

## AUC Council News February 2021

Out of respect for our indigenous peoples and their ancestral lands on which we coexist, Council is opening each of its meetings with an **Acknowledgement of Territory** statement in line with the practices of the United Church of Canada. The statement reads as follows:

*As we begin our meeting this evening, we acknowledge that we worship and reside on the traditional lands of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and recognize their stewardship of the land through the ages.*

At its February 8 meeting, Council prefaced its order of business with a remembrance of **Ivor Roberts**. Ivor was commemorated for his qualities as a person and for his commitment to his family, his faith and the life of AUC. Ivor served on many committees, including Church Council, and volunteered at events and activities such as the Rise n' Shine Breakfast. He will be dearly missed by his family, his friends and all of us at AUC.

Council received a report from the **UCW** about its recent activities. Particular note was taken of the UCW's fund raising efforts for the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers, the Aurora Food Pantry, the Christmas Stocking Programme, community organizations and a special project in the new church. Council commended the UCW for its efforts to raise funds in support of local causes and AUC during this time when in-person activities and gatherings have been suspended.

Brian North brought welcome news from the **EDGE Property Committee** about the building of our new church home. The preloading of the church site is nearing completion. The fill which has been added to level the site will now be left to settle for a number of months until the proper degree of compaction has been attained. The fill and the retaining wall will then be removed to start the foundation work on the church and retirement home. Due to unexpected and prohibitive increases in well drilling costs, the Committee decided not to pursue geothermal heating and cooling for the new building and to incorporate a conventional HVAC system into the final design. The Committee is now working on the church's audiovisual systems.

Rev. Andy reported on the status of our **legal dispute with Aviva** over its attempts to claw back a portion of the settlement, which AUC received in its claim against Servicemaster and the roofing contractors. Our legal counsel expects to receive Aviva's long delayed submission in support of its claim shortly. Delays and backlogs occasioned by the COVID pandemic make it uncertain when a court date will be set to hear Aviva's claim. In the meantime, the proceeds from the claim continue to be held in escrow accruing interest.

A notice has been posted on the web site and sent to all committee chairs advising that submissions to the **2020 Annual Report** are due by March 15. Planning is getting underway for this year's **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held once again on Zoom on April 28. Further information will be provided as the date draws closer.

The recent changes in the organizational structure of the United Church of Canada, our experiences of the past year of worshipping and meeting virtually and the need to start planning for life in our new church have prompted Council to consider undertaking a review of **AUC's governance structure**. In the time ahead, Council will be looking at the current structure of our ministries and committees and deciding if changes might be in order to best prepare us for the future. Any proposed changes to the governance structure resulting from this review will be brought to the Congregation for approval.

Amongst Ivor Robert's numerous volunteer involvements was his service as board of directors member and President of **Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation** which owns and operates the 26 unit townhouse complex in Oak Ridges devoted to providing rent-to-income housing for seniors. AUC is the sponsor of Oakwil and the members of AUC Council are the "members" or "stakeholders" of the corporation. With Ivor's passing, Bill Newman will assume the role of President on an interim basis. Dave Hanna will continue as Secretary of the corporation and Ken Graham as Treasurer. Christine Zarebski is also a member of the board. The intent is to recruit additional board members.

Council will meet next on March 8. As always, if you have any questions or comments about Council's deliberations, feel free to get in touch with me.

Bill Newman  
Chair, AUC Council