

Bridgewater United Church Council – 2021-03-31

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 31, 2021

**WELCOME:**

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

David Walker	Chair
Elizabeth Burrridge	Vice Chair
Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
Edna Matheson	Secretary
Ewart Morse	Past Chair
Jeff Chant	Minister
Angela Clifton	Minister
Bev Burgess	Member at large
Jack Logan	Regional Council 15 rep
Karen Crouse	Member at large
Randall Knox	Property
Richard Greek	Finance and Stewardship
Ruth Rudderham	UCW
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Corrine Zinck  
Marg Forbes

Regrets: No regrets were received

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER:**

Rev. Jeff Chant welcomed the new executive members, Elizabeth Burrridge and Edna Matheson. Rev. Chant led opening worship and prayer.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:**

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**Motion:** Ewart Morse/Richard Greek 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:**

David Walker welcomed new executive members and expressed appreciation on behalf of the executive, council and congregation and thanked Corrine Zinck for her years of service as Secretary of Church Council. David also acknowledged Joanne Ferrier for her year of service as Vice-Chair.

David apologized for any accidental omissions or errors when emailing the agenda and meeting documents. David explained there are two distribution lists for Council: one for council members and one for other individuals who may attend meetings and receive minutes. Corrections will be made to email lists.

**Motion:** Blake Hirtle/Jack Logan that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence received.**

**MINUTES - February 24, 2021**

**Motion:** Karen Crouse/Richard Greek to approve the draft Minutes of the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular Council Meeting as circulated.

Ewart Morse requested confirmation of attendance that there wasn't a representative from Finance attending the meeting.

**Motion Carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a) Collaboration Meetings Update

The three representatives from BUC who attend these meetings include David Walker, Corrine Zinck and Rev. Jeff Chant.

David Hewitt from Region 15 leads the discussions on what makes up a meaningful spiritual experience in each of our churches and how that would be achieved if sharing resources.

Next meeting is April 21<sup>st</sup> at Westside United Church.

There are seven topics to discuss and the meetings so far have dealt with worship.

The lay representatives are not in the position to make decisions on behalf of Bridgewater United Church and will bring back any recommendations to Church Council.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:**

**Property** - Randall Knox informed council that a new electrical meter has been installed and may affect the power bill.

**Faith Formation** - Scholarships for registration at Sherbrooke Lake Camp will be discussed at the next meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested to consider a guideline of 1/3 being contributed by the family applying for the scholarship unless it would prohibit attendance. Tracy Rafuse reported that the families who have inquired about the scholarships have pre-registered and are willing to contribute a portion of the registration fee. Karen Crouse asked if Gifts of Vision from M&S could be used by families.

Action: Tracy will check if congregations can access the Gifts of Vision funds.

Rev. Jeff Chant spoke on how Camp Ministry is part of the United Church and is an opportunity to promote local church support following camp but the idea hasn't been accepted by Sherbrooke Camp officials. Representatives from local churches could visit camp to offer invitations to Sunday School, Youth Group or services or distribute promotional pamphlets.

**Requests to use CEC by outside groups:** Scouts have resumed meeting in the CEC space (no kitchen access). There haven't been any other requests from outside groups (i.e. Beavers/Cubs). Discussion followed regarding the impact if other groups were to use the space, in particular needing someone to be responsible for after business hours access. General consensus is to continue as is with the current Covid restrictions.

**Strategic Direction Session Update:** Question raised if the notes from the session have been shared.

Action: Jeff Chant to send out notes next week.

**MINISTER'S REPORT:**

Rev. Chant reported on the following:

- Collaborative discussions have been happening with a local congregation looking for support. A proposal has been accepted this past week by New West Pine Church for a hybrid model of services for a trial of three months starting April 11<sup>th</sup>. Twice a month, BUC will provide a bulletin and master order of service and parts of the BUC video service for prayers and the message. The other parts of the service will be provided by local lay persons from New West Pine. Once every two months, a BUC minister will lead an in-person service. BUC Pastoral Care Personnel will visit West Pine members in hospital. Rev.

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Chant will become their supervising minister. The fee is \$800/month and will be evaluated after the trial period. It was raised by Marg Forbes that the United Church in Lockeport has been using a similar model but it was clarified that they have been gathering to watch online services but unsure if there is participation by local lay persons.

West Pine congregation is aware of they would be welcome to attend services at BUC the other two Sundays of the month.

- **Mildred Deckman Memorial Fund.** Since of the close of Wee Wisdom Nursery School, Jeff Chant is looking for the instructions related to this fund for the purpose of reallocation. It was suggested to contact the family.
- **Memorial gift from the Zwicker family.** Discussion followed regarding using this gift for a digital sign or to support/expand our ministry via technology (digitally, media outreach).

**Motion:** Richard Greek/Ewart Morse to instruct the Memorial Committee and Trustees to pursue digital online ministry with regards to the most recent memorial donation from the Zwicker family. **Motion carried.**

**Action:** Rev. Jeff Chant will discuss with the family.

- **Coordinators:** A number of committees that were suspended during Covid restrictions may not resume. To accomplish work that needs to be done and to decrease the bureaucracy of choosing responsibility of actions by committees, it is suggested that tasks and roles be defined into manageable tasks and assigned to individual volunteers.
- **Ministry of Music:** The Coordinator of Music role was laid off during Covid. As a result Wendy Fraser is not employed by BUC at this time. She has volunteered her time and talent to provide music for the last few services and Easter. Covid restrictions allow for music and singing by soloists and choirs but limits the congregation singing.

It is time for Council to decide on what the direction of music ministry will be in the future. The job description from Ministry and Personnel was reviewed considering if the result expected by the definition is being met.

Following discussion, it was general consensus that there be more diversity in musical experiences in church services. This requires coordination operationally and more defined expectations.

**Action:** David Walker, Chair Church Council and Sam Elsworth, Chair of Ministry and Personnel to work with Ministry and Personnel Committee to address the issues discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**



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- a) Re-assessment and Appointment Committee includes David Walker, Sam Elsworth, Elizabeth Burr ridge, Richard Greek and Blake Hirtle. They have met once and next meeting is Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is anticipated there will be additional Council and Congregational meetings within the next month or two to address the recommendations from this committee.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Motion:** Jack Logan/Sam Elsworth 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 9:06 p.m. upon motion of Ewart Morse and Randall Knox.

David Walker gave the closing prayer.

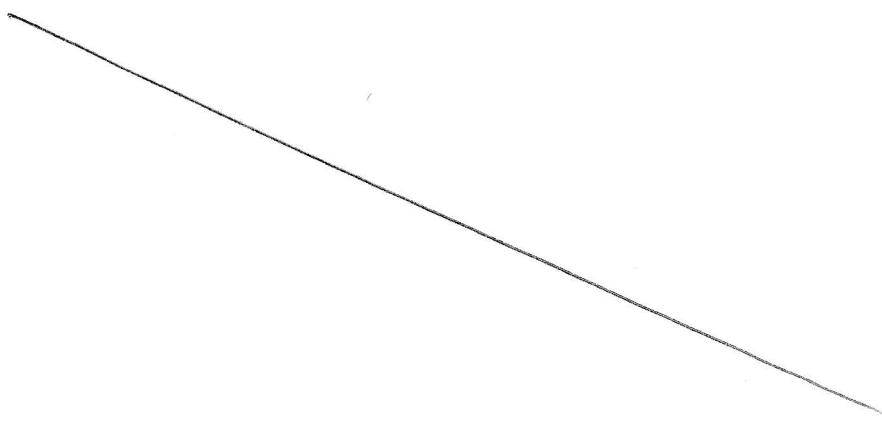
Respectfully submitted,



Edna Matheson, Secretary



David Walker, Chair



**Bridgewater United Church  
Committee Reports for March 31, 2021**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ~ Blake Hirtle**

**TREASURER'S REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR TWO MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 28 2021**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	28,952	26,596
TRUST RECEIPTS		
MISSION & SERVICE	2,492	2,257
UCW FUNDS FOR M & S	00	500
FOOD BANK RECEIPTS	702	380
MISSION TRIP	50	00
MISC TRUST RECEIPTS	65	576
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS	7,279	8,410
FUNDRAISING PROJECTS	12	1,002
UCW FOR LOCAL EXPENSES	00	500
BROADCAST SERVICE RECEIPTS	706	612
MISC. RECEIPTS	287	5
TOTAL RECEIPTS (Note 1 & 2 )	40,545	40,838
 <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
TOTAL TRUST DISBURSEMENTS	3,195	3,137
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	26,746	26,953
TOTAL OFFICE & ADMIN EXPENSE	2,657	3,693
ONLINE SERVICE COST	3,628	00
ACCOUNTING FEES	00	00
HEATING FUEL	6,893	8,012
LIGHTS, WATER & SEWER	2,027	1,975
SNOW REMOVAL & SALTING	2,917	3,944
INSURANCE	2,234	2,139
OTHER PREMISES EXPENSES	766	3,138
ALLOCATION	00	00
MISC EXPENSES	858	468
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (Note 1)	51,921	53,459
 <b>ACTUAL OPERATING DEFICIT AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b><u>11,376</u></b>	<b><u>12,621</u></b>

**CORRECTED BANK BALANCE**

**\$60,218.17\***

\*The bank balance includes the \$25,000. trustees operating loan and sale proceeds of \$15,500.00 from the prepaid grocery cards

Note 1: TOTAL RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS DOES NOT INCLUDE BUILDING FUND TRANSACTIONS

Note 2: TOTAL RECEIPTS DOESN'T INCLUDE TRUSTEES MONTHLY \$1,698 ON-LINE COMMITMENT

**FAITH FORMATION ~ Diane Barry**

No report as this group meets every other month.

**MISSION TRIP REPORT~ Bev Burgess**

Our Mission Trip Team is getting ready for our first sale of crafts, trinkets, treasures and plants in Liverpool the end of June. We are looking for plants either houseplants or garden variety. Anyone moving or splitting their plants, we would be very appreciative of any donations. Please call Janice Buck, 902-685-2582 or Bev. Burgess 902-543-2603 for more information and to arrange pickup.

**PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE ~ Angela Clifton**

The Pastoral Care committee met and welcomed new member Ewart Morse.

Plans are being made to take Easter Home Communion to some people. If you want Home Communion, please call the church.

The hospital visitors are now able to make visits but must check to see that the patient has not exceeded the 2 person/day visitor limit. They must also sign in and provide contact information.

Of note, in order to receive a pastoral visit in hospital, ones name must be on the United Church Clergy List that is updated daily. Ones name on this list provides their consent for a visit. If their name is not on the list, I and the visitors have no way of knowing if they are in hospital. The Admitting staff are supposed to ask if one wants their name on the List, but often this is overlooked when there are other pressing priorities. Please ensure your name is on the list, or have a family member call the church, if you go to the hospital, and want a visit. Thanks.

**Pastoral Care Coordinator Report**

- Completing some courses of study at the Atlantic School of Theology.

- I have resumed visits to people in hospital, or nursing homes. Covid restrictions still apply. Family still take priority for scheduled visits at nursing homes.
- I have resumed very selected home visits, with permission as many people are reluctant to have outsiders enter their homes due to Covid. (I respect that and think it is wise). I follow the Covid guidelines of masking and hand washing.
- I have been trying to contact about a dozen people per day either by phone or selected visiting (due to covid).
- I have been writing letters and notes to nursing home residents monthly. Heather Fifield has taken responsibility for writing to Harbour View Haven residents lately. Thanks Heather.
- Hillside Pines Worship Services have been canceled due to Covid. I received an invitation today (Mar 25) to resume services. They now will be scheduled approximately every 6-8 weeks.
- Funerals: Madill graveside funeral Feb. 24,. (Zoomed to Texas). May do a funeral for son of former member later in spring. (was called to hospital recently for end of life spiritual care)
- Attended Bridgewater Area Ministerial Meeting.
- No further news on creating a Scatter Garden at Brookside Cemetery.
- Assisted with World Day of Prayer Service (Mar. 5) hosted by BUC.
- Lent Study on book "Faith on the Move" conducted weekly during Lent. 8 people registered. There are daily provocative readings and discussion points.
- Meditation group stopped during Lent, but will resume Tuesday morning at 9 am (for 30 minutes) starting the Tuesday after Easter - Ap. 6.
- Ruth's Chicken soup and prayer shawls delivered to many.

### **PROPERTY AND GROUNDS ~ Randall Knox**

From meeting held on March 11, 2021

Making plans to redo 3 small roofs and repaint oil tank

Discussed again, plans to repair stain glass in sanctuary

Batteries replaced in alarm system

Normal maintenance issues completed as they arise.

### **UCW - Ruth Rudderham**

UCW did not hold a meeting in March but did have two events to report:

- 1) Friday March 5th...hosted the World Day of Prayer service. Because of COVID19 restrictions there could be no participation from the area churches, but all were informed and invited to attend. There were 45 people present and the service



was an online presentation from the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada in Toronto, which followed the service as written by the women of Vanuatu.

- 2) Sunday, March 7th...UCW Mission and Service Sunday which involved some participation from women of UCW. There could be no breakfast this year. We appreciate the support of the monetary donations to Mission and Service.