

Bridgewater United Church Council Executive Meeting Minutes

Sept. 8, 2021

Present: Elizabeth Burrige, Jeff Chant, Edna Matheson, Blake Hirtle

Regrets: Richard Greek, David Walker

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order & Attendance	
	The Church Council Executive met September 8, 2021 in the church library. Elizabeth Burrige, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm	
2.	Opening Prayer	
	Elizabeth Burrige	
3.	Agenda	
	One addition to the agenda: Covid-19 Phase 5 recommendations regarding masks and proof of vaccination.	
4.	Correspondence	
	No correspondence.	
5.	Minutes	
	Motion: Blake Hirtle/Jeff Chant to approve the minutes of July 15, 2021. Motion Carried.	
6.	Pulpit supply thank-you' s	
	It's not usual practice to send thank-you notes to those who are paid for performing services. Thank-you notes will be sent to volunteers who assisted with services in the summer, Rev. Linda Yeats and Ruth Rudderham.	David Walker will write thank-you notes
7.	September 12 th service and picnic	
	Faith Formation Committee will be organizing this service.	
8.	September 19 th service – Zwicker Memorial Donation recognition	
	Sons of Marguerite and Bryon Zwicker, Derek and Martin plan to attend this service, acknowledging the donation for online ministry. A plaque acknowledging the memorial donation will be presented. It will be displayed near the entrance to the choir loft.	Jeff Chant will invite Derek and/or Martin to participate in the service.
9.	New West Pine update	
	No new developments	

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10.	M&P Chair	
	Sam Elsworth will continue as Chair of M&P Committee.	
11.	Pastoral Care arrangement with West Side United	
	<p>The Official Board of LaHave New Dublin Pastoral Charge accepted a motion to recommend their congregation approve entering into a collaborative ministry with Bridgewater United Church. The pilot project is 20% of Westside United ministry personnel’s time (8 hours/week) for pastoral care at Bridgewater United Church from September 21st to December 31st with a monthly remuneration to West Side United of \$1,226.13.</p> <p>The official process includes approval by the LaHave New Dublin Pastoral Charge and Regional Council.</p> <p>The LaHave New Dublin Congregational meeting is planned for Sept 21st, 2021.</p> <p>David Hewitt, Regional Council 15 will seek approval at the Pastoral Relations Committee meeting on Sept. 17th, 2021.</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising BUC’s job description of the 50% Pastoral Care position, with a focus on coordination of the pastoral care team; prioritizing pastoral visits with shut-ins, seniors, hospital patients and LTC residents; communion and services at LTC facilities; funerals. • Supporting the current practice of phoning shut-ins. • Covering mileage – covering 20% of total mileage for both charges or submitting detailed claims/establishing a baseline of claims with the intent of it not being too cumbersome but not being short-changed. <p>Plan:</p> <p>Position description for the 20% Pastoral Care Position will be submitted to the Region 15 and LaHave New Dublin prior to their meetings.</p> <p>Informal start date of Sept. 13 for meetings between Jeff Chant and Neil McEwan.</p>	<p>Jeff Chant will revise position description and submit to Region 15 and LaHave Dublin Pastoral Charge.</p> <p>Jeff Chant will talk to Neil McEwan re submitting mileage claims and what would work for him.</p>
12.	September 26 th service – introducing Neil to our Congregation	
	<p>Coincides with Westside’s anniversary so will invite LaHave New Dublin Pastoral Charge to the service at BUC. Discussed details for the celebratory service including a blessing and who would be included in the laying on of hands, celebratory cake. Announcement of Neil McEwan starting as BUC’s Pastoral Care Minister will be by email announcement, during church service, after the Sept 21st, by district rep phone tree and the online service.</p>	<p>Blake Hirtle will inquire about ordering a cake.</p>

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	Covid-19 Phase 5 recommendations regarding masks and proof of vaccination.	
	<p>Phase 5 is expected to start on September 15th and includes no mandatory masks, nor social distancing, nor limits on gatherings. Admission to non-essential businesses or events will be limited to the fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as of October 4th. Church services are identified as an essential service and therefore exempt from the recommendation to check vaccination status.</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Public Health recommendations such as voluntary masks and full vaccination status. • Will volunteers be willing to ask vaccination/exemption status at church services or use a self-check in form? • What to do if someone admits to not being fully vaccinated? • How much of a risk is there when the case rates are low and vaccination rates are high in the age groups of our congregants. • Will congregants be more comfortable returning to in-person services knowing we are asking for vaccination status? <p>Plan: Review the guidelines from Region 15/Head office to be released Sept. 9. Present at Church Council September 22nd for decision.</p>	
13.	Lennie Gallant Concert update	
	Gathering limits will be unrestricted by concert date of Sept 24 th so the plan is to increase the promotion of the concert with the goal of selling 200 plus tickets.	Jeff Chant will create posters to distribute in the community and promote on FB.
14.	Universal Cheer Rental Update	
	Group has started using the gym but an issue with storage of mats and other equipment needs to be worked out.	
15.	Election Venue Evaluation	
	Chamber of Commerce were pleased with the space.	
16.	Music Ministry update	

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	The position postings have been distributed to Buchanan's Music store in Mahone Bay, a targeted Facebook ad and on BUC's FB site.	
17.	Wee Wisdom Video	
	Todd Langille is working on the video.	
18.	Covenanting Service	
	Planned for October 24 th , 2021. Need to work with Faith Formation, M&P to plan the service, who to invite to speak and attend.	
19.	Recommendation re Day Care use of former Wee Wisdom rooms	
	Reviewed the recommendation from the committee received September 3, 2021 to not increase rental fees for the present time pending the new Child Care initiative and changes in provincial and federal governments.	
20.	Next meeting date	
	The next Church Council Executive meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10, 2021 at 6:30 pm.	
21.	Adjournment	
	Blake Hirtle/Edna Matheson. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm	

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson
Edna Matheson, Secretary

David Walker
David Walker, Chair