

**Northern Spirit Executive Minutes
November 17, 2021 via Zoom**

Present Gord Waldie (Chairperson), Donna Kline (Treasurer), Mary Annan, Marilyn Carroll, Peter Chynoweth, Margaret-Anne Hall, Alistair MacKay, Leslie Penny.

A quorum was present.

Corresponding Members Erin White (Property Commission), Rita Lyster (Barrhead United Church), Mike Anderson (Barrhead United Church).

Regrets There were no regrets.

Staff Present Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister), Jamie McKay (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary).

Call to Order Gord Waldie opened the meeting at 9:30 AM (MDT).

Opening Worship and Check-in Gord Waldie read a reflection.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Exception to the Property Policy – Barrhead United Church Rita Lyster and Mike Anderson of Barrhead United Church joined the meeting.

Barrhead United Church is selling their building and wish to appeal the distribution of funds as set by the Northern Spirit Property Policy. The Property Commission does not have the authority to move beyond implementing the policy, so the appeal has been brought to the Executive from Barrhead United Church for a decision.

Reasoning behind the policy As part of the principles of Northern Spirit Regional Council, the Property Policy was written with reasoning that included recognizing our role in reconciliation and supporting church development across the regional council.

The Property Policy states that any amount over \$200,000 from the sale of property is declared surplus assets. The vast majority of congregational buildings in the regional council are not worth over \$200,000. It was reasoned that surplus assets would be dispersed by the regional council for initiatives that would benefit all of the congregations and ministries within Northern Spirit.

Proposal for exception to the Property Policy A written motion wasn't made or received from Barrhead United Church asking for an exception to the Property Policy or proposing an alternate disbursement.

During discussion, it was verbally proposed that Barrhead United Church keep 90% of surplus assets from the sale of their building and share 10% with the regional council.

Rita Lyster and Mike Anderson shared some of Barrhead United's plans to move forward after the sale of their building, some of which were:

- Training for restorative practices
- Listening circles on a variety of ongoing topics
- Focus on worship, pastoral care, and community outreach
- Hiring someone to do Christian education with us
- Reach out to children, youth, and young families
- Potentially starting a before or after school program
- Become an affirming congregation

Rita Lyser, Mike Anderson, and Leslie Penny left the meeting.

Clarification

As a member of the executive, Leslie Penny of the Town of Barrhead was present for the proposal discussion but will not take part in the decision-making portion of this meeting.

Discussion

Executive general feelings:

- We want to recognize and uphold our role in reconciliation and to support church development across the regional council.
- We want all congregations to be able to move forward with their visions.
- We are interested in seeing what long-term investments can be made to support the stabilization of the northeast corner of rural Edmonton area.
- We believe there is value in revisiting the property policy, specifically to think about how we defined surplus and if that has changed.
- As a denomination, it has always been clear that property is held in trust for the denomination.

The Executive had a discussion on the proposal from Barrhead United Church to retain 90% of the building sale proceeds.

Executive concerns:

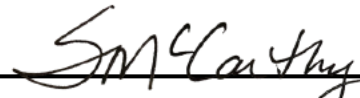
- A written motion wasn't made or received from Barrhead United Church asking for an exception to the Property Policy.
- We haven't received enough information on the long-term visioning plans of Barrhead United Church, other than what was presented during this meeting.
- We haven't heard enough about what difference the additional surplus would make to their mission and vision.
- If the plan is to use the extra surplus to fund the next five years and then close, that is not good stewardship of our resources.
- What does Barrhead United need to keep themselves firmly rooted in their mission and vision?

Considering the Northern Spirit Property Policy, the reasoning behind the drafting of the policy, the plans presented during this meeting from Barrhead United Church, and the concerns discussed, the Executive agreed to allow Barrhead United Church to retain 80% of the building sale proceeds.

- 030 – 2021/2022** **It was agreed by consensus:**
That Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive, following completion of the sale of the Barrhead United Church building, Barrhead United Church will retain 80% of the sale proceeds, with 20% of the proceeds going to Northern Spirit Regional Council, and that the 20% of proceeds going to Northern Spirit Regional Council will be disbursed by the Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive.
- For consideration** The Executive agreed there would be value in revisiting the property policy in the future.
- Next Meeting** The Executive agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom with the next regular meeting date:
 • December 8, 2021
- Closing Prayer** Gord Waldie led us in a closing prayer.
- Adjournment** Gord Waldie adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM (MDT).



Gord Waldie, Chairperson



Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

