

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2019

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Chapel of Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019. Ewart Morse, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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
- Tracy Rafuse, Faith Formation Committee
- Brian Buck, Finance Committee
- Randall Knox, Property Committee
- Sam Elsworth, Nominating Committee
- Angela Clifton, Pastoral Care Committee
- Ruth Rudderham, UCW

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

Regrets: Bev Burgess, Marion Browne, Jack Logan.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP:

Randall Knox, Property Committee, opened the meeting with an online devotional based on Jeremiah 29:11, followed by prayer.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Laurel Cowie/David Walker 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: David Walker/Brian Buck that the Agenda be approved as with the addition of Mission Team under New Business. **Motion Carried.**

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MINUTES:

- June 26, 2019 Church Council regular meeting:
Motion: Blake Hirtle/Ruth Rudderham to approve the draft Minutes of the June 26th, 2019 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**
- August 25, 2019 Council Executive Minutes were circulated (for information only).
- September 18, 2019 Council Executive Minutes were circulated (for information only).

APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Minister's Report:

Rev. Jeff Chant reported:

- The Council Retreat held on Saturday, September 14, 2019 was very successful. There was an energy for trying new things with many ideas for outreach. It would be worthwhile to hold retreats several times annually. The following purpose was developed:
 - *“To create a vibrant community of followers of Jesus where everyone deeply knows they belong, are cared for, can grow spiritually, and can actively demonstrate our love in the world and towards one another”.*
- He has been very busy with:
 - Regional duties – serving on the Regional Future Directions Committee and supervising the Caledonia pastoral charge.
 - Developing a social media strategy re sermons, messages, etc. A grant of \$4,000 has been received to purchase a camera to record sermons (20 minutes) which will be made available for viewing ~ “Church in 20”.
- Rawlins Cross Concert, Oct. 19, 2019 – the concert has been ‘sold out’. The Ways and Means Committee are coordinating various duties for that evening and will need many hands to help. There was discussion regarding offering food during intermission and, due to the expected congestion in the hallways, it was decided not to offer any food.
- He would like at least 20 minutes at each Council meeting to discuss our purpose and/or have a presentation to increase awareness of community programs and needs. The Inclusivity Committee met today and looked at the Senior Friendly Program. They would like to invite them to the next Church Council meeting on October 30, 2019.

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- Lennie Gallant has indicated that he is available to do a concert in the spring of 2020. We need a process for booking concerts to be approved by Council.

Action: Ways & Means Committee to work out the details for the approval process.

Motion: David Walker/Blake Hirtle that we host the Lennie Gallant concert on Friday, May 15, 2019 – details to be worked out. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Invitation from Bridgewater Day Care Centre of the Bridgewater United Church to their 50th Anniversary celebrations to be held in the Christian Education Centre on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clarification of District Rep Roles:

Discussion regarding the roles of District Reps who deliver church communication to members and adherents included:

- The feeling that the reps are just “mail carriers”.
- Members who attend church could easily pick up their letters at the church.
- Some persons are not at home/do not answer the door and the reps are unable to meet them in person.
- Should we continue to deliver letters to those who we do not see at church?
- Many people come to the church office to express the fact that they appreciate receiving the correspondence.
- Angela Clifton is getting a lot more calls from District Reps to report issues.

It was agreed by consensus that we should continue the practice of delivering correspondence as is currently in place. Since there is nothing in the Governance Handbook to cover this role, we need to clearly define the expectation and include it in the handbook.

Motion to Strike a Team to Explore Redevelopment:

This topic was discussed at the Council Retreat held on Sept 14th.

Motion: David Walker/Sam Elsworth to strike an ad hoc committee to explore what the possibilities are to redevelop the church property to keep within our Mission but generate a sustainable revenue stream for the future. **Motion Carried.**

October Council Meeting – Change in Date:

Due to a conflict in Rev. Jeff’s schedule, the October 2019 Church Council meeting will be changed from October 23rd to October 30th.

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BUC Mission Team:

Brian Buck reported that the Mission Team is busy planning fund-raising projects for the next year to support their trip to the Dominican Republic in 2020. They are doing a presentation at Westside United Church on Sunday, Sept 29th and have signed on several new members to the team.

Motion: Laurel Cowie/David Walker that the Mission Team be permitted to place “cans for change” in the church over the next four to six months. **Motion Carried.**

Christmas Parade in Bridgewater:

Laurel Cowie advised that the Inclusivity Committee has discussed how to reach the public and is suggesting a float in the Christmas parade held in Bridgewater. It was agreed by consensus that Bridgewater United Church enter a float in the parade with banners reading: “A Place Where Everyone Belongs ~ Bridgewater United Church”. Laurel can provide the trailer and a vehicle to haul it.

Communications Committee:

Sam Elsworth advised that Jennifer Slauenwhite, David Doggett and Patricia Higgins have agreed to sit on the Communications Committee.

CLOSING MOTIONS:

Motion: David Walker/Laurel Cowie 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: Laurel Cowie/Tracy Rafuse to close the meeting at 8:40 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Angela Clifton and Randall Knox closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair