

**ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN LATVIAN CHURCH OF TORONTO**  
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING #615**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Present:** Karlis Vasarajs (Chair) Astrida Ezergailis (Secretary)  
Anne Reinbergs Anda Kuksis-Kalviņš  
Ieva Osis Larry Gifford  
Lilita Tannis Mara Strazdins  
Ruta Silins Raimonds Rutitis  
Gunta Reynolds Amanda Sebris

**Clergy:** Rev. G. Grietiņš

**Staff:** Inta Baze, Normunds Goba

**Committee Reps:** none

**Regrets:** none

**Call to order:** 7:10 pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Grietiņš

**1. Acceptance of the Agenda:**

**Moved:** Lilita Tannis

**Seconded:** Raimonds Rutitis

**Motion Carried**

**2. Review and acceptance of Minutes**

**a. Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 2020 #613**

**Motion to accept, subject to clarification of 9.a**

**Moved:** Raimonds Rutitis

**Seconded:** Ieva Osis

**Motion carried**

**b. Council Meeting Minutes December 13, 2020 #614**

**Motion to accept, subject to clarification of 8.c**

**Moved:** Anda Kuksis-Kalviņš

**Seconded:** Ieva Osis

**Motion carried**

**3. Clergy Update:**

**a.** Zoom worship improvements **Actions:** record and post Zoom worship services; enable donation during online service ; **AE** website calendar update Sv. J. 1st& 3rd Sunday; Sv. A. 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup>

**b.** Coordination with St. Andrews' new pastor

**c.** LELBA synod online April 23-25: delegates sought **Delegated:** KV & GR

- d. Aprūpe/Outreach – continues **Action:** investigate reviving information blast (NG had wider list) for 2xmonthly Kas Notiek/What's happening

See written report for details

#### 4. Chair's update:

- a. applause heard from membership & St. Andrew's re Zoom worship
- b. welcoming Rev. Dag Demandt – good connection made with him and family
- c. plans to contact Rev. Dāvis Kaņeps and Jānis Grīnvalds
- d. Hamilton stats – Zoom meetings double attendance
- e. St. Andrew's congregation stats – Līga Miklašēvics (new chair?) commented: turnout for Sidrabene events, worship, day camp in 2020 activated a different group – younger, families  
**Action:** MS reach out to Emils Matiss (LNJAK) re inviting participation in Outreach/Aprupe
- f. re Donor tracking & acknowledgement
- g. themes emerging from one-on-one discussions w/ Council members:
  - Support active work – show up to Zoom worship, encourage others
  - Keep in touch with congregation, maintain all levels of communication with everyone

#### 5. Administrator's /Treasurers Report

- a. Question: have we responded to Sept. announcement of federal rent relief/operating costs to non-profits, also in re Saulaine **Action:** NG will look at Federal Covid-19 rent relief programmes
- b. Question: re Northern Birch (KredSab) account changes and clarifying account 'ownership': Ansambļis account associated with Gunta Reynolds; similarly, Sunday School/Anne Reinbergs; Ladies' Aux/Maija Sukse **Action: NG** clarify with Northern Birch manager: no personal accounts to be linked to Church accounts
- c. Treasurer indicates that Finance Statements were late because of other requests **Action: Padome/Council members** hold non-time-sensitive requests until middle of the month, caveat **Facilities management**

#### 6. Committee updates:

##### a. **Facilities Management:**

- Replacing cross – seeking input re inspect & repair/reinstall, or just repair/reinstall? **Action:** continue discussion in **Finance Committee**
- Roof replacement – 4 quotes around \$100,000
- Minister's office/Chancery – leak source: roof/flashings/ventilation; General -- N. Sebris recommends assessment by HVAC engineer; temporary patching & painting by custodian, D. Maksins
- Comment from Chair: St. Andrew's Chair, Liga Miklasevics, is open to cooperating on Facilities, along with St. Andrew's Admin, Sarma Gaide
- Commending contribution of N. Sebris, which is ongoing

##### b. **Finance:**

- Refer to reports: note key findings from meeting minutes **Action: KV** to seek construction law firm for advice

##### c. **Saulaine Management:**

- all bookings will be advised 2 months prior re Covid-19 closure
- promote other rentals: motels, manse, camp sites, possible glamping tent

- alternative to Saulaines pusdienas (lunch fundraiser event): online lottery, other online events
- planning for 2022 70th anniversary
- considering the divestment of excess lands to bolster reserves – NB any of sale needs 2/3 approval from SGM
- capital repairs etc. see budget
- Septic: expecting quote from new contractor

**d. Fundraising:**

Roof & Cross target : 100,000 – 125,000 (to date raised 30,000)

Saulaine target : 15,000

ideas:

- add a line to annual givings sheet for capital funds
- “why it’s good to donate” –
- in-kind donation tax receipts for experts
- acknowledge large donors – establish categories
- other forms of thank you, eg incl. in tax receipt mailing
- plaque for mega-donor
- communication, eg ‘Kas notiek baznīca’
- social functions
- make it easier to give – etransfers & ‘donate’ link
- develop communication strategy

**Action: Fundraising committee** review how givings/donations are recorded and acknowledged

**e. St. Andrew’s Liaison:**

- **Action: Liaison committee** develop internal priorities, coordinate with St. Andrew’s

**f. Outreach / Aprūpe:** confirmed with Maris Lūsis that he continues to organize the Outreach/Aprūpes grupa effort and plans to do so for the foreseeable future. Sadly Austra Kirkups, a valued member of the committee and a perminder, passed away since our last meeting. Her contacts have been divided up among the remaining members.

**7. Budget review and approval:**

- Budget tabled – not ready

**8. Other Business**

- a.** Termination of Saulaine contractor (Steve): **Action: Finance Committee** seek counsel, formulate opinion, come to Council with motion (may be emailed before Feb meeting -- time sensitive)
- b.** Setting the AGM date:  
**Motion:** hold AGM on April 18, 2021 subject to confirmation with relevant Corporation Laws (Canada or Ontario?)  
**Moved:** Raimonds Rutitis  
**Seconded:** Anne Reinbergs  
**Motion carried**

**Action: KV** look into implications of reducing Council numbers in by-law ; **Astrida** check re Corporate Laws

9. **Review Action items:**

- **Action: Astrida** send out rough draft of 615 – as is

**Adjournment:** 10:25 pm

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Chair: Karlis Vasarajs

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Secretary: Astrida Ezergailis