

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2020

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**WELCOME:**

A special meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to discuss the online ministry needs at Bridgewater United Church. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with prayer. He advised that this is a special meeting and does not replace the regular meeting scheduled for November 25, 2020.

**ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:**Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- David Walker, 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
- Sam Elsworth, Nominating Committee
- Randall Knox, Property Committee
- Ruth Rudderham, UCW
- Jack Logan, Regional Council Representative
- Bev Burgess, Member at Large

Committee/Ministry Members/Guests Present (Non-voting): Brenda Knox

Regrets: Jo-Anne Ferrier, Karen Crouse, Ewart Morse, Marion Browne

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**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.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

An "Online Ministry Resource Proposal" was received from David Walker, Chair. (attached)

**ONLINE MINISTRY RESOURCE PROPOSAL:**

David Walker provided a preamble regarding the present status of the online ministry at Bridgewater United and the purpose of the proposal:

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- Online services produced are high quality.
- Many people want to return for in-person services yet, there is a high percentage who wish to have the online ministry continue as well.
- Church Council Executive has looked at options as to how to have the online services continue when in-person services resume.
- The proposal presented is the best option that the Executive felt would work as it:
  - provides an opportunity to continue with the quality online services
  - allows time to research additional funding to support the online ministry, and
  - provides an opportunity to work cooperatively with other churches in the area who have a shared vision.
- The financial request in the proposal would allow this opportunity to explore and develop the online ministry at Bridgewater United.

Discussion included:

- Many wish to go back to normal but normal was failing. We need to explore other avenues. If we do not do something, we will die.
- Many people are still not willing to come back in person – feel online ministry must continue with the current quality, not a “watered down” version.
- the proposal presents opportunities to develop several strategic choices.
- Council needs to come up with strategies to grow the online ministry as a second ministry and decide if it is designed to meet the needs of our own congregation, the wider community, or both.
- This provides an opportunity to do some marketing which has not been done to date.
- We are unable to continue operating with only givings and fund raising as revenue.
- Intentional time around strategies and how to carry out our mission are needed; need time and opportunity to explore cooperation with other congregations.

David Walker advised that the Council Executive was conscious of what others were doing in opening up their churches, but we took guidance from Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia Chief Medical Officer of Health, and we felt that we are doing our best to accommodate the COVID-19 rules.

**Motion:** Jack Logan/Bev Burgess to approve and recommend seeking funds from the Board of Trustees to support the online ministry in the amount of \$13,500 which would allow us to continue it until the end of June 2021. **Motion Carried.**

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2020

---

David Walker advised that the Council Executive will be opening Executive meetings to anyone on Council who wishes to participate in developing the strategic direction.

**CLOSING MOTION AND CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Motion:** Randall Knox/Jack Logan 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.**

David Walker closed the meeting at 8:40 p.m. with prayer.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

Respectfully submitted,

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Corrine Zinck, Secretary

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David Walker, Chair