

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 26, 2021

**WELCOME:**

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

David Walker	Chair
Elizabeth Burr ridge	Vice Chair
Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
Edna Matheson	Secretary
Ewart Morse	Past Chair
Jeff Chant at 7:45 pm	Minister
Angela Clifton at 7:45 pm	Minister
Bev Burgess	Member at large
Jack Logan	Regional Council 15 rep
Karen Crouse	Member at large
Randall Knox	Property and Grounds
Richard Greek	Finance and Stewardship
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Corrine Zinck	
Marion Browne	UCW
Rev. Heather Ferrier	Region 15

Regrets:

Ruth Rudderham	UCW
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel
Marg Forbes	

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**OPENING WORSHIP/PRAAYER:**

Rev. Heather Ferrier read a devotion from Rachel Held Evans book, "Inspired", and chapter titled "Fish Stories" and led us in prayer.



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**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:**

**Motion:** Karen Crouse/Richard Greek seconded 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 noted one agenda item under Old Business:

b) Daycare

**Motion:** Ewart Morse/Jack Layton that the Agenda be approved with the one addition. **Motion Carried.**

**RE-ASSESSMENT AND APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

David Walker identified the committee members, the mandate and process of reviewing the expiring ministerial appointments, revising job responsibilities and the offers for the positions. The committee included:

Elizabeth Burrige, Vice-Chair Council  
 Blake Hirtle, Treasurer  
 Richard Greek, Chair of Finance and Stewardship  
 David Walker, Chair Council  
 Sam Elsworth, Chair of Ministry and Personnel  
 Rev. Heather Ferrier, Region 15 Liaison

David thanked the committee members and Heather Ferrier.

The committee met seven times in-person and by Zoom. There were separate meetings with Jeff Chant, Angela Clifton and David Hewitt.

At the end of their deliberations, the committee has proposed the following recommendations:

1. The position for Jeff Chant to change from an appointment to a call of a 100% full-time position with revised responsibilities and financial reimbursement. David clarified the difference between a call and an appointment, the benefit of stability for the congregation and the minister, and shared the specifics of the revised responsibilities and financial package.
2. The recommendation to extend Angela Clifton's re-appointment for a one year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 is to be forwarded to Region 15. This request does not need to be approved by the congregation.

**Motion:** Elizabeth Burrige/Jack Logan the revised 100% position be approved and recommended to the congregation for approval.

Question and discussion included the financial revisions. **Motion carried.**

**Motion:** Elizabeth Burrige/Jack Logan a call be extended to Rev. Jeff Chant within the stated terms of call and be approved and recommended to the congregation for approval. **Motion carried.**



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**Motion:** Elizabeth Burrige/Ewart Morse Region 15 be requested to approve the appointment of Angela Clifton for a period of one year.  
Concern expressed over financial affordability. **Motion carried.**

Heather Ferrier will continue to support the process with the request to Region 15 and when the recommendations are presented at a congregational meeting.

David thanked Heather for her participation before she left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.  
Jeff Chant and Angela Clifton joined the Zoom meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) David read the email of April 16, 2021 from Janet Forbes regarding her donation in memory of her parents being used for the picnic tables, "...To thank whomever came up with this wonderful idea."

**MINUTES - March 31, 2021**

**Motion:** Ewart Morse/Karen Crouse to approve the draft Minutes of the March 31st, 2021 regular Council Meeting as circulated.

**Motion Carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) Collaboration Meetings update. Minutes from the last meeting were circulated and David Walker provided the following report. There was some frustration expressed that the progress was not fast enough. David Hewitt felt it best to pause the meetings and will communicate with each congregation. There was good discussion and interest regarding the arrangement made with New West Pine.
- b) Use of former nursery school space by Bridgewater Day Care. David Walker reported that Bridgewater Day Care was having to decrease enrollment to 60% due to the latest Covid restrictions but if they could use the former nursery school space it would allow them to continue to provide service at their current capacity. Because of the immediacy of the need, David made an executive decision to allow use of this space until September with no additional charge. A longer term arrangement regarding rental fee and other guidelines will need to be addressed. It was noted that all the equipment that the Day Care had been using in the gym, including from the storage under the stage, has been moved into the nursery rooms. This presents opportunities to use the space as a full gym and for other outside groups to rent.

**Action:** The following council members will meet to address the rental fee and guidelines/protocols for use of the space: Bev Burgess (lead); Randall Knox, Blake Hirtle, Karen Crouse and Denise McAulay from Bridgewater Day Care.



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### COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

**Financial** Blake Hirtle reported that part of the deficit shown on the financial statement will be covered by money transferred from Trustees to cover the shortfall from the broadcasting of online services. It will reduce the deficit but is not to be considered as revenue.

**Property** Randall Knox reported that a written report was not submitted. Communication had been received this afternoon that significant reoccurring issues with the church building will need to be investigated and addressed. In response to a question regarding the recently installed smart meter, it isn't anticipated that they won't be fully activated until Sept/Oct and have not made a difference in cost at this point.

**Finance** Richard Greek reported that a Stewardship outreach to the congregation is being worked on and anticipates it to occur in June.

### MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Jeff Chant reported on the following:

- Regional Meetings next week (previously referred to as Maritime Conference). Jeff is chair of the Regional Strategic Planning Process and has finished the proposal to present to Region 15.
- Collaborative Ministry - identified challenges within our municipality including: lack of an overall vision; smaller congregations are fearful of being 'gobbled' up by larger churches; that most of the pastoral charges' ministerial personnel positions are vacant; that there will only be one or two other ordained ministers in our area; the expectation of more visitations/pastoral care and one or two in-person worship services/week which hampers the minister from other initiatives.  
Jeff met with Neil McEwen and David Hewitt this week and discussed developing a training program for lay pastoral care teams. Other faith communities do not rely on just the minister to perform pastoral care.
- Jeff is looking for direction on approaching other communities of faith to participate in opportunities such as with New West Pine.
- Digital ministry. Jeff shared a video on communication/relationships in the current digital world and drew conclusions that there is a gap with what is happening in the world and how the church uses social media tools. He is working with Todd and David Doggett on the proposal for the memorial donors regarding digital ministry, commenting that the budget proposal is 90% complete. The vision is to resource it with intention and knowledge. There is a thirst for spiritual knowledge but not dogma. The majority of the world use podcasts, videos, and obtain news from social media and we can engage with this platform and tools to share our message.



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- Music Ministry. Based on the discussion at the previous Council meeting and Executive meetings, Jeff approached people who have agreed to meet to imagine what music ministry could be and how to resource it. The persons who agree to participate includes: Joanne Ferrier, Gary Ramey, Laurel Cowie, and Shelly Moran.
- Jeff received a Regional Community Faith Assessment which included a question to use one word to describe our faith community. Jeff polled the attendees. Responses included: evolving, progressive, caring, love, troubled, accepting, relevant, persistent, alive, committed, understanding, relevant, passionate, welcoming.
- Online ministry. If we come back to in-person services this summer, the online format will be briefer (~22 minutes) and will reuse previous episodes. This will give the volunteer tech team a break and time for strategic planning for future services.

**Motion:** Blake Hirtle/Jack Logan for Jeff Chant to approach other communities of faith to participate in hybrid worship/pastoral care services. Discussion included the impact on minister's time and the opportunity for financial benefits. **Motion carried.**

**Motion:** Blake Hirtle/Jack Logan to appoint a team [Joanne Ferrier, Gary Ramey, Laurel Cowie, Shelly Moran and Jeff Chant] to look at opportunities for diverse music ministry and how to resource it.

Discussion included the suggestion to include a person from a younger age demographic (20-30 yrs). **Motion carried.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Rental request. A cheerleading group has inquired about use of space when Covid restrictions allow. Will be addressed when Covid restrictions are eased.
- b) Music Ministry Committee (refer to previous item under Minister's Report)
- c) Former Wee Wisdom Nurse Scholl Rooms (refer to previous item under Old Business b).

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next Council meeting will be **Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021.** There is a congregational meeting planned for **Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.** If in-person meetings will be allowed, an urgent 'change of meeting notice' will be sent out as soon as the lifting of restrictions is announced.

David Walker clarified the instructions regarding Zoom invitations, advising to only use the phone numbers to connect if you have unlimited long distance calling, otherwise long distance charges will be high.

#### **CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:**

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**Motion:** Ewart Morse/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.**

The meeting closed at 8:50 p.m. upon motion of Karen Crouse/Randall Knox. **Motion carried.**

Angela Clifton gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edna Matheson*

Edna Matheson, Secretary

*David Walker*

David Walker, Chair

