

**Annual General Meeting
of Friends of the Centre for Christian Studies Inc.
March 30, 2023
7-9pm EDT, 6-8pm CDT, 4-6pm PDT**

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

With those in attendance sharing their land acknowledgements, Sadekie spoke words of welcome.

1.1 Attendance:

Central Council: Michael Shapcott (Co-chair), Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes (Co-chair), Alan Lai (Principal), Mona Denton (Staff Support Committee Chair), Jennifer Janzen-Ball (ex officio UCC), Janet Nield (Recording Secretary), Jen Prince (Out-going Student Representative), Stacy Stanley-Young (out-going Finance Committee Chair), Cheryl Thiessen (Staff Representative), Megumi Matsuko-Saunders (Alumna)

Regrets: Charmaine Bailey (Program), Eileen Scully (ex officio ACC), Karen Stewart (incoming Treasurer)

Staff: Alan Lai, Scott Douglas, Alcris Limongi, Marcie Gibson, Janet Ross, Lori Stewart, Cheryl Thiessen

Students, Graduates, Former Staff, and Friends:

Susan Butler-Jones, Charlotte Caron, Ken DeLisle (former interim principal), Dana Ducette, Linda Ervin, Tracy Fairfield, Catherine Gutjahr, Dawn Leger, Lorrie Lowes, Dorothy Naylor, Hyerim Park, Nancy Renwick, Susan Toller, Beth Walker, Carey Wagner

Regrets: Maylanne Maybee, Ted Dodd, Tim Sale, Diane Dwarka

1.2 Worship and In Memoriam – Beth Walker and Alan Lai

Holy and Sacred Space.

Beth invited each person to light a candle, the Lenten Light. Centered in the Trinity, Jesus is the Light, saying, “I am the Light.” Followed by a time of Lectio Divina on Psalm 63: 1-8. We listen with the ears of our hearts, for words and images that the Spirit opens for us. “My God, you are my God, my soul thirsts for you. In the shadow of your wings, I will sing for joy. Your right hand upholds me.”

Alan offered words of reflection.

A time of discernment, as we wonder: How is God speaking to us? What questions are emerging, as we consider the work ahead of us this evening?

A time of prayer. "The light replenishes each one of us. We live in God's promise. Every breath will be a canticle of praise, for we live in the constant presence of 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 2022, the following persons were named:

Shirley Beckman (UCC 1959)

Elizabeth Crispin (ACC 1968)

Jean Galbraith (UCC 1957)

Doris Grierson (UCC 1958)

Alma Heller (UCC 1956)

Laura Kennedy (UCC 1987)

Marion Logan (Companion 2013)

Maxine McVey (UCC 1992)

Margaret Nelson (UCC 1960)

Ellice Oliver (UCC 1988)

Brian Shoemith (Volunteer)

Harvey Stevens (Donor)

Wesley Thomson (Donor)

Margaret Wonfor (UCC 1954)

In conclusion, 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. Let us remember all whom we hold in our own heart.

"The Lord's Prayer."

Worship closed with a blessing: that we are refreshed by the living water of God which is embodied in our community.

1.3 Acceptance of Friends

MOTION:

Moved by Susan Butler-Jones, seconded by Ken Delisle, 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 17, 2022

MOTION: Moved by Linda Ervin, seconded by Stanley-Young, that the Minutes of the AGM of the Centre for Christian Studies of March 17, 2022, be approved.

CARRIED

1.6 Business Arising from the 2022 Minutes

See below, under new business

2.0 Principals' Reports

Moving Into the Future– Ken DeLisle (for the first half of the year), Alan Lai (appointed in the fall), and Staff.

In 2022, in addition to all the on-line teaching and learning, three in-person learning circles were held, and it was thrilling to be face-to-face together.

The Centre said goodbye to David Lappano.

We celebrated with three new graduates.

The CCS community has many forms, and in all the forms it takes, we are doing so much together, and are ready to take the next step. We can bring our entire selves to this work, in the holy mystery of love and justice.

Alan made note of how we might enter the post-pandemic world.

Thanks to all who sat on the search committees for new staff. Great thanks to Ken for his wise leadership.

We are working toward true intercultural teaching and learning; and the team is now complete again. The Centre strives to embody the spirit of exploration, and passion for teaching, as we continue to imagine *church, differently*. In the changing landscape of the world, we need to be bold, to identify missing links, and to take risks in how we will relate to this new world and the unknown future.

The chair was turned over to co-chair Michael Shapcott

3.0 Reports

Reports were circulated to all, in advance of the meeting.

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

3.2.1 Financial Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Stacy Stanley-Young (Please note that the Financial Statements for the year are appended to these Minutes.)

CCS holds most of our current assets in the Endowment Fund, which is fully invested.

Those current assets total \$3,383,550.

Operating Income was \$319, 393. from generous donations, grants, program revenue (tuition), and bequests.

Expenses \$584, 960. including amortization, bursaries; and operating, program, and governance expenses

Excess draw on endowment was \$134,455. to cover some of our operating loss of (\$262,879.) with the standard 5% draw on the endowment fund.

At the conclusion, Stacy opened the floor to any questions or comments.

Q: How much more would have been spent, if we had had a full-time principal for the full year?

A: We probably saved about half of a full-time salary.

3.2.2 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young, and seconded by Beth Walker, that the Financial Reports for 2022 be received as presented.

CARRIED

3.2.3 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young, and seconded by Tracy Fairfield, that the audited financial statements for 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

3.2.4 MOTION: Moved by Stacy Stanley-Young, and seconded by Susan Toller, that Rawluk & Roberts, Chartered Professional Accountants, be appointed as auditor for the year ending December 31, 2023.

CARRIED

3.2.5 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, a member of the Volunteer Recruitment and Support Working group, presented the report, the documents having been shared. A few positions remain unfilled.

3.3.1 MOTION: Moved by Tracy Fairfield, and seconded by Linda Ervin that nominations for Central Council for the 2023 year be closed.

CARRIED

3.3.2 MOTION: Moved by Tracy Fairfield, and seconded by Jen Prince, that the slate of nominees for Central Council for 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

Noting that there are vacancies, Marcie Gibson asked about the process for how the vacancies on Committees, etc, are filled during the year?

4.0 New Business: Michael Shapcott and Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, co-chairs

Michael called for items of new business.

4.1 Mona asked if the staff had anything they would like to share.

Alcris was welcomed, and she responded, noting that she has been at CCS since last October. She has been serving and working in this new community and city. She feels fully immersed in the learning circles. She and staff offered an invitation to all for the workshop with Claudio Carvalhaes.

4.2 From the minutes of AGM 2022, regarding defeated motion on section 6.05 as noted here:

2022/4.3.2: Bylaw 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. **MOTION DEFEATED**

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.

THEREFORE:

2022/4.3.3 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**

Central Council, having done this work, announced that the Council had made the decision that Bylaw 6.05, regarding reports made to Council, will not change. Bylaw 6.05 remains as:

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.

5.0 Thank You

Alan Lai expressed thanks to volunteers, and to those whose terms have ended. The names of those being thanked follow:

Central Council: Jen Prince, Student Representative to Central Council

Central Council: Stacy Stanley Young, Treasurer and Finance Representative to Central Council

Program: Deborah Laforet, Program Committee Chair and Program Representative to Central Council

Finance: Cathy Rushton, Finance Committee member

Development: Debra Schweyer, Development Working Group member

Development: Dyanne Marlok, Student Representative to the Development Working Group

Communications and Promotion: David Fitzsimmons, Marketing Committee member

Thanks were extended to Michael and Sadekie as co-chairs for the AGM, and to Beth Walker for leading our time of worship.

6.0 Closing

Michael Shapcott led the closing prayer. "Fast from... and feast on... (anger and patience; worry and the divine order, negatives and affirmatives; pressures and prayers; discouragement and hope).

Michael noted that the next Central Council meeting will be in Winnipeg at the Face-to-Face, Thursday, April 20 and Friday, April 21, 2023

7.0 Adjournment- Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 CT, 8:10 pm ET

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Janet Nield

Co-Chair _____ **Secretary** _____