 years on the roof, and in that time Meghan, Rusty and I heard a big racket throughout the church and we went outside and what we found was that the roof was waving, the metal, because of the wind. We got that nailed down up so far and then we didn't have a cherry picker to go up to the top. Above that line now we have 2 nice little rolls in the metal. And that's just the roof. He (Andrew) says about the steeple, but I think the steeple is fine. But we do have work that needs to be done on the exterior stonework. So, we talk about 2-3 million dollars and we are getting into big bucks. As much as I would love to have someone fix these things so we could stay here, I think we have the best church, we have a really good church here and a really great church family, but the thing about church is our church family, and hopefully we're taking all of you with us. To raise that kind of money to fix this church would be wonderful but, like Andrew says, if someone were to win the lottery it would be fantastic, but a lot of us don't even play the lottery so that's going to be really hard.

Andrew: This is very emotional and I'm glad we're doing it today because the facts are, and Ralph I think you've been trying to ask the question, once we sign the deal, we have no more say. It's the same with your home or cottage, once you sign the deal, that's how real estate/business works, and in this case as Alanna said, we have the national historical designation and the city staff said that St. Paul's, if anyone tried to take down the sanctuary, they would forbid it, there would be a big legal battle, but we have to let go. That's why I gave the example of winning a lottery, it's an ongoing issue. St. Paul's has done very well, we didn't have to tear down our steeple in a hurry. That's because a lot of good people did good work in the past, but right now I'm not sure how many of us 70- and 80-year-olds can go up on the scaffolding and do work, so I think this is part of the emotions we have to wrestle with as well.

Alanna: Another thing about coming us with a listing price that people are surprised with, we don't know but it's a good guess that there's asbestos in this building and probably leaked oil in the soil of the building and another purchaser might want to have that checked and remediated before they even offer anything for the building and if that happens, we don't have the money to remediate those things so the purchaser would say it not worth that, it's going to cost me 3-4 million to remediate those things so drop my offer

down 3M for the repairs and another 2M for those kinds of remediation efforts and we'd be left paying someone to take the building.

Brad: I'd just like to clarify that we're careful not to fall into a situation where we are looking at this as we sell, and we lose control, or we don't sell and retain control because that's not really a fair description. If we find ourselves in a position where we are unable to upkeep the building then I believe it goes to the United Church and they more or less take over, is that correct?

Rev. Michelle: The Trustees have gone into this and the property building before seeking to make a deal for this property on behalf of this congregation. In the event that they don't do that and this congregation closes or if that event we get to a point as a congregation that we are looking at something else and do not need this building any more then it becomes declared surplus, then it becomes the problem of the Region to dispose of and we have 0 say in what happens at that point and 0 resources (money) come out of it.

Question: Chris Grant

I'm just curious as to what the actual offer is and what the closing date is.

Rev. Michelle: We have retained an offer that is at full market value of what it is listed for: \$689,500

Question: Chris:

And is there a date?

Rev. Michelle: We would be looking at a date that is early fall, which is significantly earlier than we thought, but the thing is, what the Trustees have said and the reasoning behind it, there is very good cause and a lot of debate within the Trustees about the date. The reality is that the roof is not in great shape, Jaedyn has already found some mold and Joan Shaw can testify to that with her experience of allergies.

Question: Ralph Simpson

It's not being cleaned, the church. I'm not sure you find mold, but you find a lot of dirt in this church, it's not being cleaned, and I don't think that's a fair excuse.

Rev. Michelle: Jaedyn has been cleaning the church.

Question: Cathy Davis

I think it comes down to the fact that I hate the idea of leaving this church too, but my daughter and I talked last night, and she said how do you feel mom, and I said fine I feel fine about it. I'd like to go some place and do something, raise money and when we find out how much money we raised, I'm not thinking, oh jee, that won't fix the roof, that won't do this and that won't do that. I want to enjoy the things I do at church, and as Bill said, the church is killing us, really, it's just constantly fundraising, constantly fundraising. I'd like to go to church and enjoy church and if we have a bazaar and raise some money, then we think oh jee we need a room painted and we have enough money to paint a room, oh jee, let's buy a new fridge, ok we have money to buy a fridge. You're working towards something not trying to keep the roof over your head constantly. I'm like Patty, I love this church, I love all the people in it, I'd love to stay. Even if we did win the lottery, there's not enough people here to support the week-to-week bills we have, and that's the reality that we have to say ok, it's time to move on. I've been to 2-3 joint services at Saint Andrew's, very nice, very welcoming, very comforting, and a nice sized church. I

went last Tuesday morning to a meeting of the ladies Tuesday morning group closing potluck, a lovely bunch of ladies, a good time was had by all, and all I could think is I feel welcome here and I think that's very important.

Rev. Michelle: If this deal is signed, which our Trustees are hoping that you will say yes to doing this, what we will be doing in the fall when we come back is celebrating all that this building has given our congregation for the decades and centuries of work and ministry that has lived out of this place. On Thanksgiving we will celebrate the wide variety of history, the ministry we've experienced, the ministry that has happened before us and then turn our attention forward to the ministry that is going to come, that would be my plan liturgically for this congregation. And that has shifted as people have made decisions and it's not easy, it's not easy. I have been here as long as you have, well some of you have been here longer, but we have experience and memories and thoughts and history, and to get bound to this place, those memories become the hard work that Cathy was talking about, the sleepless nights that Patty was talking about. You have done faithful work. In October-November, your Trustees, your Board, and your key leadership came up here and said to you, these are the challenges in the world, the challenges of our people and the challenges of our building. They went away and researched and had been researching before that. The 2 years before they came here and suggested that divesting of the property was the route to go, they had worked and explored Kindred Works for redevelopment, they had looked at other options to try to make this property and congregation work. We have been showing good renewal pre covid, the reality is that has not picked up since. We have a lot of people, everybody in this room, doing a lot of hard work and I see your volunteers getting tired and worn out and more and more worried as the years go on, dealing with pressure. We are on the verge of critical mass of not having enough and only having death as an option. We have an opportunity for resurrection but it doesn't look like what it did in the past.

Question: Brad Webb

I just want to bring up the fact the \$689,500 doesn't sound like a lot but if you tack on the engineering costs, the cost of inflation and look at that as a sale price, that is a staggering amount of money. It's easy to look at the fact that we are only getting that portion of it but after you exclude all the expenses that any given buyer would have to put in, it's easy to focus on the money we're not getting and I think we ought to but I do think that given the engineering estimate that was around before I came on the scene, looking at that, I couldn't imagine going into a situation trying to sell something, then going to buyer and say hey, after you get this you still have 2.5M of anything to do. So, I agree Derrick, it does seem like a small amount, but you have to tack on to the \$689,500 everything else that any prospective buyer would have to put in and put ourselves in that position and think who would be willing to take on that challenge.

Rev. Michelle: A historic property is not always an attractive property for prospective buyers because they can't do a lot with it.

Question: Ron Naugler

I've been to a couple of services at Saint Andrew's, they are very welcoming people, I think we have to think about our new friends and consider making this agreement, sign it, and move on. It's a no brainer in my little mind, that we should take the \$689,500, sign the agreement and move on. We're sort of stuck in a little mud here I think, and let's get out of it and let's go!

Rev. Michelle: We've heard the report from the Trustees. Part of the reason we are here today is because of that motion that Derrick talked about, that said we'd come back to the congregation. The Trustees outlined why there were some errors in their thinking at the beginning about how this would all play out.

We are at the point now where the congregation needs to make a decision, because our Trustees are dealing with an offer on our behalf. So, the question I have is anybody willing to make a motion?

Question: Beth Meister

I want to thank you all for welcoming Kim, Shawn and I here to your community and I am very attached to this church. I was married here; this is where I found my pathway back to God. It's really special and I'm terrified of going to Saint Andrew's even though it is welcoming, but one thing that kept me driving is I don't want to see the historic building go down to ruin like the other churches, and Shawn and I want to have a family, we want to raise our kids in this community. We want to see a serge and continue with you guys and if that means we have to take our family and move somewhere else, it's really hard but we want this family as a church and we want to flourish and be with you.

Question: Ralph Simpson

I am in support of the sale, but I know that an offer is not necessarily done and we have to be careful what we are agreeing to today, in that we say ok we'll take \$689,500 and they come back and say there is this and that has to be, then they start the negotiations from there.

Alanna: We are done that. A potential purchaser made an offer and wanted an answer in 3 days, and we said we can't do that in 3 days, give us some more time, so the purchaser, through our real estate agent said ok, I'll give you a week and 3 days. And so well there's some things we want included, like we want to keep some things and we're bound by the United Church of Canada that we have to do and the purchaser was amendable to that but the realtor had reminded us that those terms are confidential because, say if we turn down this offer and it's public what they have offered, then the next person say ok, the price is right I'll give you a dollar more etc. So we are not allowed to say, so I'm asking for the congregation to trust the Trustees that have been elected, and we have all stood up to say we've done this, that we have negotiated a very very good deal for this congregation and we strongly recommend it, but we're not at liberty to go, once you say yes to us to take it to Council for a vote, we send it to Regional Council. Now, Regional Council may say no or go back and do that but that is a condition of the offer, it's pending approval from Regional Council. So, we have that protection as well but we're bound by legal confidentiality.

Question: Ralph

And yet, you're looking for our support. So, I'm kinda wondering what, you say trust the Trustees, I'd like to do that but I'd like to know what we're trusting, how much of this are we trusting? Are we trusting the parking lot? Does that not go with the buildings (houses)?

Alanna: The description that was written in the eNews was the parking lot, the hall, the sanctuary and the little parking lot beside the sanctuary. That is all 1 piece of property, registered by the land registry act, there are 2 separate lots that the houses are on, so they're not included. The parking lot belongs to the Sanctuary and hall. It is one lot.

Ralph: So, the next thing I'm thinking about is that if you're looking for a decision today, we haven't had 2 Sundays, so we can't actually make a decision today or take a vote from the congregation.

Rev. Michelle: Yes, you can. For something that doesn't involve ministry staff, Trustees, you only need one Sunday as notice

Ralph: How does this not involve ministry and Trustees staff?

Rev. Michelle: You are not calling or dismissing a Minister, that requires 2...

Ralph: Are you sure about that? Because people will check on this, I will check on this.

Rev. Michelle: I can tell you the reference.

Rev. Michelle: We are here today because in the Annual Meeting there was discussion that we would bring stuff back to the congregation before final documents were signed. And that's why we are here.

Ralph: This is a congregational Meeting?

Rev. Michelle: Yes, this is a congregational meeting that doesn't involve... needs to be announced 1 Sunday, once in public worship before the meeting happens. The meeting can take place on that day or any time after. Generally, we have given 2 weeks' notice, sometimes 3. That is what is required if you are calling or dismissing a minister or appointing or dismissing a Trustee. Manual Section B.5.4.2.

Question: Ron Naugler

Do we have to make a decision today?

Rev. Michelle: Yes, for this current deal, yes.

Ron: We do, we don't have another week or anything?

Alanna: No.

Ron: Ok, I'll make a motion: that we accept the recommendation of the Trustees to enter into the agreement to sell the church, hall and parking lots for \$689,500.

Rev. Michelle: One of the contentious pieces from our last meeting was that we did not have voter cards. We did look over the list of the entire congregation and have checked and verified who are the members of this church. We do have some people that are not members of this congregation or are not adherents of this congregation. Historically we have extended the vote, this might be a time when we decide not to do that. Before we entertain Ron's motion, is there anybody from this congregation that would like to make that motion.

❖ **MOTION: Moved by Debbie West, that we extend the right to vote to adherents. Seconded by Cathy Davis. All in favour. Passed (30 Votes by members only)**

MOTION: Moved by Ron Naugler, that we approve the sale of the hall, sanctuary and parking lots for \$689,500 as per the offer. Seconded by Beth Meister.

Lois Walker-Gillan: I just wanted to tell you that Bill Paterson started to come to this church in 1951 and I started coming here in 1956, that's quite a few years. I was married here, my children were baptized here, my daughter was married here, so this is a very difficult thing for me to do, leave this church, but there is no other way. Bill and I are both on Trustees and know what has been going on and I know that this is a good offer, we won't get a better one. If we wait too long, fall's coming, hurricane season, snow and the start of wintertime, the furnace could die at any time, so I think we're in a good spot to leave this building and join with Saint Andrew's.

Meghan is re-reading the MOTION: Moved by Ron Naugler, that we, approve the sale of the hall, sanctuary and parking lots for \$689,500 as per the offer. Seconded by Beth Meister.

Cathy Simpson: When you're reading that, you don't have anything about the contents in that motion.

Cathy Davis: The contents have all been inventoried and we'll decide what's staying and what's going.

Rev. Michelle: So what Cathy is saying is that there is a content inventory and we'll be making decisions about what will stay or go after, based on what we need.

Rev. Michelle: Can we get an amendment to say 'we, St. Paul's United Church'? Beth, do you agree with that?

Beth: Yes.

❖ **MOTION: Moved by Ron Naugler, that we, St. Paul's United Church, approve the sale of the hall, sanctuary and parking lots for \$689,500 as per the offer. Seconded by Beth Meister, All in favour. Passed (35 votes by members & adherents)**

Rev. Michelle: So let's all take a breath and pray.

Holy God,

we have done hard work here,

it is emotional and we feel the loss and the hope of this moment.

Be with us as we live into this new reality.

Hold us in your heart,

make us brave and courageous to continue to move through our feelings and hold each other in tenderness and care.

Amen.

4. Next Steps

Rev. Michelle: You will be hearing a lot about the pieces that have to come into play. It is summer, so keep abreast of your eNews. If you do not get the eNews, speak to Meghan. Also, if there are parts of this work that you feel passionate about helping with, reach out to a member of your Council or Trustees so that you can be properly directed. This Trustee group and the Property group before has been holding a huge weight, a weight that most of us haven't had to, so let's give them all a round of applause for the sleepless nights they have had.

Question: Etta Davis

Michelle, do we take Meghan with us?

Rev. Michelle: The plan right now is to move the staff and figure out what that looks like. There may be some job shuffling as we figure out how to deal with overlap, but that is the current plan that is being worked out.

5. Adjournment at 1:25pm

❖ **MOTION to adjourn moved by Greg Morton, Seconded by Debbie West. All in favour. Passed.**