

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2019

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Sanctuary of Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday, April 24th, 2019. Ewart Morse, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with an Acknowledgement of Land.

A card was presented to Tracy Rafuse in honour of Office Administrators' Day.

ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- Laurel Cowie, Past Chair
- Ewart Morse, Chair
- David Walker, Vice Chair
- Corrine Zinck, Secretary
- Blake Hirtle, Treasurer
- Rev. Jeff Chant, Minister
- Marg Forbes, Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Angela Clifton, Worship Committee
- Tracy Rafuse, Faith Formation Committee
- Richard Greek, Finance Committee
- Bob Forbes, Property Committee
- Sam Elsworth, Nominating Committee
- Ruth Rudderham, UCW
- Jack Logan, Regional Council Representative
- Bev Burgess, Member at Large
- Karen Crouse, Member at Large

Committee/Ministry Members/Guests Present (Non-voting): Ivan Rodenhiser, Beau Prince, Marion Browne.

Regrets: Randall Knox, Anne Gatchell.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP:

Marg Forbes, Ministry & Personnel Committee, opened the meeting with a reading from the book used in the recent Lenten Study, "Everyday Skeptics" followed by prayer.

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2019

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Sam Elsworth/Marg Forbes 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: Bev Burgess/Ruth Rudderham that the Agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

- March 27, 2019 Church Council regular meeting:
Motion: Karen Crouse/Laurel Cowie to approve the draft Minutes of the March 27th, 2019 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Bev Burgess to approve the Finance Committee Report as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

Given the current deficit, it was suggested that the church needs to explore an avenue to create a more sustainable revenue stream.

It was decided to hold a Church Council Retreat (date to be arranged by Rev. Chant) to discuss informally where we want to go in the future and explore options of reaching our goals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Minister's Report:

Rev. Jeff Chant outlined the following:

- We need some sort of communication theme – need a few people to co-ordinate – perhaps younger family members who are into social media.
- There was good attendance at Holy Week services.
- The Memorial Ministry has used funds for a new candle holder to hold the inclusivity and the Christ candles.
- Families and individuals who have joined our congregation since 2017 have been identified. Rev. Chant plans to meet with them in the next few weeks – hold a pizza party and provide child care. He will try to determine why they chose this congregation and why they have stayed. He also plans to hold small teas in the library with 8 to 10 people present.
- Regarding the Dayspring Chapel, he has been in contact with Pauline Crouse, but she was not sure if her family donated the pews. Her brother-in-law was unsure

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2019

either. Ewart suggested that Rev. Chant contact Ralph Getson, Jr. who may be able to confirm the donation.

- Rev. Chant is still looking into the possibility of holding a spring concert in the Sanctuary.

Inclusivity Committee Report:

Rev. Jeff Chant advised that the Committee is exploring one initiative – to create visibility that shows that the church is open and welcome. A suggestion is some sort of banner to be attached to the bell tower.

Property Committee Report:

The report noted that the representative from the Board of Trustees has not attended a Property Committee meeting for over two years. It is not expected that the representative attends every Committee meeting but there should have been some attendance during that time. This item will be taken back to the Board of Trustees to address.

UCW Report:

The request for persons to assist in moving chairs and tables was noted. Tracy Rafuse will place a notice in the church bulletin requesting volunteers.

Pastoral Care Committee Report:

Angela Clifton thanked the Memorial Ministry for purchasing communion kits to be used to provide home communion. This week, following the Easter Service, twelve persons received home communion and they were very moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Every Person Visitation:

Ewart circulated Minutes of the “Way Forward” Ad Hoc Committee who has met once since the last Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A card from Hillside Pines Home for Special Care thanking Bridgewater United for the volunteer work provided to the home and to advise that, due to a current flooring project, there will be no volunteer appreciation open house event this year.
- A letter from Catherine Isaac Jamieson thanking the church for the use of the Sanctuary for this year’s Bridgewater Music Festival.
- Minutes (Apr 1, 2019) and financial report from Wee Wisdom Nursery School Board (for information only).
- Minutes (Mar 19, 2019) and financial report from Bridgewater Day Care Committee (for information only).

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2019

NEW BUSINESS:

Posters/Pictures on Walls:

Committees were reminded that, to avoid peeling paint, posters should be placed on bulletin boards throughout the facility and not on the walls.

Committee Photos:

Tracy Rafuse requested that each Committee should advise her of their next meeting so that pictures can be taken for the website.

Identifying Community Needs:

Discussion regarding community initiatives and how we can share information about what is happening in our community and ways that we can offer support.

Motion: Bob Forbes/Jack Logan to close the meeting at 8:15 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Ewart Morse closed the meeting with a thought from the April 16 Observer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair