

RCCO - Grey Bruce Centre Meeting - Draft
Sunday, April 7th, 2019

Kincardine United Church, Kincardine, ON

Present: President, Father Ed Wagner; Vice-President, Marilyn Dickson; Treasurer, Hilery McAlpine; Secretary, Satomi Currah; Immediate Past President, Richard Smith; Webmaster, Julian Delf; Azrael Hackshaw, David Hamilton, Ian McAlpine, Laura McAlpine, John Tite, Marjorie Tite,

Fr Ed led grace at 5:30 pm., and this was followed by a pot-luck supper. We had the pleasure of dining with Ms. Liz Dillman (Treasurer), who managed the kitchen for us, Rev. Gord Dunbar (Minister) and Rev. Kerry Stover (Intern), all of Kincardine United Church. Before our supper and business meeting, members who had agreed to contribute to 2019 *Harmonies in the Midst of Madness and Miracle* (Good Friday, April 19) had a chance to practice on the 1984 Dubai organ.

No educational component was scheduled, and the time after the meal was devoted entirely to business. This allowed for some catch-up given that January's meeting had been cancelled, and because the meeting following this one (April 7th) will be the AGM (June 9th) and will include election of a new president.

At 6:15 pm., Fr Ed called the meeting to order, noting we hadn't met since November 2018, after having failed twice to meet this year due to bad weather. Marj moved adoption of the agenda, seconded by Julian. Carried. Fr Ed mentioned the possibility of using apps, such as "GoToMeeting", which would enable us to have future meetings without physically attending.

Acceptance of the draft minutes of November 2018 centre meeting was moved by Richard, with the correction of Sarah Svendsen's last name ("Svendsen" rather than "Svenson") pointed out by Satomi. Seconded by Ian.

Fr Ed stated that, according to our bylaws (March 2017), the election of officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Immediate Past President, Chaplain) and Member at Large is required when terms are over. This June, Fr Ed's term as a president will be over, so we will need to elect a new president (the president can be re-elected after a two-year hiatus). Also Marilyn's term as Vice-President, Hilery's as Treasurer, and Dwayne's as Membership Coordinator will end, although they are re-electable. The term of Member at Large, currently Gertrude, will also be over (re-electable after one-year's hiatus). Exception is Secretary; Satomi, who has served for the first year of the two-year term (after Julian), will remain for one more year (re-electable).

We unanimously agreed to hold elections at the coming AGM. Marilyn reminded us that two years ago we nominated candidates for each position by emailing the names of the candidates individually prior to the gathering where final selection was to be made. The

names—every current full member of GBRCCO is the pool—were gathered, and where a name was mentioned by more than two persons, that name became eligible to be a candidate and was disclosed at the gathering¹.

John suggested that, faced with the heavy workload for the officers and the small size of our group, we should think of reorganizing the offices. Reorganization of offices would involve changes to the bylaws (i.e., a case of special resolution), which would require presence of 60% of voting members and a 75% majority vote. Fr Ed suggested restructuring offices should be a task for the next council.

Marilyn offered regrets for being unable to host AGM originally scheduled for Sunday June 23 at her residence². Laura, Hilery, and Ian offered to host AGM on Sunday June 9th instead. Marilyn so moved, and Azrael seconded. Carried with all in favour. Richard moved that the meal be catered. David seconded. Family McAlpine was asked to decide on the location (either St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Walkerton or the McAlpine residence in Riversdale) and caterer.

From June 30, 2019, Fr Ed will serve as regional director (Region 5), replacing David Palmer who has for years tirelessly represented GBRCCO as the Western Ontario (Region 5) regional director. His letter, dated March 27th, 2019, informing us that he had submitted a letter of resignation to President, Vice-President, and Executive Director of RCCO, had been circulated among us on April 2nd.

There is a sentiment that local centres receive directives (e.g., the board's motion on prayer at centre meetings in the letter by the President of RCCO, October 2nd, 2018) from the national office but are not invited to provide input. In attempts to deal with this, Fr. Ed said he is learning how communications within RCCO work and is planning to encourage a more bottom-up flow of information by visiting the other centres in Region 5, i.e., Chatham, London, Windsor Essex, and Stratford (dormant).

Release of the national RCCO's strategic plan (2017-2020) has spurred some debate about whether we should have a strategic plan for the GB centre. Fr Ed proposed that we start by asking ourselves what we want to be five years from now. In retrospect, one of our main strengths has been friendship, and certainly we have enjoyed meeting each other five times a year or so, but what is our vision for the future?

David and Julian think continuing to offer *GROW (Grey Bruce RCCO Organ Week)*: *Organ Encounter Week* should be one of the actions in our strategic plan.

¹Immediately after the meeting, Fr Ed and Satomi had the following communication. This time around, prior to AGM, again, this nomination procedure will be followed, which will be administered by two members whose names will not appear in the ballot: Fr Ed (to be the next Immediate Past President automatically) and Satomi (with one more year in the office of Secretary). And at AGM the names of the candidates will be disclosed for the final selection.

² Since this meeting, Marilyn has agreed to host the AGM at her place in Durham on June 9th.

Satomi pointed out that two areas of focus in the National Strategic Plan are “capacity building” (money-wise or policy-wise “to support ongoing services and new initiatives”) and “outreach” (“to raise visibility...to ensure broad recognition and support for the organ community”). *Harmonies in the Midst of Madness and Miracle* and *GROW* cover these two areas.

Fr Ed cited his writing under “RCCO” and “Why donate to the scholarship fund?” at the end of the program for this year’s *Harmonies*, where he profiles our centre as having a uniquely liturgical membership and focus. The article goes on to state that with this strong identity, the GBRCCO has successfully inspired young organists through the summer organ academy (i.e., *GROW*) and through offering organ scholarships (for which donations are sought). This uniqueness and identity as liturgical organists should serve as our vision.

Fr Ed apologized that he missed the deadline (March 15th) to inform the national office of our new centre fee, and read out at this meeting his email to national office explaining that, although he had earlier written to let National know of our ongoing electronic discussion on March 6, failure to inform them of the actual decision on March 15 was entirely his fault. Consequently this year’s fee is still \$9. The \$0 centre fee, which we agreed to after an email opinion exchange (“Centre Fee for 2019-2020”, “Centre Fee for 2019-2020: Addendum” and “Centre Fee for 2019-2010: A new proposal for our members”, March 4th - March 12th, 2019), will apply to next year’s cycle. A donation to the GBRCCO, instead of a centre fee, is encouraged. Fr Ed provided some feedback to national office from his own interaction with RCCO webpage to designate the Grey Bruce Centre as a recipient for donations. David offered that among comparable musical associations’ fees, the RCCO national fee seems high. Marilyn disagreed, adding that funds return to the local centre in the form of scholarships and these are under the Centre’s control.

Fr Ed asked if we need a budget. Treasurer Hilery said that account activities are quite routine, and having a budget may not play any role in this routine. The next slate of executives should look into it.

As another method of raising funds for scholarship purposes, John said that, based on past success, a “hymn festival” would be a good fund-raising event, perhaps in the fall (in October, before snow fall). A hymn festival is where participants sing favourite (pre-selected) hymns from the hymn book available in the church. In a carefully programmed sequence, organists take turns to accompany, and sometimes play solo pieces (to give breaks to the singers). Fr Ed has documents of many of such events and has a lot of programming ideas. Julian volunteered to help Fr Ed in planning a hymn festival.

Ongoing Business

- Travelling Clinician (Gertrude and Fr Ed)

Gertrude was absent, but Fr Ed had talked to Gertrude. Sarah Svendsen will adjudicate at the Midwestern Ontario Rotary Music Festival in Walkerton on Monday April 22nd,

2019, and will offer a master class afterwards on the same day. Fr Ed will arrange food for everyone between the festival and masterclass. The masterclass should be over by 8 pm.

It was originally thought that we could ask Sarah to provide a fund-raising concert during the Midwestern Ontario Rotary Music Festival (April 22nd - May 4th, 2019), but it was difficult to schedule with other festival-related events going in the vicinity. Fr Ed contacted Bluewater District School Board with the idea of Sarah giving a class to school children at St. Mark's Church (two blocks walking distance away from Chesley District Community School) in the afternoon of May 15, 2019. Both school board and teachers at Chesley District Community School were supportive. Sarah kindly agreed to make a separate trip for this event.

- Float in Community Parades (Dwayne and John)

Dwayne was absent. John listed problems of providing a float in community events: where to store, how to move (we are all scattered), who will man the float, who will play the organ. So we should take this item off the agenda.

- Local Orgelkit (John)

National RCCO wants us to use their national kit. Although specs are available, equipment for production is not. John considered replacing wooden pipes with metal pipes in order to lower the cost, but metal pipes are not as durable as wooden ones, which would be crucial for an interactive kit. We however like the idea of renting one of the national kits from time to time.

- Owen Sound BALL (Bluewater Association of Lifelong Learning)³ presentation (Julian)

We will not be giving our organ talk during the 2019-2020 series. We will be considered for the May-June 2020-2021 series, so we should prepare for this special lecture.

- 2020 *GROW* (Grey Bruce RCCO Organ Week): *Organ Encounter Week* Update (Marilyn)

2019 *GROW* will not be staged this year because the Halifax Festival (July 7-11, 2019) is offering a summer organ academy (July 2-7, 2019) prior to the festival. The 2020 *GROW* is not planned yet. It was suggested that we advertise it at the hymn festival this fall. Fr Ed noted that the summer academy in Halifax offers three registration streams: Youth (14-19 years old), Performance, and Church Organist, where "Church Organist" is a recognized category.

Reports

- Vice-President

³ www.bluewaterlearns.com

Vice-President Marilyn reported that a group of young people at Knox United Church, Durham (“Gospel Crew”, four children) are into compositions and sing their works at the church.

- Immediate Past President

Immediate Past President Richard announced that he agreed to be president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 202, Lion’s Head, which will keep him busier for the next two years. During his recent travels in Italy, he saw a lot of young people in the church he attended that featured the old full Latin Mass and a small choir singing Renaissance Propers and Ordinary, and was full, including many young people. Relating to younger generation’s enthusiasm in classical music and Latin language, Hilery added that she also observed children enjoying singing Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem in a school production in Chatham.

- Treasurer

Treasurer Hilery reported that the current bank balance sits at \$3162.62. Satomi asked what the \$4.50 income as membership fee is (our centre fee is \$9). \$4.50 is a half-year centre fee for a returning member. Hilery also reported that she had missed notifying the Midwestern Ontario Rotary Music Festival in Walkerton program advertisement deadline⁴.

- Secretary

Secretary Satomi has no report.

- Webmaster

Webmaster Julian reports he needs much more content to enrich our centre webpage—to which Fr Ed, who has been contributing most of the fresh content so far, offered a hearty Amen.

Fr Ed said the website costs around \$500 a year, which is about average price. Fr Ed has paid for it personally in the past. Do we want to continue using the webpage? Laura said she never looks at it, while Satomi serving as a secretary frequently needs to look up the centre archival records on the webpage to find out what happened in the past at centre meetings.

Marilyn suggested we piggyback on the national RCCO webpage to lower the cost. Satomi pointed out that the third area of focus in the national RCCO’s strategic plan 2017-2020 (in addition to “capacity building” and “outreach”) is “resources” (to “increase the ability of the RCCO to deliver greater value of our membership and the organ community at large”), and in this area, to “[e]nhance online member resources” and to “[d]evelop and provide programmatic and organizational templates for Regional Centres to improve accessibility and efficiency” is a part of the RCCO’s objectives. Therefore, we have a strong case here to ask national RCCO to allow us to piggyback on their webpage. Fr Ed asked Julian to contact national office regarding this matter.

⁴ After the meeting, Hilery discovered that the ad will indeed appear as intended.

- Membership Coordinator
Membership Coordinator Dwayne was absent.

Fr Ed opened the floor to general discussion.

Julian, on behalf of Rob, announced Central Westside United Church, Owen Sound, needs a music director. Contact the church for further information.

Marj announced Great Lake Winds will offer a concert at Central Westside United Church, Owen Sound, at 2:30 pm. on May 5th, 2019.

David will send practice session booking table to Satomi to circulate among contributing members for *Harmonies in the Midst of Madness and Miracle* on Friday April 19, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next meeting (AGM): Sunday June 9th, 2019 at Marilyn Dickson's residence in Durham. Catered meal.

Elections will be held.

Submitted by
Satomi