

**BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2020**

Present: Ewart Morse, Blake Hirtle, Corrine Zinck, Rev. Jeff Chant, David Walker, Brian Buck

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order	
	Ewart Morse called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.	
2.	Emergency Plan during Covid-19 Pandemic	
	<p>Region 15 has directed churches to close for the next two (2) weeks. Rev. Chant advised that he and David Doggett are working on pre-recording a church service for this coming week (there are issues with live streaming as many things can go wrong) which will be uploaded to our Facebook page and You Tube. All church activities will be cancelled until March 31st.</p> <p>Ruth Rudderham has offered to make chicken soup (was originally intended for the Lenten Soup Luncheons which have been cancelled), place it in small containers and put them in the freezer to be distributed to anyone who needs them.</p> <p>Blake Hirtle advised that there is enough work for the Custodian to keep her busy for the next 2 weeks or maybe 3. She will be working during the day doing extra cleaning, e.g. windows, walls, extra sanitizing, additional cleaning for the Day Care. Discussion regarding her status should the restrictions remain in place beyond that.</p> <p>As most/almost all ministry happens outside Sunday, the Church Administrator will work from home effective tomorrow, March 19, 2020. Email and phone messages will be checked regularly during office hours.</p> <p>Church Council Executive will meet weekly via teleconferencing weekly (every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.). Two meetings will be scheduled at this point – March 25th and April 1st.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to the Congregation advising of changes required due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will include information about our Ministry (much more than Sunday), specify ways to continue giving (include PAR form), and express further information in the context of the Corona virus. It will be emailed to as many people as we have on the email distribution list and mailed through Canada Post to all others.</p>	<p>Corrine will notify Church Council that the meeting scheduled for March 25th is cancelled.</p> <p>Ewart is aware of someone who has offered to assist. He will contact her re delivering the soup.</p> <p>Blake will contact Jaspro Cleaning Services to see if they could re-direct her elsewhere.</p> <p>Rev. Chant will contact Region 15 to request the meetings using Zoom.</p> <p>Rev. Chant will prepare the letter.</p>

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	District representatives will be asked to call everyone on their lists to advise of current happenings.	Rev. Chant will prepare talking points.
3.	Annual Congregational Meeting	
	The date of the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be changed to April 5 th with an alternate date of April 12 th . We will continue to announce dates weekly to adhere to the notice requirement of the United Church of Canada.	
4.	Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda	
	The group reviewed the draft Agenda for the upcoming ACM. Approval of the Board of Trustees (resignations and appointments) will be added to the Agenda.	Corrine Zinck will update the Agenda.
5.	Student Care Packages	
	<p>Discussion regarding how excessive (out of control) the Student Care Packages have become. They generally contain more than can be consumed by the students and the cost of postage has increased dramatically over the years. Considering the current situation (issue of packing the boxes with the church being closed, uncertainty regarding finances, most students have returned home and have family support in place), it was decided this year to only send a letter of support from the church and a \$10 Tim Card to each student.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the message we are trying to convey to the students. The material aspect (tangible content) is not in line with what we are trying to teach in our church. The message needs to be a non-material “we care” one. The project may be losing its purpose and intent – it is not about quantity but about quality. Requesting the Faith Formation Committee to re-evaluate the goal and how that can be better conveyed.</p>	<p>Rev. Chant to prepare a letter to be included with the care packages.</p> <p>Corrine Zinck to communicate today’s decision to the Faith Formation Committee.</p>
6.	Mental Health Survey	
	A United Church of Canada Mental Health Survey has been received by the church. It was agreed that Rev. Chant and Angela Clifton should respond to the survey.	
7.	Change for Change 2020	
	A request was received from Servant’s Heart Ministries for our congregation to participate again this year in the Change for Change Campaign to support their ministries in the Dominican Republic. Brian Buck reported that the team members who are travelling to the Dominican Republic again in 2020 to assist the Servant’s Heart Ministries feel that the Change for Change 2020 Campaign will place	Corrine Zinck to communicate with Servant’s Heart Ministries to decline participation this year.

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	<p>an extra burden on the congregation when they are so supportive of our own team’s Mission Trip.</p> <p>This led to a discussion regarding how to coordinate the various requests for extra givings so that congregation members are not inundated with requests.</p>	
8.	Lennie Gallant Concert	
	<p>Given the uncertainty in the world today, it was felt that we should attempt to postpone the Lennie Gallant concert until fall 2020, if possible.</p>	<p>Rev. Chant will contact Lennie Gallant’s Manager to discuss.</p>
9.	Key Leadership & Staffing Roles	
	<p>The issue of potential conflicts is more about shared leadership and roles and the way the current committee structure is working. There are committees where people in key leadership roles are reporting to themselves because of the limited number of persons willing to serve on the committee and the reluctance for some committee members to assume the Chair. There is a need to review the whole committee structure and a need to re-visit our purpose statement.</p>	
10.	Outreach	
	<p>Discussion regarding possible outreach projects, e.g. using our provincially approved kitchen to make casseroles which can be frozen and offered to school children (at a nominal price) to take home to their family for the weekend, making extra plates when hosting a fund raiser which could be donated to Soul’s Harbour, handyman services for seniors. Consider how we do our work in the Church and what we could focus on to do good in the world.</p>	
11.	Closing	
	<p>The meeting closed at 12:20 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair