

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2019

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**WELCOME:**

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Sanctuary of Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Ewart Morse, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:**

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- Laurel Cowie, Past Chair
- Ewart Morse, Chair
- David Walker, Vice Chair
- Corrine Zinck, Secretary
- Rev. Jeff Chant, Minister
- Marg Forbes, Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Angela Clifton, Worship Committee
- Tracy Rafuse, Faith Formation Committee
- Brian Buck, Finance Committee
- Randall Knox, Property Committee
- Marion Browne, UCW
- Jack Logan, Regional Council Representative
- Bev Burgess, Member at Large
- Karen Crouse, Member at Large

Committee/Ministry Members/Guests Present (Non-voting): Richard Greek, Beau Prince, Gordon Davidson.

Regrets: Blake Hirtle, Ruth Rudderham, Bob Reynolds, Natasha Freeman, Sam Elsworth.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**OPENING WORSHIP:**

Laurel Cowie, Inclusivity Committee, opened the meeting with a prayer.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:**

**Motion:** Marg Forbes/Bev Burgess that those persons present who are not Council members or designates can participate in discussion but will not have a vote.  
**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion:** Karen Crouse/Marion Browne that the Agenda be approved as circulated.  
**Motion Carried.**

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**MINUTES:**

- February 27, 2019 Church Council regular meeting:  
**Motion:** Jack Logan/Marion Browne to approve the draft Minutes of the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**
- March 20, 2019 Council Executive Minutes were circulated for information only.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**Annual Congregational Meeting:**

The Annual Congregational Meeting was not held as scheduled on March 3, 2019. Due to a snow storm, it was postponed until the following week and held on March 10, 2019. It was noted that there should have been two weeks' notice for the postponed meeting. To avoid this oversight in the future, we will provide a storm date when announcing the date for the Annual Meeting.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Motion:** Brian Buck/Jack Logan to approve the Finance Committee Report as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ministry & Personnel Committee Report:**

Marg Forbes circulated Angela Clifton's position description (attached).

**Pastoral Care/Worship Committee Reports:**

Angela Clifton noted that the two reports were reversed in the Committee Reports handout. Corrine advised that it was her error and a correction will be made.

Rev. Jeff Chant advised that the issue of home communion has been addressed. Elements will be consecrated during regular communions and will then be distributed, within one week, by teams of members who will receive training in offering home communion.

**Property Report:**

Randall Knox reported that a new custodian has been hired. She will work 5 days per week from Monday to Friday and will be managed by Jaspro Services. Persons using the facility over the weekend will need to take extra care to ensure that the property is maintained in a suitable condition. Any issues are to be addressed through the Property Committee Chair.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Occupational Health and Safety:**

Bev Burgess reported that she has reviewed the Occupational Health and Safety Act and we require the following:

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- An Occupational Health and Safety Policy (required for five employees).
- An annual review of the policy.

She advised that the United Church of Canada has a sample policy template which can be used.

**Motion:** Bev Burgess/Jack Logan that Bridgewater United Church adopt the policy as provided by the United Church of Canada. **Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Thank you from Trinity United Church, Mahone Bay, for the audio-visual equipment which was donated to them.
- Invitation from the Atlantic School of Theology to attend their Annual Gala Dinner on Friday, May 3, 2019.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Every Person Visitation:**

Discussion regarding how to engage with church members and adherents and invite them to confirm their pride in this church and increase their participation. Past stewardship campaigns and visitations have been very successful. Suggestions regarding what could happen as we move forward were discussed. It was concluded that we have an opportunity to create initiatives beyond what we currently have. An ad hoc task group consisting of Ewart Morse, Jack Logan, Richard Greek, Karen Crouse, Marg Forbes and Bev Burgess, was formed to plan a strategy.

**Revitalization of the Chapel:**

Property Committee, Worship Committee and the Sunday School have all noted that the Dayspring Chapel is becoming a space for storage. Discussion took place regarding how to increase utilization of this space. It was suggested that the front remain as it currently is, the pews be removed and replaced with surplus chairs (now stored in the church cloakroom), and the floor be carpeted. This would provide additional meeting space for church or outside groups while retaining its original purpose of being a chapel.

**Motion:** Jack Logan/David Walker that the Dayspring Chapel, in consultation with the Burns family, be converted to functional and usable space by keeping the chancel intact, removing pews and refurbishing the floors. **Motion Carried.**

**Action:** Rev. Chant and Richard Greek to contact the Burns family members. Property Committee to be responsible for refurbishing the chapel.

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**Inter-Church Council:**

Karen Crouse noted that there have been reports from Bridgewater town residents that they have received flyers in their mailboxes regarding a door-to-door campaign for the Food Bank. She advised that this information should be disregarded as it is not coming from the Food Bank. The matter is being addressed by the Food Bank.

**CLOSING MOTIONS:**

**Motion:** Laurel Cowie/Bev Burgess that powers be given to the Church Council Executive to deal with all such business that may come before it until the next Council meeting. **Motion Carried.**

**Motion:** Randall Knox/Jack Logan to close the meeting at 8:40 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Rev. Chant closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair