

## 2025 ACBM Minutes – June 8, 2025

Meeting Chair – James Beattie

- Call to Order – Rev. Deana Dudley
  - Establishment of Quorum – Rev. Deana Dudley
  - **BREAK**
  - Opening Prayer – Rev. Deana Dudley
  - **Motion to approve the 2025 ACBM Agenda** – Motion: John Plumadore. Second: Jo-Anne Liburd. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
  - **Motion to approve the amended 2024 ACBM Minutes** – Motion: Ben James. Second: Sèan Kennedy. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
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### Senior Pastor's Report 2025 (*received for information*)

Rev. Deana Dudley provided an overview of the past year, recognizing the dedication of MCC Toronto's Board, staff and volunteers and highlighting the continued growth of the congregation, worship programming and community outreach.

Highlights included:

- Continued growth in congregational life, with membership increasing to approximately 399 members.
- Expanded worship programming, including Homecoming, Christmas, Easter, Pride celebrations, Church on Church, evening worship services and interfaith services.
- Continued growth of congregational programming including:
  - Healing & Support Initiative
  - Bible Studies
  - Children's Church
  - Triangle Lunches
  - Seniors programming
  - Transness & Spirituality gatherings
  - Community meals and Engagement Committee activities.
- Continued success of the Paul Austin Human Rights Centre and Refugee Program, including:
  - Twice-monthly newcomer orientation sessions.
  - 18 refugee sponsorship cases supporting 23 refugees, representing the highest number of sponsorships since MCC Toronto became a Sponsorship Agreement Holder in 2013.

- Ongoing trauma-informed counselling, All Bodies All Genders Yoga, Proud Voices events, Connecting the Dots programming, employment workshops and job fairs.
- Six community clothing drives supporting thousands of newcomers.
- Continued partnership with Sanctuary North, providing healing retreats for more than 50 refugees.
- Staff updates included welcoming:
  - Mike Crum, Director of Development.
  - Pippa Hamilton, Office Manager.
  - Revan Zurub, Finance Manager.
  - Recognition of JJ Vivier as they prepared to transition into ministry studies.
- Completion of the church's 40-year-old boiler replacement, ensuring continued operation of the facility.

### Questions:

1. What impact has the Refugee Program had over the past year?
  - Rev. Deana Dudley highlighted the continued growth of the Refugee Program, noting that 18 sponsorship cases supporting 23 refugees were completed during 2024, representing the largest number of sponsorships since MCC Toronto became a Sponsorship Agreement Holder. The congregation was encouraged to continue supporting the program through volunteering, clothing donations and community engagement.

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### 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Rev. Deana Dudley presented the 2024 Audited Financial Statements, advising that Hilborn LLP completed the audit and issued a clean audit opinion with no uncorrected adjustments.

Highlights included:

- MCC Toronto concluded 2024 with an operating deficit of approximately \$67,000, which was below the approved budgeted deficit of \$72,000.
- Total revenue increased compared to 2023, driven by increased rental income, grants and fundraising activity.
- Expenses decreased slightly from the previous year while continuing to support ministry, programming and building operations.
- Sustained giving increased during 2024, reversing the declining trend experienced over recent years.

- Board restricted and unrestricted reserve funds continue to provide financial stability for the organization.
- The congregation was advised that the financial statements and accompanying notes had been included with the meeting pre-read materials and remain available on the MCC Toronto website.

### **Motion to Receive the 2024 Audited Financial Statements**

- Motion to receive the 2024 Audited Financial Statements – Motion: Jim Marshall. Second: Stephanie Woolley. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
  - Motion to appoint Hilborn LLP as the Auditor for 2025 – Motion: Linda Leenders. Second: Leslie Hill. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
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### **Revision of MCC Toronto Bylaws**

Rev. Deana Dudley presented the proposed revisions to the MCC Toronto Bylaws. The revisions were undertaken to ensure compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) and to align the organization's governance practices with current legal requirements and nonprofit governance best practices. Appreciation was extended to Valerie Mills and Andrew Fleming for their significant contributions to the review and revision process.

Key amendments included:

- Clarification of membership definitions, requirements for maintaining membership in good standing, and membership processes.
- Updates to the roles, responsibilities and governance processes of the Board of Directors.
- Clarification of congregational meeting procedures, including notice requirements, quorum and meeting procedures.
- Revisions to Senior Pastor leadership terms and evaluation processes.
- Updates to the bylaw amendment process to ensure continued compliance with provincial legislation.
- Confirmation that, in accordance with ONCA, employees of the corporation, including the Senior Pastor, may no longer serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.

### **Questions**

1. A member commented that while the Senior Pastor can no longer serve as a voting member of the Board under Ontario legislation, they appreciated that the revised

bylaws continue to recognize that the Senior Pastor is elected by and accountable to the congregation.

- The Board acknowledged the comment and confirmed that this principle remains an important part of MCC Toronto's governance structure.

### **Motion to Adopt the Revised Bylaws**

- Motion to adopt the revised MCC Toronto Bylaws – Motion: Bradley Hickman. Second: Teresa Harvey. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
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### **Election of Members to the Board of Directors**

James Beattie introduced the nominees for election to the Board of Directors:

- Shelly Morris
- Debra Williams

Candidate biographies and qualifications were presented to the congregation, followed by an opportunity for questions regarding the Board nomination process and future recruitment.

### **Questions**

1. What strategy will the Board use to attract additional and diverse candidates in future years?
  - The Board acknowledged the importance of recruiting a diverse and highly skilled Board. Beginning next year, a more formal recruitment process will be implemented, including a public call for applications, interviews by the Nominating Committee, and presentation of a recommended slate to the congregation. The Board emphasized that recruiting qualified candidates remains an ongoing priority.

Slate: Shelly Morris and Debra Williams – 98% approval.

Congratulations to Shelly and Debra for being elected to the Board of Directors.

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**Motion to Adjourn** – Motion: Bradley Hickman. Second: Brian Brenie. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer** – Rev. Deana Dudley.