

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 25, 2020

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**WELCOME:**

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:**

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- Ewart Morse, Past Chair
- David Walker, Chair
- Jo-Anne Ferrier, Vice Chair
- Corrine Zinck, Secretary
- Blake Hirtle, Treasurer
- Rev. Jeff Chant, Minister
- Brian Buck, Finance Committee
- 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): Richard Greek

Regrets: Karen Crouse

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**OPENING WORSHIP:**

Angela Clifton led opening worship – “1 Corinthians for Council Devotions” from *The Gathering* magazine followed by prayer.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:**

**Motion:** Blake Hirtle/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.**

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Weekly Counting to be added under New Business.

**Motion:** Jo-Anne Ferrier/Bev Burgess that the Agenda be approved as amended.  
**Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was received and read:

- October 15, 2020 – Letter from Riverport Pastoral Charge expressing an interest in exploring collaboration among local pastoral charges in moving forward.
- October 20, 2020 – Letter of resignation from the Board of Trustees from Doug Wilneff.
- November 7, 2020 – Letter from Servant’s Heart Ministries to the Mission Team requesting funding towards completion of the second floor of the LOMA building. The Mission Team reported that they had released \$5,000 towards this phase of the project.
- November 13, 2020 – Letter from Wee Wisdom Nursery School Board of Directors to parents of Wee Wisdom Nursery School advising that the Nursery School Program will permanently end on December 17, 2020.
- November 14, 2020 – Letter to Riverport Pastoral Charge expressing our interest in exploring their suggestion for collaboration among local pastoral charges.
- November 15, 2020 – Email from Riverport Pastoral Charge indicating that they would be establishing a meeting time for four interested pastoral charges who had responded to their letter of October 15, 2020. David Walker indicated that Council Executive would keep Council informed regarding discussions.

**MINUTES:**

**Motion:** Marg Forbes/Blake Hirtle to approve the draft Minutes of the September 23, 2020 regular Council Meeting and the draft Minutes of the November 12, 2020 special Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Discussion regarding the impact of the Wee Wisdom Nursery School closure. Blake Hirtle reported that it would amount to a decrease of \$5,400 in revenue in the 2021 budget. Suggestions regarding utilization of the space to increase revenues were discussed. Day Care is not interested in the space at the present time – for them to move from the gym to these classrooms, approval would have to be given by Day Care Licensing. If Day Care could utilize the classrooms, the gym could be available as a revenue stream for the church.

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**Action:** Representatives from Finance, Property and Council Executive to meet with Day Care to discuss options and request that licensing of the classrooms be pursued. This item to be added to the agenda for the next Council Executive meeting.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Minister's Report:**

Rev. Jeff Chant reported:

- Sunday morning "in-person" services are working well. Attendance numbers have been in the 60s.
- The online ministry continues.
- Rev. Jeff and Angela Clifton's workloads have increased with COVID-19. This includes duties for Regional Council 15 which are part of their responsibility.
- Rev. Jeff is looking at some governance issues.
- Angel Tree - the tree was placed in the main foyer and has been well received by Day Care parents. Rev. Jeff expressed that this outreach provides another opportunity to carry out our mission.
- Given the current status of COVID-19, decisions regarding "in-person" services will have to be made on a week by week basis. It was decided that, since currently non-essential travel from the Halifax area is not allowed, when a person calls to reserve a seat, they will be asked their name, telephone number and the area they are coming from. If they are from the Halifax area, they will be told that we are following Public Health guidelines and they will not be accepted to attend church at this time.

**Inter-Church Council:**

David Walker reported that a recent report in the *Lighthouse Log* indicated that Bridgewater Town Council had endorsed a recommendation that Bridgewater United Church or Inter-Church Council lease a parcel of land in Brookside Cemetery for a scatter garden and be responsible for its upkeep. David Walker advised that this was a premature decision and there may be more information coming back from Inter-Church Council.

**Nominating Committee:**

Sam Elsworth reported that formal resignations from the Board of Trustees have been received from Anne Gatchell, Mark Mosher, Dave Doggett and Doug Wilneff. Letter of thanks for their service will go out from Rev. Jeff Chant. Dave Rushton, Luke Pelot and Richard Greek are newly appointed to the Board Trustees; however, there is still a need for a Treasurer and a couple more members.

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**UCW:**

Ruth Rudderham reported that revenues from the No-Bake Sale amounted to \$2,200 (to be shared equally between Starfish International and Grandmothers to Grandmothers) and revenues from the Mini Christmas Bazaar were \$2,200.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Scout's Request re Restarting Indoor Meetings:**

Margaret Benne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridgewater Scouts, has indicated that Scouts Canada have given approval to return to having indoor meetings. She has requested that the Scouts return to meeting in the Christian Education Centre gym and wishes to know what cleaning requirements would be necessary.

It was felt that Day Care is our main responsibility at the present time. Because of this, we have denied use of the gym to other groups. Given the ever-changing COVID-19 protocols from the province, it was felt that we need time before a decision can be made; therefore, we should deny the current request and revisit it again in January 2021.

**Motion:** Jo-Anne Ferrier/Randall Knox that David Walker contact Day Care regarding cleaning protocols/expectations and respond to Margaret Benne that the request is currently denied but will be re-visited in January 2021 while following provincial protocols. **Motion Carried.**

**Weekly Counting:**

David Walker advised that, since the closure of in-person services due to COVID-19, Blake Hirtle and Tracy Rafuse have been doing the counting/bank deposits. There is a need to relieve Blake and Tracy. Many of the people on the Counters List are uncomfortable returning to the building. He suggested that, from now until January 2021, he will recruit 3 to 6 volunteers to count – to be re-evaluated in January 2021.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The Executive will continue to meet.

**CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Motion:** Jack Logan/Ewart Morse 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.**

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. upon motion of Randall Knox.

Rev. Jeff Chant gave the closing prayer.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Corrine Zinck, Secretary

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David Walker, Chair