

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2021

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 (postponed from January 27th, 2021). David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

- Ewart Morse, Past Chair
- David Walker, Chair
- Corrine Zinck, Secretary
- Blake Hirtle, Treasurer
- Rev. Jeff Chant, Minister
- Angela Clifton, Worship Committee
- Tracy Rafuse, Faith Formation Committee
- Sam Elsworth, Nominating Committee
- Randall Knox, Property Committee
- Ruth Rudderham, UCW
- Jack Logan, Regional Council Representative
- Karen Crouse, Member at Large

Committee/Ministry Members/Guests Present (Non-voting): Richard Greek

Regrets: Bev Burgess, Jo-Anne Ferrier, Marg Forbes

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP:

Rev. Jeff Chant led opening worship with a devotional entitled "The Gift of Friendship" from "A Time to Gather" written by Rev. Robert A. Wallace, followed by prayer.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Sam Elsworth/Karen Crouse 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: Ewart Morse/Jack Logan that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

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CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received and read:

- December 2020 – Thank you to the Mission Team from Servant’s Heart Ministries for the donation to the LOMA Project Community Development.
- February 22, 2021 – Thank you to Bridgewater United Church for \$5,000 donation to the LOMA Project Community Development.

MINUTES – Nov 25, 2020:

Page 2020-56 ~ UCW Report: Ruth Rudderham noted that revenues from the No-Bake Sale were \$2,200 (not \$1,100) and were shared equally between Starfish International and Grandmothers to Grandmothers.

Motion: Corrine Zinck/Ewart Morse to approve the draft Minutes of the November 25, 2020 regular Council Meeting as amended. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:**Review of Scouts Request to use CEC:**

David Walker reported that he had received follow-up correspondence from Margaret Benne and updated COVID-19 protocols from Scouts Canada. Denise McAuley, Director, Bridgewater Day Care, has reviewed the documents and has agreed that the Scouts may use the space; however, they will have no access to the kitchen, and they must be responsible for cleaning both washrooms.

Discussion followed regarding use of the facility by outside groups for the Sanctuary side of the complex during current COVID-19 restrictions.

Motion: Randall Knox/Sam Elsworth to allow use of rooms on the Sanctuary side only by church affiliated groups until the situation is re-evaluated. **Motion Carried.**

It was decided to review again at the next Council meeting.

2021 Counting Teams & Dates:

David Walker reported that 10 teams have been established and have begun to count. Due to the increase in PAR givings and low numbers of envelopes being presented on Sundays, it is not always necessary to count every week. Lead Counters are to contact Tracy Rafuse, Church Administrator, on Fridays to determine if counting will be necessary on that week.

Collaborative Meetings Update:

David Walker and Rev. Jeff Chant reported on the meeting held on February 10, 2021:

- All churches in Lunenburg County were represented.
- There was no negativity.
- There was a willingness to talk and an indication of some sense of cooperation.

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- Challenges include the number of available ordained ministers for the number of churches in the county and people's understanding of ministry needs.
- Rev. David Hewitt provided good leadership at the meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at Trinity United Church in Mahone Bay.

Scatter Garden Update:

All significant information has gone to the town solicitor – waiting for a response from him before a meeting can be called for Town of Bridgewater, Bridgewater United Church and Sweeny's Funeral Home.

Strategic Direction Session Update:

The session was held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 and was facilitated by Rev. David Hartt. David Walker advised that notes from the session are being developed and will be distributed. Attendees were challenged to "not be afraid" and to come up with one large goal along with several smaller ones.

Rev. Chant noted that the Redevelopment Committee had been formed to look at and re-imagine opportunities to create a sustainable revenue stream for the future. He stated that now is the time, before we are out of resources, to look at re-development.

Action: David Walker to send a formal "thank-you" to Rev. Hartt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

Finance Committee Report:

Blake Hirtle reviewed the report noting that givings through PAR have increased significantly during COVID-19. A new line has been added to capture the cost of the online ministry.

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Chant reported that he is currently involved in:

- Looking at different models of governance, e.g., having coordinators who would have a specific role.
- Researching more intensive ways to reach out to the Day Care, e.g., using the lobby space to promote the things the church is doing.
- Online ministry – would welcome a group to assist planning online services.
- Nominations – this year there are lots of new people offering to fill positions – in need of a Chair of Finance & Stewardship.
- Both ministry positions, as well as online ministry are scheduled to end on 30 June 2021.
- For the next 5 Sundays will be addressing the values at Bridgewater United.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Congregational Meeting:

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. (storm date is March 21, 2021).

David Walker noted that the outcome of the present governance model has not been what was hoped for. At the ACM, there will be a proposal to change the current model. There will be a full Executive to present at the ACM. Members of the Nominating Committee will be re-deployed to other committees who will do their own recruiting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

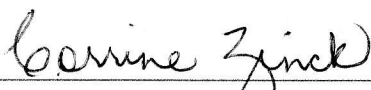
CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Sam Elsworth/Randall Knox 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 8:20 p.m. upon motion of Randall Knox.

Angela Clifton gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Corrine Zinck, Secretary



David Walker, Chair

