

## AUC Council News – June 2021

Council met on June 14 via Zoom for its last meeting prior to the start of its summer recess for July and August. Here are the meeting highlights for your information.

**Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation:** The Council meeting was preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation. AUC Council constitutes the membership of the corporation which operates a 28-unit seniors' townhouse complex in Oak Ridges and is sponsored by AUC. The corporation's Board of Directors reported to the membership that Oakwil remains on a stable financial footing and continues to maintain and upgrade the complex for the benefit of the residents.

**EDGE Property Committee:** Brian North updated Council on the latest developments in the rebuilding of our church. The site plan agreement covering the development has been approved by the Town of Aurora, clearing the way for the start of construction on the site. The hydro and gas lines adjacent to the property are being relocated. Following the completion of this work, Succession will start removing soil and the retaining wall for the excavation of the building foundations. Aurora Town Council has waived the required cash-in-lieu of parkland payment for the construction of the new church representing a savings of \$68,500 for AUC. A sod turning ceremony is being planned for the near future within the limitations of the current public health restrictions on gatherings.

**Extension of Staff Layoffs:** The Government of Ontario has published a plan for the gradual, phased reopening of social and economic life in the Province based upon the achievement of a set of key milestones. Since the timelines for the completion of the stages of reopening cannot be stated with certainty, the Province has decided to extend the period of pandemic leave for employees on temporary layoff from July 3 to September 25, 2021.

In light of this extension and considering that we are now entering the summer holiday period, Council made the decision to extend the pandemic leaves of Margaret Heney and Cathy Hiltz to September 25. AUC will continue to pay both the employee and the employer portions of their health benefits during their leaves. With the extension, Lisa Kyriakide's contract also remains on hold and will not be reinstated for the time being.

We continue to keep Margaret, Cathy and Lisa in our thoughts and remain committed to their eventual return, which we are growing increasingly confident is drawing ever closer as we gain the upper hand on the coronavirus.

**Church Re-opening:** With the public health restrictions on religious ceremonies still in place and summer now open us, Council decided that it will be sometime in the fall before we can look to a return to in-person worship services, committee meetings and group gatherings. Until that time, all services, meetings and gatherings will continue to take place online and not in person. Council will continue to monitor the public health regulations through the summer months for new developments.

**Ministers' Vacation:** The last year has been a trying and tiring time both for ourselves and for our Ministers. Revs. Andy and Lorraine have worked extra hard and extra long to maintain our congregational life and keep us together through online worship, gatherings

and activities. They are highly deserving of a good rest this summer to help them recoup their energies and prepare for a new, and likely different, church year in September. In recognition of their efforts, Council approved leave for Revs. Andy and Lorraine commencing on July 19, 2021 and ending on September 7, 2021 to resume virtual worship services on September 12, 2021. We wish them all the best for their well-deserved summer rest.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Hopefully, as we gradually regain our freedoms, you will be able to indulge in one or more of your favourite summer activities, whatever they may be. Should you have any questions or comments about the items in this report, feel free to get in touch with me.

Best regards,

Bill Newman, Chair, AUC Council