

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2020

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Chapel of Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020. Ewart Morse, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- Ewart Morse, Chair
- David Walker, Vice Chair
- Corrine Zinck, Secretary
- Blake Hirtle, Treasurer
- Rev. Jeff Chant, Minister
- Angela Clifton, Worship Committee
- Marg Forbes, Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Tracy Rafuse, Faith Formation Committee
- Brian Buck, Finance Committee
- Randall Knox, 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): Marion Browne, Ivan Rodenhiser, Ralph Cook, Richard Greek.

Regrets: Heather Fifield.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP:

Rev. Jeff Chant did opening worship with a reflection based on Acts 28, followed by prayer.

COUNCIL PURPOSE/PRESENTATION:

Ewart Morse requested discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of District Representatives. These need to be defined and included in the Governance Handbook. Points brought forward included:

- Responsible for delivery of church correspondence
- Do we need a workshop re expectations?

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- Provides an opportunity for reporting to pastoral care with concerns re health issues
- Suggest that a card be left to indicate that the rep has been to the home and to provide a way for people to contact us
- Unclear of what the church expects of District Reps
- Are District Reps part of outreach or are they mail deliverers?
- Re-think: Correspondence always deals with money

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the group that the Council Executive should define/develop the roles and responsibilities of the District Representatives based on the expectation of the Church. These should be included in the Governance Handbook in a format similar to Committee descriptions.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Bev Burgess/Jack Logan 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/Blake Hirtle that the Agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of Bridgewater Day Care Bylaws to New Business. **Motion Carried.**

MINUTES:

- November 27, 2019 Church Council regular meeting:
Motion: David Walker/Bev Burgess to approve the draft Minutes of the Nov 27th, 2019 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Blake Hirtle reported that there will be an adjustment to the Operating Deficit based on the change in the way insurance is now paid. This will mean adding the unpaid portion of insurance to the deficit which is expected to be approximately \$23,000. This is for the 2019 year only.

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Minister's Report:

Rev. Jeff Chant reported that:

- The Inclusivity Committee will be spearheading the Senior Friendly Program.
- Roger Janes will be presenting at a Stewardship Workshop to be held at Zion United Church on Tuesday, Feb 4th, 2020. Rev. Jeff is hoping he will be available to do a workshop on Every Person Visitation here at Bridgewater United on Wednesday, Feb 5th.
- He is planning another strategy session with Council.
- The Re-Development Committee will be scheduling a meeting in February.

Attendance at meetings/participating on Committees was discussed. We tend to discuss the same things over and over with little change in the agenda which discourages people from attending meetings. It is the Chair's responsibility to drive things forward. It was suggested that we introduce a standard way of recording Minutes using 3 or 4 columns to include an Action Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scout Group Liaison:

Bev Burgess reported that the information regarding the Members at Large being the liaison for Scout Group Committee has been communicated to them.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A Christmas Card was received from Servant's Heart Ministry Team.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Congregational Meeting:

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Bridgewater United Church will be held following worship on Sunday, March 29, 2020 with a storm date of Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Governance Handbook Changes

The Council Executive is working on several changes for the Governance Handbook including Roles and Responsibilities of District Representatives and Conflict of Interest.

Counting Collection on Mondays

David Walker advised that Council Executive has been discussing the option of people being able to count collection on Mondays instead of Sunday, if they wish. This provides flexibility for those who cannot count following the Sunday service and may lead to increased engagement from the congregation and an increase in the number of people

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available to count. He reviewed what is currently happening in some other churches in town.

By consensus, Church Council agreed that Council Executive should explore the option of counting collection on a day other than on Sunday, to further investigate the purchase of a safe, to develop a protocol for the process (who places money in the safe, who takes it out, who has access to the combination, are there any insurance issues) and to report back to Council by June 2020.

Bridgewater Day Care Bylaws

Karen Crouse advised that changes have been made to the Day Care Bylaws as recommended by the District Supervisor. The Mandate section, as approved in March 2018, has been replaced with the Mission, the Philosophy and the Vision. This is the only change.

Action: The sections involved in these changes to be distributed to Council with the Minutes so they can be reviewed before the next Council meeting and recommended to go to the Annual Congregational Meeting for approval.

CLOSING MOTIONS:

Motion: Jack Logan/Ruth Rudderham 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/Marg Forbes to close the meeting at 8:10 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Rev. Jeff Chant closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair