

Bridgewater United Church Council Executive Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2021

Present: Edna Matheson, David Walker, Jeff Chant, Richard Greek, Blake Hirtle, Elizabeth Burrige

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order Opening Prayer	
	The Church Council Executive met June 22 nd , 2021 in the church library. David Walker, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.	
2.	Opening Prayer	
	David Walker	
3.	Agenda	
	No additions nor deletions	
4.	Correspondence	
	A thank-you card from Angela Clifton for her Christmas gift was read.	
5.	Minutes	
	Motion: Moved by Richard Greek and seconded by Blake Hirtle to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.	
6.	Special Congregation Meeting Debrief – how it went, communications	
	David Walker thought that the meeting was well-attended especially by Zoom format and felt that those attending were able to express their opinions. Discussed the issue of congregants keeping informed of events/processes. Edna asked about the draft minutes being available. In the past, the minutes would be distributed prior to the next congregational meeting. Executive agreed to request the draft minutes be distributed rather than waiting for the next meeting in 2022.	David will ask Corrine to distribute the draft minutes.
7.	Thank-you gift to Rev. Heather Ferrier	
	Executive agreed to thank Heather Ferrier with a token of appreciation for her involvement in the Reassessment and Reappointment Committee and Congregational meeting. Decision was made to give her a \$25 - \$35 gift certificate.	David will buy the gift card
8.	Covenanting Service	
	The service will be congregationally led. Plan for an evening service on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.	

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9.	Region 15 Self-Assessment	
	David Walker received the self-assessment but one was completed and submitted by Jeff Chant.	
10.	In person services	
	In person services are resuming on Sunday, June 27 th with a maximum attendance of 50. Notice has been sent out by email. The number of attendees allowed will increase as per NS restrictions are eased.	
11.	Online services	
	Jeff Chant has chosen nine previously recorded services to rebroadcast during the summer. This will allow the tech team to have a break and to plan for the future. July 25 th will be 'Christmas in July'. Jeff expressed appreciation to Todd's tech support and use of his equipment for the videoing of the services. Jeff stated he has a good draft budget for digital ministry to submit to the donor family.	
12.	New West Pine update	
	Jeff Chant sent an email to the executive on the discussion he had with Sandy Creaser from New West Pine about our future relationship. Services will resume in July and the plan is continue the hybrid type of service indefinitely rather than resuming the 2 month evaluation. They worship on the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays of the month with a minister being present at a service every two months. Jeff will be leading the in-person services at New West Pine and Angela will lead worship at BUC on August 8 th , Oct 24 th , and Dec 12 th . Financial arrangement of \$800/mon will continue. Discussion occurred re the misconception that the service at New West Pine would be online and not being able to view the online services.	
13.	Region 15 Annual Meeting Report	
	David Walker attended the Region 15 annual meeting and will share the minutes when distributed.	
14.	Congregation letter	
	Jeff Chant read the congregation letter that will be sent by David Walker and Richard Greek. Discussion occurred regarding the format of mailing a paper letter, emailing or a combination. Tracy joined the discussion to describe what she knows from Mail Chimp data - approximately 60% of the emails sent are opened which may include individuals opening the same email more than once.	

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	Considering the numbers of email users compared and the percentage of emails opened, compared to the number on the paper mailing list, it was decided to send the congregation letter by mail.	
15.	Music Ministry	
	The group has had one meeting which went well and are aligned on the purpose of addressing how music ministry can meet our diverse needs. The group includes Shelly Moran, Laurel Cowie, Evan Rafuse, Jessie Robson, Joanne Ferrier, and Emily Higgins. Next meeting is June 23 rd . Discussion occurred regarding the challenges of addressing the issues identified by the group and the executive. Jeff will continue to talk to Wendy Fraser regarding the potential changes, and the impact on her involvement and opportunities.	Jeff to talk with Wendy Fraser
16.	Rental Request	
	<p>Discussed the request from a cheerleading group to use the gym for practices on Sundays.</p> <p>Motion: Blake Hirtle/Richard Greek. Provided provincial COVID protocols are agreed to be followed, outside groups will be allowed to rent space.</p> <p>Motion carried</p> <p>Reviewed the rental fees for the various spaces at BUC. Decided an hourly rate of \$25/hour for the gym will be offered to the cheerleading group.</p> <p>David Walker has received a request about space rentals from Simon Davies of Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Is waiting for a reply on specifics.</p>	David to contact cheerleading group leader
17.	M&P Chair	
	The current chair of M&P is recovering from a health issue. From conversations with the current chair and considering the summer months are less demanding, will revisit the needs in late August.	
18.	Minister's items	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff has received an email from the UCC regarding the Indigenous protests planned for Sunday, June 27th. Discussed that it may be unlikely that a gathering will occur at BUC. Jeff read the suggested recommendations in response to a gathering including the message be spread, to respect the gathering and listen, and to avoid defensive behavior. • Timelines and forward planning for redevelopment and strategic planning. 	Jeff and Blake will bring objectives for

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Care – At a meeting with David Hewitt and Neil McEwan, it was identified that support is needed for pastoral care. Pastoral care does not only have to be provided by a minister but lay people need to be prepared/equipped to provide pastoral care. Developing a pastoral care workshop/course for lay people will be a collaborative initiative. Will be offered to all the UCC's in the county, hopefully launched in Sept/2021. • Trustees request. A request has been forwarded from the Board of Trustees to release restrictions on two funds to enable reinvestment/use of funds. <p>Motion: Blake Hirtle/Edna Matheson. Remove any and all restrictions on the use of the principal and interest of the Keddy and Manse funds.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship coverage. As of July, Jeff will be coordinating vacation and continuing education requests of staff. A conflict over vacation request and worship coverage has occurred for August. Discussed the factors that contributed to the issue: timeline of position offers to the ministers, COVID restrictions and assumption that summer services would not be in-person, minister vacancies in the county. 	<p>planning to the executive.</p>
19.	Next Meeting Date	
	The next Church Council Executive meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22 nd , 2021.	
20.	Adjournment	
	Elizabeth Burr ridge/Richard Greek. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm	

Respectfully submitted,


 Edna Matheson, Secretary


 David Walker, Chair

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