

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2020

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

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order	
	A Church Council Executive meeting was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 via Zoom. Ewart Morse called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.	
2.	Emergency Plan during Covid-19 Pandemic - Update	
	<p>Updates were given re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Council 15 has advised that churches are to remain closed until April 30th. Therefore, all activities at the church are cancelled for the month of April. ○ Rev. Chant is planning to do videos for each Sunday. May be able to do Facebook Live where participants can interact. ○ Rev. Chant is exploring Easter communion logistics with head office – possibility of having home communion using one’s own bread and juice may be according to correct protocol. ○ Rev. Chant met with the youth in the congregation via Zoom last Wednesday and they would like to continue meeting on a weekly basis. He met with the younger children via Zoom this past Sunday evening. ○ Rev. Chant suggested that our first Sunday back in the church should be a celebratory event. ○ The United Church (UCC) has been good at communications/webinars and at providing information re accessing their own programs and government funded programs for charitable organizations. There is a possibility that we can access some of the program funding. Tonight, there is a UCC Webinar on congregational finances. ○ Blake Hirtle reported that he is researching the availability of government funding that would impact us. • Pastoral Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pastoral Care report calling the over 70 group. They are not allowed to enter hospitals or nursing homes presently. They are attempting to find a way of showing our Sunday worship but no response from nursing homes yet. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Representative Calls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rev. Chant expressed concern at finding a solution to communication with those who do not have email. ○ Rev. Chant will be sending an email District Reps asking them to get more members' email addresses, feedback on the worship broadcasts, any pastoral care issues (refer to Angela Clifton) and to advise if calls have been made recently. 	
3.	Lennie Gallant Concert	
	Rev. Chant has reached Lennie Gallant's manager and she is pleased that we would postpone rather than cancel. He is waiting for feedback from Lennie. May be a possibility of hosting a Christmas Concert.	
4.	Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)	
	It was decided to postpone the ACM until further notice. A decision regarding a date will be made once the church re-opens.	
5.	Stewardship	
	<p>A Stewardship letter was mailed to everyone in the congregation. There has been nothing negative coming from the letter or from Rev. Chant's asks during the service broadcasts.</p> <p>Ewart Morse, who volunteered to head up the Stewardship Campaign, reported that Karen Crouse has agreed to work on that Committee, but one other volunteer is needed. Ewart felt they should research Roger Janes' suggestions for a 5-week campaign in the fall.</p>	
6.	Request to Board of Trustees	
	Rev. Chant reported that the Board of Trustees has approved the request to release \$25,000 to the church to cover operational costs.	
7.	Church Bells at Easter	
	We have been approached by the Bridgewater & Area Inter-Church Council suggesting that all churches in Bridgewater ring their bells at 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday. It was agreed that David Walker would be responsible for ringing our church bell.	
8.	Profile Committee	
	Ewart has contacted Marg Forbes, M&P Committee, who advised she has sent the document to other members of the Committee. She is waiting for responses from them.	
9.	Insurance	
	Blake Hirtle reported that we may possibly have pandemic insurance. Danny Carey has submitted a claim on our behalf. Blake is waiting	

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	for a response from the adjustor. The eligible amount could be up to \$15,000.	
10.	Future Meetings	
	It was decided to continue meeting weekly – Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom for the month of April.	
11.	Closing	
	The meeting closed at 10:20 a.m.	

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair