

Affirm United S'affirmer Ensemble 2019  
Annual General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

July 28, 2019

Hillhurst United Church, Calgary AB

1. Opening and Welcoming
  - a. Michiko welcomed the community.
  - b. Michiko thanked the Hillhurst Staff.
2. Prayer
  - a. Michiko led us in prayer.
3. Holy Manners/Language Considerations.
  - a. Michiko spoke to Holy Manners.
4. Call to Order.
  - a. Meeting called to order at 12:51 pm.
5. Enabling Motion

**Motion:** that all persons present are invited to participate in the discussions and all non-members be corresponding members of the meeting. Dave Mabell/Susan Marrier. PASSED.

6. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** to approve the Agenda as circulated Rob Smith/Peter Kelsch. PASSED.

7. Approve the Minutes from 2018 AGM – Approval

**Motion:** that the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on July 13, 2018 be approved as circulated. Diane Skomash/Ruth Wood. PASSED.

8. Reports.
  - a. Co-Chair Report
    - i. Michiko Lifted up some of our challenges with respect to growth.

1. We are growing too fast for our volunteer base.
2. We have run deficit budgets for years.
- ii. Our desire to create a more radically inclusive and outspoken movement.
- b. Affirming Ministry Program Report.
  - i. Linda Huchinson, the Affirming Ministry Coordinator, gave some highlights from the report.
  - ii. See the following file:
    1. [2019-Summer-Affirming Ministries Report](#)
- c. Membership Report.
  - i. John Calhoun the Membership Coordinator, gave some highlights from the report.
  - ii. See the following file:
    1. [2019-Summer-Membership Report](#)
- d. Nominations Committee Report & Elections.
  - i. No report
9. 2018 Financial Statements.
  - a. Anne went through the 2018 Financial Reports.
  - b. See the following files:
    - i. [AUSE-Balance Sheet June 30 2019](#)
    - ii. [AUSE-Profit and Loss June 30 2019](#)
    - iii. [Final-AUSE 2018 Statement of Operations](#)
    - iv. [Final-AUSE Balance Sheet 2018](#)
    - v. [Final-AUSE Profit & Loss 2018](#)

**Motion:** Acceptance of Financial statements. Janet Campbell/Bob Fillier. Carried.

10. 2019 Budget.

- a. Please see the following file:
  - i. [2020 Affirm United Budget Final](#)
- b. Budgeting for council meetings.
  - i. AUSE currently pays for everyone to attend the Annual Winter Meetings but pays only for the executive to attend the Annual Summer Meetings and Conference. AUSE Council believes that there will be increased effectiveness if we meet as a full council twice a year. This will come with an added expense of \$2,000 - \$3,000.

**Motion:** That AUSE pay full travel expenses for both summer and winter council meetings.  
Anne Wood/John Calhoun. PASSED.

- c. Changing of membership fees
  - i. What tools will be required to be truly affirming and inclusive of BIPOC and disabled folk?
  - ii. AUSE must better support for existing affirming ministries.
  - iii. We need tools for measuring success.
  - iv. We need to increase our fundraising.
  - v. We undervalue ourselves and don't ask for enough.
  - vi. We need to tell people 'who AUSE is' to raise fees.
  - vii. Regional Councils might pay more.
  - viii. Need some way to say that the ability to pay a membership fee won't be a barrier to membership.
  - ix. Ask for increased staff time at Regional Council
  - x. We don't have to fund everything through membership fees.

**Michiko Bown-Kaie passed the chair to Cindy Bourgeois.**

**Motion:** Membership fee: 1/20 of 1% gross operating revenue of prior operating year with a minimum of \$100 Peter K./John Calhoun.

It quickly became apparent that more discussion was needed.

Peter and John withdrew the motion.

- xi. Karen King had a suggestion:
  - 1. Increase membership fee to 500 supplemented by AUSE for members who can't afford it.
  - 2. Increase individual membership fee to 50.
  - 3. Tell the Membership that AUSE are aiming for \$250,000 budget.
  - 4. Ask for 1% of property sales from Regional councils.
- xii. Bob Fillier had a suggestion.
  - 1. \$500 for Communities of faith et al, \$1,000 for regions, \$50 for individuals.
  - 2. Bring a long term funding model to the next meeting.
  - 3. Leave details of a sliding scale decisions to the executive.
- xiii. Jane Miller had a comment.
  - 1. The conversation is at the thinking stage. We are not ready to move forward in this process.
  - 2. Jane is her congregation will shut down conversation with AUSE with an increase in membership.
- xiv. There conversation about having to request a subsidy. AUSE has a generous history of subsidies. There is no shame.

**Motion:** Budget as presented except with a \$16,000 deficit and no increase in membership fees.. Susan Barrier, Janet Campbell NOT PASSED.

**Motion:** Increase congregational Membership Fees as follows:

Individual memberships increased from \$40 to \$50.

Regional council memberships increased from \$40 to \$1,000

All others (Communities of Faith, Camps, Retirement Homes etc.) will use the following formula:

1/20 of 1% of gross operating revenue to a maximum of \$500.

**Amendment to Motion:** Minimum membership fee of \$100 be added to the funding formula.  
John Calhoun/Peter Kelsch. PASSED.

Peter Kelsch/Karen King PASSED.

**Motion:** To approve the Budget for 2019 Anne Wood/Janet Campbell. PASSED.

**Motion:** AUSE council develop a long term viable funding model to be presented at 2020 AGM Bruce Hutchinson/Peter Kelsch. Passed.

**Motion:** That AUSE put together a program for services that it will be providing with increased budget Karen King/Diane Skomash. PASSED.

11. Sharing.

- a. There was a request for youth planning at future events.

12. Council Membership

Executive for 2019:

- Michiko Bown-Kai, Co-Chair
- Katie Vardy, Co-Chair
- Cindy Bourgeois, Secretary
- Anne Wood, Treasurer

**Motion:** Approve current council continue for another year, fill positions as needed. Bruce Hutchinson/John Calhoun PASSED.

13. New Business

- a. Approval of Reviewer of Financial Statements

**Motion:** that AUSE Council be authorized to approve the appointment of a Reviewer of the Financial Statements of AUSE for the 2018 financial year.

- b. 2019 call for locations.
  - i. People will consider hosting the 2020 conference.

14. News of activities from across the country.

- a. We were all exhausted and wanted to go home.

15. Closing Prayer.

- a. Cindy led us in prayer.

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16. Meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm by consensus.