

2017 Annual Business Meeting of The Bridge, a Markham Community Church Minutes from Saturday, November 18, 2017

Call to Order: Continental breakfast was served. Pastor Brian called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Welcome, Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer: Pastor Brian welcomed members and introduced a video that members viewed, recounting the history of *the bridge* over the past 40 years. Pastor Brian acknowledged Joanne Williams for her work in compiling, writing and narrating the video. The video emphasized how hard work, fueled by faith and the vision God provides, has been a hallmark of progress at *the bridge* throughout its history. Pastor Brian read from Colossians 2, remarking that Christ remains *the bridge's* central focus. The framework within which *the bridge* currently functions was reviewed. Pastor Brian prayed over the meeting.

Recording Secretary: Pastor Brian asked for a motion to accept Deborah McLeod as recording secretary for the meeting. Joanne Williams made the motion, seconded by Neil Hamill; carried.

Declaration of Membership Roster, Voting Bar and Quorum: Members had been checked in and given ballots upon entry. Cynthia Yoon reported that there were 289 names on the official membership list. Cynthia announced that 116 members were required to establish a quorum, and that 121 members were present, including 16 proxies. Pastor Brian reported that the membership list had been recently reviewed and updated. Cynthia and her team were thanked for their efforts in that regard. Pastor Brian also extended gratitude to the registration and hospitality teams for their support at this meeting.

Acceptance of Past Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held on November 19, 2016 were presented in the booklet, Impact Report 2016-2017. There were no questions. Pastor Ruth moved that the minutes be accepted as printed, Alban Frigault seconded; carried. Pastor Brian thanked Joanne Williams for reporting last year's minutes.

Governance Report - Board Election and Constitutional Update:

Jey Anandarajan presented a short report from the Nominating Committee. Jey explained the process of nomination and thanked the members for their prayers during the process. Jey reported that the Nominating Committee received sixteen (16) nominations for Board Election. The Nominating committee contacted the eight (8) nominees who met the qualifications for Board election. Three (3) nominees allowed their names to stand for the three available positions. Jey presented Grace Lee, Jennifer Dickinson and Chase Bethel for an Affirmation vote to the Board of Directors by secret ballot.

Jey expressed appreciation for the time commitment involved in serving on the Board of Directors especially for those raising young families. Jey extended gratitude to the nominees, asking members for their continued prayers of support. Kathy McKinlay, Neil Maskery, and Kristin Doak were appointed as scrutineers. Pastor Brian prayed for the nominees. Ballots were collected. *the bridge's* "6Cs" Leadership video was presented and viewed by members.

As Chair of the Nominating committee, Jey reported that a number of challenges with the Nomination process have come to light over the last several years. Jey announced that it would be in the best interests of the church to review the Nomination process for Board Election and requests that the Board improves the process. Pastor Brian explained to members that the constitution frames how we operate and reinforced the challenges Jey brought forward.

A motion was made by Frank Tan and seconded by Joanne Williams to establish a subcommittee for a constitutional review of the process for selecting and qualifying nominees for the Board of Directors, and to call a special meeting prior to the next AGM for the purpose of reporting to the membership.

Pastor Brian thanked Jey for his contribution to the Board over the past 3 years and explained that our constitution does not permit Jey to stand for a second term on the Board of Directors as his wife Anna is now a staff member. Pastor Brian thanked Deborah McLeod for her two years of service to the Board and explained her decision to step aside to utilize her gifts in other areas of ministry.

Neil Maskery reported on the results of the Vote for Affirmation of nominees. 120 Ballots were cast, no abstentions or spoiled ballots. All three nominees received 98-99% of votes. Pastor Brian asked Grace Lee, Chase Bethel and Jennifer Dickens to stand. Members in proximity laid hands on nominees and Brian prayed for the new Board members.

Property Development Update:

Kevin Aide presented a condensed overview of information recently presented at Town Hall meetings held to apprise members of the status of the property development.

Kevin reviewed the status of the Land Sale Agreement. The severance of 4.37 acres of our land to Andrin Development Ltd. and the successful negotiation with the City of Markham for the plans of both parties, are required to finalize the sale agreement. Kevin reported that there is activity on both points. Timeline milestones to date were reported with an anticipated finalization of the Land Sale Agreement in second quarter of 2018.

Kevin named the Building Committee members and asked for appreciation to be extended to them for their countless hours of service. Kevin emphasized that the goal of the Building Committee is to meet the current and future needs of the ministries, and to express the ethos of *the bridge*. Kevin noted that the committee is working within a \$10 million dollar budget, which includes an \$800K loan to cover upfront architectural and engineering costs. This loan will be paid off in full with proceeds of sale. Kevin announced that building plans had been submitted to the City and a pre-consultation meeting scheduled. Kevin asked the members to pray for the committee and this meeting.

Kevin reviewed the committee's approach to the building project and presented slides of tentative concept drawings. The current project timeline was presented and reviewed. Kevin underscored the importance of prayers for this project and prayer cards were distributed. Questions were invited. Praise for the interaction of the Building committee with staff, through the design process, was received and a question regarding ministry operation in the building during construction was answered. Pastor Brian thanked Kevin and the building

committee for their hard work and the Board for overseeing the process.

Financial Report, Auditor's Report, and Stewardship Team Report:

Cynthia Yoon and Tim Jenkins presented the financial report, audited by Nethercott & Co., contained in the booklet, Impact Report 2016-2017.

Cynthia and Tim presented several slides that compared the 2016-2017 fiscal year to 2015-2016, in an informative and engaging Q & A format. Comparisons of weekly attendance, year-end financial position, total income, sources of income, expenses, and disbursements were communicated. Ministry investments in leadership and property were highlighted. Cynthia thanked the Board for these investments on behalf of the staff. Members were informed that \$400K was paid down against debt including an unplanned \$200K.

Tim reported the decision to not have the building project detract from ministry as the rationale behind the \$800K loan. Tim reviewed the terms of the loan. The overall income and expense Budget for 2017-18 was presented. Gratitude was extended to Ken Mo and Jey Anandarajan for their role in the budget process.

Tim announced that to better align with how we function and improve ministry planning, we will be moving to one General Fund and noted that special offerings will still take place. *the bridge's* expanded giving options were reviewed. It was shared that a subcommittee has been struck to look at giving patterns as part of an overall approach to financials that is both forward looking and analytically informed. Tim emphasized the commitment of the Board with respect to the financials. Question to clarify removal of designated funds was raised and answered. John Schurman made the motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Neil Maskery; carried. Motion to appoint Nethercott & Co., as auditors for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was made by Murray Lahn, seconded by Anna Anandarajan; carried.

Pastor Brian commented on how conscientiously all do their part at *the bridge* and thanked members for the way they allow the spirit of God to move on them.

Ministry Impact Report, A Look at 2016-2017: Pastors Ruth, Sam and Rod engaged members in an interactive and enthusiastic overview of some of the highlights of the previous ministry year and gave thanks to Pastor Brian for his leadership. Many more details and photographs were included in the Impact Report booklet.

Pastor Brian extended a personal word of thanks to all members, staff, ministry leads, ministry volunteers and the governance team asking that God bless and give all, satisfaction in the work they do.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.