

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2020

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

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	
	A Church Council Executive meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 via Zoom. Ewart Morse called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Financial Update</b>	
	Blake Hirtle reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church Organist has been laid off.</li> <li>• The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000, with \$10,000 of that being forgivable, for organizations to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. <u>Motion:</u> Blake Hirtle/Brian Buck that Bridgewater United Church apply for a \$40,000 loan through the Canada Emergency Business Account. <b>Motion Carried.</b></li> <li>• Beginning in April 2020, Blake Hirtle will apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, if we qualify.</li> <li>• The cheque for \$25,000 from the Board of Trustees has been received.</li> </ul>	Blake Hirtle will make application for the loan.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Church Bells</b>	
	David Walker advised that it has not yet been decided whether the church bells will ring for 1 minute or for 3 to 5 minutes on Easter Sunday. It was decided that our church bells should ring every Sunday morning.	David Walker volunteered to ring the bells each Sunday morning.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Insurance Claim</b>	
	Blake Hirtle reported that there has been no response yet to our claim for coverage due to a pandemic event.	Blake Hirtle and Danny Carey will follow up.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Strategic Plan for the Next 6 Months</b>	
	Since it is currently unknown when the current isolation/ distancing practices around the COVID-19 pandemic will be lessened, it was felt that we need to be developing some strategies for at least the next 6 months (now until September). We need to avoid the pattern of everything being shut down. What will we do in the fall when we anticipate returning to having numbers in the church?	

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	<p>Four main areas of concern were identified with discussion:</p> <p><b>Worship:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video services are very time consuming and will not be sustainable – takes about 30 hours – Dave Doggett, Todd Langille and many others help but they spend a lot of time on the services.</li> <li>• Suggest we collaborate with another church(es) to develop videos on rotational basis.</li> <li>• Re-word the ad in the Progress Bulletin to promote our online services.</li> <li>• How to develop the service for the Radio Broadcast.</li> <li>• How to reach those without technology – DVD of online services, written transcript of sermons to be delivered by mail.</li> <li>• Suggest an online Bible study.</li> <li>• Worship Committee to explore what the first service back in the church will be like.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need financial projections and a strategy re next steps.</li> <li>• If revenues go down substantially, what to do re services/ staffing/ expenses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pastoral Care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral care needs currently being met by phone/email.</li> <li>• How to reach those without technology?</li> </ul> <p><b>Committees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to get Committees back to functioning.</li> <li>• Possibility of Committee meetings via Zoom as needed.</li> <li>• Enhance the roles of District Reps in reaching out to the congregation.</li> </ul> <p>A larger issue and, possibly, one of the ‘gifts’ of the current situation is that we are asking, “How can we be a church without a building”? How do we shift from the way we always did ministry to change and use different tools and technology to reach the wider community?</p>	<p>Brian Buck and Blake Hirtle to review budget before the next Executive meeting.</p> <p>Each member of the Executive to examine the 4 areas of concern and look for suggestions to mitigate the issues.</p>
6.	<b>Closing</b>	
	The meeting closed at 10:40 a.m.	

Respectfully submitted,

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Corrine Zinck, Secretary

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Ewart Morse, Chair