

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2020

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 17th, 2020. Ewart Morse, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:06 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
- Randall Knox, Property 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): Sandy Emenau

Guest: Rev. Heather Ferrier, Region 15 Liaison

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP:

Corrine Zinck, Regional Council Rep, led opening worship with a reflection from “The Upper Room” entitled The Extraordinary Blessing, followed by prayer.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Marg Forbes/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: Jack Logan/Karen Crouse that the Agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of Counting Collection on Mondays and Lennie Gallant Concert under Old Business. **Motion Carried.**

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BRIDGEWATER UNITED PROFILE/LIVING FAITH STORY:

Rev. Heather Ferrier reviewed the process of developing the new Profile/Living Faith Story noting that it involved a change in language to demonstrate why our second ministry personnel required sacramental privileges.

Motion: Jack Logan/Marg Forbes that the Bridgewater United Church Profile/Living Faith Story be approved as circulated and presented to the congregation for approval at the June 29, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Ewart Morse, attendees at the meeting and Rev. Jeff Chant thanked Heather for her guidance in preparation of this document.

MINUTES:

Motion: David Walker/Blake Hirtle to approve the draft Minutes of the February 26th, 2020 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Minister's Report:

Rev. Jeff Chant reported that:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the church building, ministry is happening – just in a different way, minus the social interaction.
- There have been some good things happening:
 - The Pastoral Care team have been busy making telephone calls
 - The District Representatives have been making greater connections with members on their lists
- Council Executive held a retreat on Monday, June 8th, 2020, to look at what the fall and the future might look like
 - What have we learned through this?
 - May have fewer committees/changes in governance structure – suggestion of “cluster governance” where groups of interested persons work around themes and events
 - More emphasis on mission
 - How to effectively use our resources in the future
- We are in the process of hosting small group gatherings targeting church members who do not have access to technology – to be able to come to the sanctuary to watch

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online worship services which have been aired in the past. This will be done under strict guidelines and in a controlled way. Two dates have been arranged as a trial.

- This is an exciting time for us – in some way, COVID-19 has been a good thing. It has forced us to think of ministry separate from services on Sunday and our building. It has challenged us and we are rising to the challenge to really “be the church”.

Ministry and Personnel Committee:

Marg Forbes reported that she has had some excellent comments regarding the online worship services. Angela Clifton has been approved for several days of study leave at the end of June. Angela is currently doing a course entitled “Devine Revolution” – all about mission and how we need to change.

OLD BUSINESS:

Counting Collection on Mondays:

Given the current circumstances – no in-person church services and counting collection is not required – it was decided that the issue of obtaining a safe be delayed until we have a better sense of our physical and financial positions.

Lennie Gallant Concert:

Ewart reported that the Lennie Gallant Concert scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed until December 11th, 2020 – “An Innkeeper’s Christmas Concert”.

NEW BUSINESS:

Church Re-opening/Online Worship:

There will be no in-person services until at least after Labour Day. Online worship services will continue throughout the summer months. Once the church does open for worship, it is expected that we will continue with an online presence.

B-United Purpose Statement:

At a Council Retreat held on Saturday, September 14, 2019, a new purpose statement 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”.*

We should be asking ourselves at each Council meeting, “How well are we doing with this”?

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Annual Congregational Meeting:

In order to be compliant with the United Church of Canada Manual, it has been decided to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSING MOTION:

Motion: Randall Knox/Jack Logan to close the meeting at 8:16 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Zinck, Secretary

Ewart Morse, Chair