

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2021

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:06 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	Minister
Bev Burgess	Member at large
Jack Logan	Regional Council 15 rep
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	
Marion Browne	UCW
Jess Robson	Music Ministry Committee
Brian Buck	Trustees

Regrets:

Karen Crouse
Randall Knox

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER: David Walker read a passage from the Upper Room, "In the Silence".

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

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.**



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Ruth Rudderham that the Agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.

MUSIC MINISTRY COMMITTEE UPDATE/RECOMMENDATIONS

It was decided to allow Jesse Robson to present the Music Ministry Committee Update and Recommendations at this time in the meeting. The Power Point slides will be shared with the minutes. The Music Ministry Committee included Jesse Robson, Evan Rafuse, Emilie Higgins, Shelley Moran, Laurel Cowie and Jeff Chant.

Discussion following the presentation included:

- Input from the organist, Wendy Fraser. Laurel Cowie, Emily Higgins and Jeff Chant met with Wendy Fraser to share the vision. Wendy was supportive and interested in the part time organist position but subsequently thought it was time to retire. This presents the opportunity to have one position or keep two positions with distinct skill sets.
- The choir is experiencing declining membership and some members have health and mobility challenges with concerns over access to the choir loft.
- The proposed salaries and number of Sundays are defined weekly rather than hourly to allow flexibility.

Motion: Jesse Robson/Ewart Morse to approve establishing a Music Ministry Lead and Organist positions. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Jesse Robson/Sam Elsworth to establish a search committee for the Music Ministry Lead and Organist positions. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Tracy Rafuse/Sam Elsworth that the search committee consist of:

Shelley Moran

Emilie Higgins

Jesse Robson

Representative from Ministry and Personnel (dependent if deemed appropriate or vetoed by Region 15)

Choir member

Or as appointed by Council Executive if not able to find volunteers.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: David Walker read a thank-you card from Angela Clifton dated August 2, 2021.

MINUTES - May 26, 2021

Motion: Jack Logan/Tracy Rafuse to approve the draft Minutes of the May 26, 2021 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**



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OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Ministry Personnel. Currently have one full-time minister, Rev. Jeff Chant who is now also covering pastoral care.
- b) Thank-you gifts. The monetary gift to Angela was divided between the United Church Indigenous Healing Fund and Atlantic School of Theology towards her student expenses.
- c) Day Care Room Usage Committee Update. Bev Burgess reported that a meeting is scheduled for August 26th, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

Board of Trustees Corrine Zinck presented the report that the Investment Policy Statement 2021 has been revised to allow the investment advisor to move more into equity/income generating funds rather than fixed income/investments/GICs. There have been adjustments made to the terms of trust funds, some of which required contacting families. Executive decided that the principal of funds can be used for the needs of the church.

Discussion included:

- The investment advisor would work without having to contact one of the Board of Trustees for every transaction.
- All investments have been with the same company for the last four years.

Motion: Corrine Zinck/Ewart Morse to approve the Investment Policy Statement 2021 under the condition that if in a year's time, if return on investments is unsatisfactory can be transferred to another investment group. **Motion carried.**

MINISTER'S REPORT:

- Despite the unexpected changes in ministry personnel and music leadership, and the impacts on Jeff's study leave and vacation, things are generally positive.
- Jeff is triaging pastoral care needs to funerals, hospital visits and supporting those in crisis. Jeff and four people will be taking the Pastoral Care Course from Ottawa including Ewart Morse, Greg Bayers, Marg Forbes and Joanne Ferrier. This group will support visitation and contacts with shut-ins.
- The arrangement with New West Pine includes providing pastoral care to their small congregation of 15 – 20 people.

Motion: Jeff Chant/Richard Greek to authorize executive to enter into a formal agreement of what ministry support will be provided with New West Pine. **Motion carried.**

- Digital ministry proposal to the Zwicker family. The family agreed to cover the proposed budget with the transfer of shares to fund the online ministry. The gift will be acknowledged.
- Board of Trustees. Brian Buck has agreed to be Chair. Jeff Chant complimented the fantastic work that the Board has done.

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- Collaborative proposals:
 - First South – on hold as they have declined at this time.
 - Westside – Their Council Executive has approved a motion to actively pursue a relationship with another community of faith. Jeff Chant is looking for participants to actively engage with Westside about potential collaborations. Jack Logan and David Walker agreed to participate. Any other council members interested are to contact David Walker.
- Vacant Pastoral Care Position. Jeff Chant reviewed the history of having a Pastoral Care Position, of it not being filled and the impacts on the full time minister's role/responsibilities that were defined in the position description. Discussion included that people are missing the contact with Angela Clifton, that operations are smoother when there is a shared ministry, and the lack of applicants for a part-time ministry position. The Pastoral Care training will be finished in nine weeks. The list of visitation/ phone calls is 27 but expect more to be added. With a trained Pastoral Care Team, council needs to decide whether to wait to fill the part-time pastoral care position; change the position description or not fill the position and lose the revised position responsibilities of the full-time position. It was agreed to the following plan:
 - Jeff Chant to continue covering pastoral care needs until the end of October
 - Post the currently approved position
 - Collaborate with Westside United for pastoral care
 - Utilize the people taking the Pastoral Care course to contact shut-ins and phone calls.

Actions: Jeff Chant to:

- Talk to David Hewitt regarding a search committee process and keep the active advertisement on Church Hub.
- Contact Neil McEwan with Westside to meet on potential collaborations.
- Involve Pastoral Care trainees to do phone calls.
- Lennie Gallant Concert. Seventy-four tickets have been sold. Until the province meets the 75% vaccination target, there will only be 92 allowed. Discussion included finding sponsors/staying the course.
- Jeff Chant will be supervising minister for Liverpool and Caledonia.
- Worship in September. Wendy Fraser will help. If anyone knows of other musicians to contact Jeff Chant.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Rental request. Universal Cheer and Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce. Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce to pay \$250 for the provincial election delegate debate held August 10th, 2021. Acknowledgement made to Tracy Rafuse for her extra work in supporting the event. It was agreed that a church representative need to help with events. Jeff Chant to talk to Donna Stitt with Ways and Means about this.

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Universal Cheer Group agreement includes using the gym every Sunday from 1 to 9 pm and every second Wednesday for 2.5 hours at a rate of \$20.00/hr. In the event of conflict with church events, will contact the group and offer an alternative time. The arrangement is until May, 2022. If it works out, the group is interested in a long-term arrangement. Question was raised about insurance coverage and if Bridgewater United Church needs to be named on the group's liability policy. Brian Buck will talk to BUC insurance broker, Danny Carey. Question was asked if the schedule will conflict with the Scouting group when they resume.

Tracy Rafuse will give David Walker the most up-to-date facility rental fees. It was suggested that the fees for renting the kitchen need to be adjusted.

Motion: Jeff Chant/Ewart Morse that facility rental fees follow the schedule for funeral rentals. **Motion carried.**

b) Covenanting Service tentatively planned for October 3 at 7pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 22, 2021

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Jack Logan/Ruth Rudderham 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.**

David Walker described a recruitment strategy of inviting people to watch/participate in the volunteer positions in the church and asked for volunteers to help with closing up after council meetings.

The meeting closed at 9:18 p.m. upon motion of Ewart Morse/Corrine Zinck.

David Walker gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson

Edna Matheson, Secretary

David Walker, Chair