

**Annual General Meeting
of Friends of the Centre for Christian Studies Inc.
March 17, 2022
7-9pm EDT, 6-8pm CDT, 4-6pm PDT**

1.0 Opening and Welcome: Co-chair Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

1.1 Attendance:

Central Council: Ansley Tucker (Co-chair), Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes (Co-chair), Ken DeLisle (Interim Principal), Mona Denton (Staff Support Committee Chair), Janet Nield (Recording Secretary), Jen Prince (Student Representative), Stacy Stanley-Young (Finance Committee Chair)

Regrets: Deborah Laforet (Program), Ray McGinnis (Communications and Promotions), Keith Simmonds (UCC representative),

Staff: Ken DeLisle, Scott Douglas, David Lappano, Janet Ross, Lori Stewart, Cheryl Thiessen

Regrets: Marcie Gibson

Students, Graduates, Former Staff, and Friends: Steve Bailey, Marlene Britton, Charlotte Caron, Pat Chabluk, Diane Dwarka, Linda Ervin, Tracy Fairfield, Betty Anne Hamilton, Gordon Hills, Melanie Ihmels, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Anne Manikel, Diane Marlok, Maylanne Maybee, Eliza Meggs, Robert Murdock, Ann Naylor, Lloyd Nyarota, Robert Osborne, Heather Robbins, Nancy Renwick, Irene Rainey Sale, Tim Sale, Megumi Matsuo-Saunders, Michael Shapcott (in-coming co-chair), Kathy Toivanen, Aileen Urquhart, Margaret Wooff

Regrets: Susan Butler-Jones, Aisha Tahir, Hyerim Park, Charmain Bailey, Eric Tusz-King

1.2 Worship and In Memoriam – Aileen Urquhart (2022 Companion of the Centre)

Worship was offered, “Preparing for the New.” A Land Acknowledgment was offered.

Planning for ... a garden, and the unpredictability of new growth. These issues facing the world were brought forward: awareness of the War in Ukraine; preparing for the climate emergency; the need for knowledge, wisdom, and leadership to co-existence on this earth. We are preparing for new leadership ... and we are expressing thanks for the gifts given by Michelle and David, as they continue on new paths. As the new graduates were named, a prayer and blessing for them as they prepare for the new. We are experiencing individual challenges and changes, and the new may be unexpected ... death, illness, new relationships, our families. How do we prepare for the new? Let us ground ourselves in the creator, all around us, and all our relations.

Thanks be to God.

Worship was continued in the reading of the “In Memoriam List.”

In the moments of remembrance of alumni and friends of the Centre who died in 2021, the following persons were named:

Carol Beaver, UCC 1961

John Robertson, Friend

Joyce Scott, UCC 1952

Sue Taylor, UCC 1985

Let us all remember that we are beloved; and we give thanks for, and blessings on, all those attached to the Centre of Christian Studies.

Worship closed with an ancient Irish litany, and the singing of MV#115, “Behold! Behold! I make all things new.”

1.3 Acceptance of Friends

MOTION:

Moved by Charlotte Caron, seconded by Ann Naylor, that all those present, not already a Friend of the Centre for Christian Studies (member of Council or committee, current student, current staff, graduate, donated in past two years, graduate of the Western Field-Based Program for Diaconal Ministry), be made a Friend of the Centre.

CARRIED

1.4 Agenda Review: By consensus, the agenda was agreed upon.

1.5 Approval of Minutes of AGM March 25, 2021

The change was noted that Charlotte Caron was present at the 2021 AGM.

MOTION: Moved by Jen Prince, seconded by Kathy Toivanen, that the Minutes of the AGM March 25, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

1.6 Business Arising from the 2021 Minutes: Ken DeLisle

Regarding Michelle Owens’ principal’s report in 2021 that “CCS will be hiring a staff person to develop recruitment tools and processes,” we were informed that a staff person has not been hired for this purpose. The reasons given were the challenges of COVID19, and the staff resignations in 2021. To hire this staff person is still a plan for the Centre.

2.0 Principal’s Report

“Preparing for the New:” Ken DeLisle and Staff

It was clear that COVID19 was not going away, so new rhythms were continued for the spring of 2021 and onward. Zoom for everything. Online learning was the norm, and all noted that students continued to be comfortable with that.

The 2021 Service of Celebration was held online.

An Admissions Orientation circle was held in the summer, for ministers from other denominations in the Admissions process of the UCC. The learning circle was attended by persons from all around the world.

Learning on Purpose was online.

All involved in the challenges of delivering programs on-line, that are based on developing relationships, co-learning, and peer support and feedback, felt that those challenges were met.

In the Fall, on-line learning circles continued, including a joint circle with the Sandy Sauteaux Spiritual Centre.

Michelle Owens, principal, and David Lappano, program staff, both resigned their positions in the fall. Ken DeLisle was named interim principal.

The Centre is proud of the innovations developed in our on-line pedagogy. That 11 learning circles were successfully held on-line is an indication of success. In addition, CCS Fridays, a forum for community education, went far and wide over the internet. As well, members of the CCS community attended conferences.

CCS is working hard to teach and learn through the lenses of theologies of justice and liberation; and rooting ourselves in a culture of anti-racism, and decolonization in all aspects of the program.

The proliferation of “on-line everything” has allowed CCS to connect with many.

We are grateful for our generous donors and engaged alumni. This past year, we were the recipients of an outpouring of generosity and renewed commitment to the Centre.

It was a tiring and challenging year, met with determination and courage.

The CCS partners are noted: Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada, Diakonia of the United Church (DUCC), Anglican Deacons, DOTAC, St. Andrew’s College, St. Stephen’s College, Sandy Sauteaux Spiritual Centre, Strategic Charm Social Media; as well as all our volunteers, and all those involved in mentoring our students in their learning sites.

The presentation being concluded, Ken offered to answer any questions. There being none, the meeting continued.

3.0 Reports

3.1 Business arising from the Annual Report: there being none, the meeting continued.

3.2.1 Financial Report: presented by Stacy Stanley-Young,

(Please note that the Financial Statements for the year are appended to these Minutes)
Stacy presented the financial reports for the year 2021, the reports having been distributed to all. She noted that the loss for the year was less than last year. Part of this was because the Centre received COVID 19 related wage subsidies from the government.

Stacy opened the floor to any questions or comments. None were received.

MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young, and seconded by Gordon Hills, that the Financial Reports be received.

CARRIED

3.2.2 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young and seconded by Tracy Fairfield, that the audited financial statements for 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

3.2.3 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young and seconded by Tim Sales, that Rawluk & Roberts, Chartered Professional Accountants, be appointed as auditor for the year ending December 31, 2022.

CARRIED

3.2.4 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young and seconded by Linda Ervin, that the current signing officers remain in effect until replaced by Central Council.

CARRIED

3.3 Nominations Report:

Tracy Fairfield presented as a member of the Volunteer Recruitment and Support Working group. Tracy reported on the current needs for volunteers to complete the slate.

3.3.1 MOTION: Moved by Tracy Fairfield and seconded by Mona Denton that nominations for Central Council for the 2022 year be closed.

CARRIED

3.3.2 MOTION: Moved by Tracy Fairfield and seconded by Ann Naylor, that the slate of nominees for Central Council for 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

3.3.3 MOTION: Moved by Tracy Fairfield and seconded by Irene Rainey that the slate of nominees for Committees and Working Groups be approved.

CARRIED

The chair was turned over to Ansley Tucker, co-chair.

4.0 New Business: Ansley Tucker

4.1 Changes to Governance and Bylaws

Ansley welcomed Bob Osborne and Charlotte Caron to present the motions regarding the changes to governance. These include a revision of the committee structure designed to make more effective use of volunteers; streamline the decision-making; and to reflect the community more fully, including the broader constituency. Charlotte presented the new Central Council format which emphasizes policy and visioning, and the reasons for the changes. Bylaws will require some amendments to accommodate these changes. The new format for committees will include a Program Committee, a Finance Committee, and a Connections Committee, with working groups to support specific areas of need.

Charlotte and Bob responded to the following questions, and the discussion continued as each bylaw change (see below) was addressed:

1. What about the requirement of both an Anglican and a United co-chair being removed? Response: primary concern was to broaden representation of constituencies, beyond the two denominations.
2. How will equity at the Centre for marginalized communities be managed as well as diversity? Response: Mona Denton gave an update about the equity coaching that the two search committees will be undertaking (language, profiles, search broadened). As well, the Program Committee and staff have been intentional in addressing this issue in all course preparations. In addition, the equity coaching will continue in the fall of 2022 for both Central Council and Staff.
3. A further question regarding the two co-chairs: will the Anglican communion be represented? Will this inclusion be lost, given that there would be no requirement for either an Anglican person or a United person to be co-chairs of Central Council?
4. Discussion over the concern for inclusion of both the founding denominations of the Centre in the governance continued. It was noted that there is diversity within the committees and working groups.
5. Should there be affirmative action to ensure the continued participation of both founding denominations?

4.2 Governance Motions Regarding MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL

(Please note that in all the following the highlighted section will be removed, and the red section will be added.)

4.2.1 Section 5.01

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne and seconded by Stacy Stanley-Young, that the following bylaw:

5.01 Election - The affairs of the Centre shall be managed by a Central Council (the Board) of up to 17 members, up to 12 of whom shall be voting members. Each member shall be, at the time of election a Friend of the Centre, two of whom shall be approved representatives of The Anglican Church of Canada (the "Anglican Representatives") and two of whom shall be approved representatives of The United Church of Canada (the "United Representatives") and two of whom shall be Centre for Christian Studies' students (the "Student Representatives"). The Anglican Representatives shall be elected by the Friends from the list of names provided to the Friends by the Central Council in consultation with the Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada or the delegate of the Primate. No further nominations will be accepted for the Anglican Representatives. The United Representatives shall be elected by the Friends from the list of names provided by the Central Council, in consultation with The United Church of Canada. No further nominations will be accepted for the United Representatives. The Student Representatives shall be elected by the Friends from the list of names provided to the Friends by the Central Council after consultation with the student body. No further nominations will be accepted for the Student Representatives. Up to six members will be representatives of Central Council Committees.

Be amended to:

5.01 Election - The affairs of the Centre shall be managed by a Central Council (the Board) of up to 17 members, up to 12 of whom shall be voting members. Each member shall be, at the time of election a Friend of the Centre, one of whom shall be part of the Anglican Church of Canada and one of whom shall be part of the United Church of Canada. The Student Representative shall be chosen by the student body and confirmed by the meeting of the Friends. The Anglican Representatives, the United Church Representatives, the Student Representatives, and the Central Council Committee Representatives shall be voting members of the Central Council.

CARRIED

4.2.2 Section 5.05

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne and seconded by Maylanne Maybee, that the following bylaw:

5.05 Corresponding Members: The Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada may appoint denominational staff members as Corresponding Members of the Council.

Be amended to:

5.05 Ex Officio Members: The Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada may appoint denominational staff members as **ex officio and non-voting** Members of the Council.

CARRIED

4.2.3 Section 5.08

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne and seconded by Mona Denton, that the following bylaw:

5.08 Place of Meetings - Except as otherwise required by law, the Central Council may hold its meetings at such place or places as it may from time to time determine.

Be amended to:

5.08 Place of Meetings - Except as otherwise required by law, the Central Council may hold its meetings at such place or places as it may from time to time determine **including on-line meetings and email voting.**

CARRIED

4.2.4 Section 5.12

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne and seconded by Jen Prince, that the following bylaw:

5.12 Quorum - Five voting members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business, at least **two of** whom shall be "Anglican," and at least **two of** whom shall be "United."

Be amended to:

5.12 Quorum - Five voting members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business, at least **one** of whom shall be "Anglican", and at least **one** of whom shall be "United".

CARRIED

4.3 Governance Motions Regarding COMMITTEES

4.3.1 Section 6.02

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne, and seconded by Pat Chabluk, that the following bylaw:

6.02 Executive - There shall be an Executive consisting of the Co-Chairs, Treasurer and any two members of Council **(one Anglican and one United Church)**, the Principal or designate. The Principal, or designate, shall have voice but no vote.

The conduct of the business by the Executive shall be governed by the applicable provisions of these by-laws. The membership of the Executive shall be named by the Central Council at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Friends. A quorum consists of three voting members of the Executive.

Be amended to:

Executive - There shall be an Executive consisting of the Co-Chairs, Treasurer and any two members of Council, (section removed) and the Principal or designate. The Principal, or designate, shall have voice but no vote. The conduct of the business by the Executive shall be governed by the applicable provisions of these by-laws. The membership of the Executive shall be named by the Central Council at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Friends. A quorum consists of three voting members of the Executive.

CARRIED with two opposed, those being Maylanne Maybee and Aileen Urquart

4.3.2 Section 6.05

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne, and seconded by Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, that the following bylaw:

6.05 Reports - Each Committee shall submit to the Central Council such reports as the Central Council may, from time to time, request, but, in any event, each Committee shall submit an annual report to the Annual Meeting of Friends.

Be amended to:

6.05 Reports - Each Committee shall submit to the Central Council such reports as the Central Council may, from time to time, request.

Discussion while the motion was on the floor expressed concerns regarding reporting, including the requirement to have Financial Reports at an AGM. Of significant concern was the importance of committee and working group reports as providing a historical record of the past year.

MOTION DEFEATED

4.3.3 MOTION: Moved by Tim Sales, seconded by Stacy Stanly-Young, that work on Bylaw 6.05 be referred back to Central Council for discussion.

CARRIED

4.4 Governance Motions Regarding OFFICERS

4.4.1 Section 7.01

MOTION: Moved by Robert Osborne, and seconded by Linda Ervin, that the following bylaw:

7.01 Appointment: The Friends at the Friends Annual Meeting shall appoint: Co-Chairs, (with the approval of the Anglican and United Churches as per 5.01), a Treasurer and such other officers as the Central Council may determine from time to time. No person may hold more than one office. The terms of office for the Officers shall be 3 years, renewable once.

Be amended to:

7.01 Appointment: The Friends at the Friends Annual Meeting shall appoint: Co-Chairs, (section removed) a Treasurer and such other officers as the Central Council may determine from time to time. No person may hold more than one office. The terms of office for the Officers shall be 3 years, renewable once.

CARRIED

4.5 Following the discussion and voting, Ansley expressed deep thanks to those responsible for the work involved in developing the revisions, and the implementation of the revised governance structure.

5.0 Thank You: Ken DeLisle.

Ken expressed his appreciation of the discussion during the meeting. He expressed thanks to volunteers, and to those whose terms have ended. The names of those being thanked follow:

Central Council: Ansley Tucker, and Keith Simmonds;

Development: Jim Hatt;

Program: Debbie Stockdale and Charmain Bailey, the student representative, who graduates this year;

Communications and Promotion: Ray McGinnis, Pretima Kukadia, and Kaitlin Bardswich;

Planning and Governance: Bob Osborne;

Finance: Wally Eamer.

6.0 Closing

Ansley noted that the next Central Council meeting will be Friday April 1, 2022, 6:00 pm CT, in lieu of the annual Face-to-Face, canceled again for the third time due to COVID19 restrictions.

Aileen Urquhart closed the meeting in prayer, noting the wisdom, strength, hopes and dreams expressed. Prayers were offered for strength to face the challenges that lie ahead, for staff, students, mentors, facilitators, and volunteers.

Deep peace to all.

Prayers were followed by the singing of MV#214 “May God’s Sheltering Wings.”

7.0 Adjournment- Motion to adjourn.
Ansley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm CT (9:15 pm ET)

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Janet Nield, April 6, 2022

Co-Chair_____ **Secretary**_____