

**EASTSIDE CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE MEETING
MARCH 2, 2025**

PROGRAM MEETING NOTICE: Notice for this meeting was part of the weekly announcements which are sent via email to Eastside members. As well, the meeting notice was given at the church services.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Janet Bjorndahl.

2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.

Moved by Leanne Sudom. Seconded by Ron Brandow. Carried.

3. Motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Brian Mitchell-Walker. Seconded by Clare Banks. Carried.

4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the May 26, 2024 Congregational Meeting.

Moved by Donna Lindskog. Seconded by Brian Mitchell-Walker. Carried.

5. Living Spirit Centre Report – Janet Bjorndahl

The report was included in the package.

6. Memorial Gifts Policy – Janet Bjorndahl

The policy is a requirement for the church and ES did not have one. Janet drafted one and the policy was reviewed and approved at January's Leadership Team meeting. Janet read the policy, which is attached to these minutes.

7. Finance Report – Jim Fallows

Jim thanked Becca for all her work, as well as Janet for her work with the Collaborative Ministry team, which helped us, and continues to help us, with our costs. With shared ministry, our potential deficit for 2024 was reduced by about \$6,000.00 to approximately \$3,000.00. Revenue required to cover our costs for 2025 is estimated to be \$160,000.00. ES has been lucky as our building costs have not increased as much as inflation over the last few years. After the Anglican congregation left our building, the costs for the building were split 50/50 by Eastside and Bread of Life. The Living Spirit Centre did have a very good year with renters, with revenue of about \$50,000.00, leaving BoL and ES to cover the balance. As well, BoL was successful in fundraising to cover their deficit with the LSC, which means the LSC presently has a healthy bank balance.

Questions and Answers:

Q1. Why does the Community Dinner not have any money assigned to it under "G. Outreach" on the "Operating Expenses"?

A1. The Community Dinner is a grant which means it can only be used for the dinners, and not for anything else. And the same with any donations for the dinner. So is not considered as part of ES's budget.

Q2. What is included in the "Other" line under Outreach?

A2. It is for anything that may be needed, other than Indigenous Christian Fellowship, which has a specific line. It could include Food for Thought or Warm Welcome, although individual donations are also made during the year for these activities. But there should perhaps be further discussion on Outreach projects to do with funding and volunteers. A suggestion that it be more quantified, and determination of when and if donors of food get tax receipts for the cost of the ingredients. The Leadership Team will discuss it.

Q3. Is the money currently held by LSC just for on-going expenses, or can it be used for capital (ie. Will need a new furnace or furnaces soon).

A3. There is some money for capital expenses although they also keep some set aside in case of unforeseen costs.

Q4. Will further funding be requested for solar panels?

A4. An initial letter was sent out to those that included their names with offers to donate funds on the initial survey, with a good response of about \$20,000.00. Another letter is being worked on and will be distributed soon. As well, Faithful Footprints should be providing us with an additional \$20,000.00. Some additional work needs to be done in order to get the funds. The committee will be working with Wascana Solar Co-op to assist with the project, with the plan to get as many panels as we can based on the funds available, with a plan to add on in the future as funds become available, possibly through our savings on power.

Anita Tessier moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded by Heather Balfour. Carried.

8. Motion to appoint Reviewer of Eastside 2024 books – Janet Bjorndahl

We found out that we don't need a formal audit of our books. St. James uses and pays for an outside auditor and the Leadership Team discussed and determined it would likely be a good idea. We are currently saving money as Janet is doing the bookkeeping as the one we had contracted with is no longer able to do them.

Janet Bjorndahl moved that we appoint and pay Iris Howden \$1,500.00 to review the Eastside 2024 books. Seconded by Brian Abrahamson. Carried.

9. Nominations and Elections

a) Ministry and Personnel

Delia Baidoo moved that Lana Brandow be approved as a new member of the Ministry and Personnel committee. Seconded by Bonnie Yake. Carried.

Additional Question:

Q. Are there stats on the number of Zoom attendees at our Sunday services?

A. Yes, it is included at the bottom of page 15 in the Program.

10. Enabling Motion

“the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”

Moved by Heather Balfour. Seconded by Stephannie Banks. Carried.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Sonia Abrahamson moved meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Brian Mitchell-Walker.
Adjournment – 1:25 p.m.

Memorial Gifts Policy Eastside United Church

Acceptance of Memorial Gifts

Eastside does not maintain a formal Memorial Fund, but it does accept gifts made in memory of deceased persons, with the understanding that they are to be used to support the mission of the congregation.

Use of Memorial Gifts

When possible, memorial gifts are to be used for the following:

- Outreach activities – activities that support one or more segments of society that are generally considered to be under-served.
- Community engagement activities – activities that engage people within and/or beyond the congregation to promote spiritual health, mental health, social justice, and/or community involvement.
- Educational activities – whether aimed at spiritual/intellectual growth, or to inform (e.g., social/climate justice).
- Climate or social justice expenses.

In each case, memorial gifts can be used to enhance budget for existing initiatives, or for new initiatives approved by the Leadership Team.

If the full value of memorial gifts cannot be used in a timely manner for the above areas, they can be used for general operating or capital expenditures.

Governance of Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts totaling up to \$500 can be used for existing activities in the areas defined above at the discretion of the minister. The Leadership Team must approve use of memorial gifts totaling more than \$500, or, regardless of the amount, to be applied to new initiatives (to ensure that any new initiative is sustainable past the use of memorial gifts, or can be easily wound down if not).

Memorial gifts are to be tracked in the books, but do not require treatment as a fund. Expenses covered by memorial gifts are tracked in their normal categories, not linked to the memorial gifts. Memorial gifts are deemed to have been applied to the above areas to the extent that expenses exceed budget (up to the total value of the memorial gifts).