

# The Bridge Members Meeting Minutes

**Sunday, June 6, 2021**

**2:00pm – 3:30pm Online via Zoom Webinar**

**Call to Order:** Pastor Brian called the meeting to order at 2:11pm and welcomed everyone, thanking them for their attendance. He explained that the purpose of this meeting is to work through 3 reports and for the members to vote on two motions. Pastor Emily reminded members to officially check in through the Q&A chat and for those sharing devices to enter each individual's first and last name.

**Recording Secretary:** Pastor Brian communicated that Sonia Tan, as the Board Secretary, has been appointed as recording secretary for the meeting. Brian asked for any objections to be communicated in the Q&A chat box. No objections made.

**Membership Roster – Establishing the Voting Bar and Quorum:** Pastor Brian reported that there are 310 members on the official membership list and that 124 members were required to establish quorum. As members continued to register and the team worked to establish the quorum number, Pastor Emily led a quiz time with trivia questions. Pastor Brian confirmed they had established quorum since 129 members were present with a few more still registering.

**Meeting Instructions:** Pastor Emily explained that members will have the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting and reminded them to submit questions using the Q&A chat box and to send any private messages to the Admin team (Angharad Hatt, Cynthia Yoon, Rachel Boadway, Shauna Weir) using the regular chat box. She communicated that during the meeting, members will be hearing a series of updates and presentations and will vote on 3 items: acceptance of last November's Annual Members Meeting Minutes and 2 motions related to the by-laws.

Pastor Emily also reminded everyone that every member should have entered their first and last name to register, including those who are sharing devices since each individual member will be receiving a voting ballot email shortly with their voter ID, voter key, and login link. For those who share an email address with their spouse, or who are a proxy holder, they will receive two emails, one addressed to them, and the other one addressed to the other person.

**Acceptance of Past Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, November 22, 2020 were uploaded to *the bridge* website and made available to the members, as per the by-laws. Members were given the opportunity to approve the minutes when voting took place later in the meeting.

**Governance Report:** Jey Anandarajan, the Nomination Committee Chairman began by explaining that at last November's Annual meeting, the membership had passed the motion for the Board to explore a process that would allow for the appointment of board members from a list of names nominated by the membership and to present the proposed process to the members before the next AGM. The Board had struck a committee which comprised of

Brian Childs, Joanne Williams, Sonia Tan, Cynthia Yoon, Winston Stewart, Paul Yoon, and Jey Anandarajan to determine the process and timeline.

The Process: The committee researched other churches procedures, discussed *the bridge's* needs prayerfully and thoughtfully, and consulted a lawyer experienced in constitutional matters to ensure that our changes would align with the Ontario law. Jey added that since the Ontario government has also recommended that corporations amend their by-laws to allow for holding of electronic meetings, voting, and notification, this had also been included into the Committee's scope as well.

General Operating By-law Changes: Jey reviewed the two by-law changes that needed to be voted on. The amendments were shared with the members four weeks prior to the Members Meeting:

- The first amendment pertained to electronic notification of Members' Meetings, calling and holding virtual meetings, and conducting voting electronically.
- The second amendment pertained to the new board member election process as directed by the bridge membership motion. The main change being proposed is that once the Nominating Committee considers the nominees using the by-law requirements and vets the nominees, they will present to the members a list of nominees, equal to the number of open positions to be filled on the Board. Should the committee be unable to find a sufficient number of qualified candidates to fill the number of open positions, they will present only those candidates who are qualified. As per Ontario law, members will vote on each individual nominee. Only nominees who receive a majority vote will be accepted for the Board position.
- Two motions to be voted on:
  - That the bridge update **Article 10 Meeting of Members of By-Law No. 1A**, as per the Bridge General Operating By-law Change Log dated May 4, 2021.
  - That the bridge update **Article 5 Board, Article 9 Nomination Committee, Appendix C and Appendix D** of By-Law No. 1A, as per the Bridge General Operating By-law Change Log dated May 4, 2021

Pastor Brian and Jey responded to various questions raised by members, including the following:

- *What measurement is used to determine the 6 C's of a candidate since they are largely subjective in nature?* Pastor Brian explained that they work through a disciplined approach of objectivity by having 2 board members, 2 congregational members, and himself as a staff member and pastor to evaluate the 6 C's once the candidate passes the first 4 requirements. While the committee evaluates the character, calling, chemistry, competency, and conviction through feedback and clarification, the candidate has to speak to the "capacity" factor.
- *Will the changes to the process create more or less transparency on who is put forward and who are short-listed?* Jey explained that once the vetting is done, the committee comes back and shares how many nominations came in, how many candidates were qualified, and how many allowed their name to stand. The final

candidates' names are eventually published to be voted on. The transparency factor is the same as the current process. Jey explained the rationale for the change is that people found it stressful to vote for someone they didn't know as the congregation has grown larger, so they want to entrust the committee to do a thorough process and select the best candidates for the members to affirm.

- *How do you evaluate capacity?* Pastor Brian shared that there's an initial discussion amongst the committee as to their perception of the individual's capacity, but then there's an actual dialogue between the candidate and a Nomination Committee member that will surface whether or not they have the capacity to fulfill the role over the next 3 years.

**Electronic Voting:** Pastor Emily communicated that voting members in attendance will have received their electronic ballot via email and gave a walk-through of the voting process so members understand the steps to take. Slide presentation on building project played to give members time to submit their votes and for the Admin team to tally the votes received.

**The bridge Building Update:** Kevin Aide presented an update on the building project to share where we are on this project. He shared that it was 5 years ago when we started the discussion about the land sale, and it has been 3 years since the start of the project.

Construction Progress: Kevin shared that the demolition of the atrium, hub, and original church was complete. There would be a new elevator that will allow every part of the building to be accessible by everyone. The new 16th Ave. entrance way has been constructed by Andrin. Storm mains and rain tank were installed, as well as a new upgraded water main. No major surprises have occurred during the demolition or excavation.

Project Progress: Kevin shared that *the bridge* is blessed to have a strong project team made up of amazing volunteers, along with Cynthia representing the staff, who meet regularly with the General Contractor. They are actively involved in the ongoing construction project, meeting every 2 weeks to review and approve change requests. One of the first things they did was lock in major suppliers/ contractors early in the year to lock in prices before they went up. Financially, the project is functioning within the budget presented at the AGM.

Project Outlook: Kevin explained that Covid-19 lockdown extended the project by 4-6 weeks, but they were still able to make progress even during the restrictions. While significant work is required before the church is able to safely start using parts of the building, we're striving towards the following occupancy plan:

- Use of the gymnasium for smaller gatherings around Nov 2021
- Use of the new auditorium: Feb 2022
- Full use of the new building: July 2022 (Note: partial and full occupancy is contingent upon City of Markham approval)

Pastor Brian expressed appreciation to Kevin and the amazing project team stewarding over this building project.

**Building Campaign:** Pastor Brian introduced Neil Maskery, one of the board members who is serving as the Capital Campaign Director, helping to raise funds towards the building project, and working with Pastor Brian and Earl on the communication strategy. Neil shared the reason for the Building Hope campaign, explaining that we are a 4G church: Gather, Group, Give, and Go, which encapsulates the way we do ministry and the way we build hope in the community. He explained that raising funds now through the capital campaign will allow us to direct the majority of our financial resources to ministry to avoid a situation where debt payments compete with ministries for funding.

Good news: Neil highlighted some positive news to be excited about, including the following:

- We have reduced the project risk. There was the risk when we demolished the old building that we would uncover problems/issues that could be expensive to address. Thankfully, no surprises surfaced and the risk is out of the picture.
- Costs = forecast. Our costs are coming in on forecast. Because we locked in prices for our big ticket items early, our costs match up to our November forecast.
- Talented and Committed team. We have such a well-run and professional team of staff and volunteers who are committed to this multi-year project.

Where are we now? Neil reminded everyone that regular updates are shared every week on the buildinghope.ca website. He shared that we had a strong start to the campaign in the first 8 weeks with a total of \$213,660 (14%) received to date, and a total of \$342,432 already pledged.

Why should I participate? Neil challenged everyone to wrestle with this question to find their own compelling reason to participate and presented some thought starters for consideration:

- Joining the legacy of those who have gone before us
- Obedience to God's word speaks louder than any other voice - where your treasure is, your heart will also be.
- Belonging to an organization and purpose greater than just ourselves
- Desiring to influence our community and future generations - we want to know that when it was our turn, we did our part and our best

**Voting Results:** Pastor Brian announced they had the voting results and Pastor Emily shared the following:

- 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes were approved at 98%
- Approval of the motion for electronic (virtual) meetings was 98%
- Approval for the motion for the board election process was 95%

**Close & Adjournment:** Motion of adjournment made. Pastor Brian closed the meeting by expressing appreciation for everyone's attendance and participation. Meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.