

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2021

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

David Walker	Chair
Elizabeth Burridge	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
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Corrine Zinck	
Marion Browne	UCW
Shelly Moran	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 and prayer from the Upper Room.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Jack Logan/Ewart Morse that those persons present who are not Council members or designates can participate in discussion but will not have a vote. **Motion Carried.**

(EM)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Tracy Rafuse/Karen Crouse that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: David Walker has sent two thank-you notes to Rev. Linda Yates and Ruth Rudderham for leading services in the summer.

MINUTES – May 26, 2021

Motion: A correction to the list of attendees for the minutes of August 11th, 2021 was noted. Ruth Rudderham was added as attending. Ewart Morse/Richard Greek to approve the draft Minutes of the August 11th, 2021 regular Council Meeting as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

MINUTES of the Executive meetings from July 15, 2021 and September 8, 2021 were circulated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Day Care Rental Committee. Karen Crouse reviewed the recommendation from the Committee as described in their committee report.

Motion: Karen Crouse/Ruth Rudderham no change in the rental fees at the current time. **Motion carried.**

Position Descriptions. As a result of the vacancy of the pastoral care position, the position descriptions will be revised as necessary and submitted to Region 15.

Formal agreement with New West Pine. It was reported by Jeff Chant that from both perspectives it is working. Jeff Chant will be attending a Session meeting at New West Pine on September 23, 2021.

West Side United Collaboration. Jeff Chant and David Walker reviewed the background work on the proposal for the collaboration between Bridgewater United Church and LaHave New Dublin Pastoral charge. The proposal was being presented to the LaHave New Dublin Board at a meeting on September 21st, 2021. David Hewitt isn't expecting any problems with the arrangement being accepted by Region 15. Rev. Jeff Chant and Rev. Neil McEwan worked on the pastoral care position description and includes leading the group who are taking the Pastoral Care Course. Jeff Chant will backfill pastoral care as needed.

Motion: Jack Logan/Ewart Morse to approve the pilot proposal of 20% of West Side United ministry personnel's time (8 hours/week) be for pastoral care at Bridgewater United Church with a monthly remuneration to West Side United of \$1,226.13 from October 1 to December 31, 2021. **Motion carried.**



Music Ministry Committee. Shelly Moran spoke on what has occurred since the last Council meeting on August 11th, 2021. The posting for two positions, Music Animator and Organist closed Thursday, September 16, 2021. One application for part-time organist has been received. Feedback on the Music Animator posting revealed that the description needs clarification. The request of the committee is to have a representative from M&P to participate in the review of applicants and the interview process. Discussion included revising the posting and keeping the ad on the BUC website for now. The Organist part-time position is for 10-16 Sundays/year. One person who is a worthy candidate could fill both positions. Question asked, is there opportunity to collaborate with other local churches?

Lennie Gallant concert. Jeff Chant reviewed how the changes in the provincial COVID policies have impacted the concert. Ticket sales are over the 'break-even point'. Jeff Chant has been communicating with the Director of Events NS. She has given approval to proceed with the concert with the exemption of allowing a larger gathering limit without physical distancing. Masks and proof of ID and vaccination are required. The logistics were discussed.

Covenanting Service. The covenanting service for Rev. Jeff Chat will be Sunday, Oct. 24th, 2021 at 7 pm. A committee including Council Chair, David Walker, Vice Chair Elizabeth Burrige, the Chair of M&P and a M&P representative and the Chair of Faith Formation, Tracy Rafuse and one other representative from Faith Formation will organize the service. David Walker will talk to Sam Elsworth, Chair of M&P.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

Faith Formation. Clarification was the date of their last meeting on August 18th.

Finance Committee. The Notes at the end of the report were brought to the Council's attention.

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Digital Ministry. The memorial gift from the Zwicker family was acknowledged in the service on September 19, 2021 with the presentation of a plaque. One of the sons who has been involved in theatre returned to the church to make suggestions on lighting that impacts filming. The intent is to video in-sanctuary services. A quote on two more cameras has been received.

Collaborative ministry. Jeff Chant expressed his excitement about working with Rev. Ewan McEwan and the congregants of LaHave Dublin Pastoral Charge. They have been invited to worship at Bridgewater United Church on October 3, 2021 to welcome and bless Neil McEwan. The ministers will co-officiate communion.



Pastoral Care. Both charges have had pastoral care needs (funerals).

Administrative personnel. Jeff Chant expressed concern over Tracy Rafuse's workload.

Jeff Chant will be away on October 10th, 2021 and is working on pulpit supply.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phase 5 considerations. The Provincial COVID requirements for Phase 5 will be introduced on October 4th and includes no mandatory masks, no social distancing, and no limits on gatherings. Faith gatherings are considered an essential service so are exempt from having to determine proof of vaccination.

Discussion points:

- The guidance from the United Church is resulting in different approaches.
- What to do to keep people safe and what to do to encourage in person attendance?
- Will proof of vaccination be required for each service or allowed to be collected once? Collecting once requires documenting/storing health information.
- Pre-Covid attendance was around 120 and now 40.
- A family has commented that they will not be attending services until children are vaccinated.
- Other events in the church considered non-essential will require proof of vaccination.
- The demographic of our congregants have a high rate of vaccination.
- Will sanitizing of seats after service be a requirement? Impact on workload if seats not assigned.

Small groups were formed to discuss:

1. Asking for proof of vaccination
2. Requiring masks
3. Social distancing in the sanctuary/Pre-registering for services

The groups reconvened and reported on their discussions. Attendees were evenly divided on whether to ask for proof of vaccine with two members abstaining. Following a lengthy discussion, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- Support and promote Public Health's recommendation to be fully vaccinated.
- Continue to provide and encourage hand sanitizing.
- Pre-registration not required.
- Continue with signing-in for potential contact tracing.
- Masks will continue to be mandatory.
- Allow singing.
- May ~~seat~~ ^{sit} wherever they choose but to encourage spacing.

Plan to have revised signage and promotion of these recommendations.

Nominating committee representatives. Karen Crouse asked about the process of replacing a vacancy on a committee from a resignation. John Veinot has resigned from the Bridgewater Day Care Committee. David Walker suggested the committee to solicit candidates and send their recommendation to Council Executive to appoint them.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 24, 2021

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Jack Logan/Karen Crouse 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.**

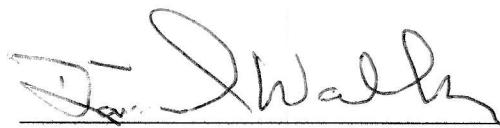
The meeting closed at 9:02 pm upon motion of Ewart Morse/Richard Greek.

Jeff Chant gave the closing prayer.

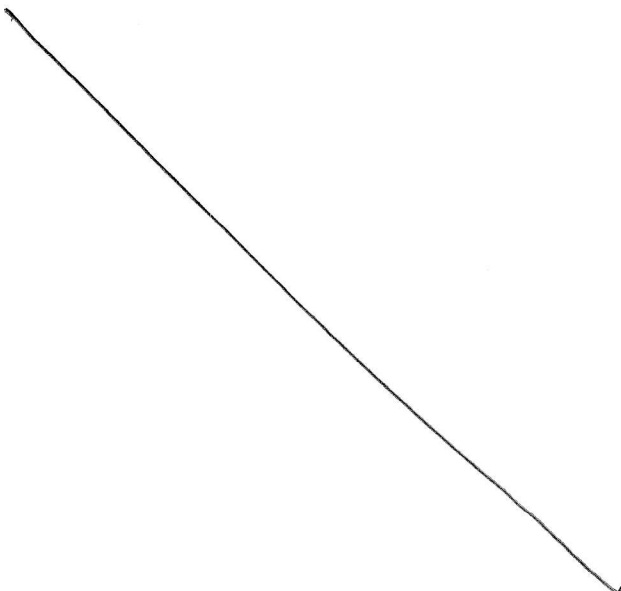
Respectfully submitted,



Edna Matheson, Secretary



David Walker, Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT TO CHURCH CONGREGATION
FOR EIGHT MONTH PERIOD ENDING Aug 31, 2021

OPERATING DEFICIT AT END OF PERIOD	30,561
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Note 2: The church owes the trustees the total sum of \$45,000.00 with presently a good part of it being used to pay the everyday operating expenses. This is not sustainable.

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE COMMITTEE ~ Bev Burgess

The Committee with respect to the review of Day Care use of the former Nursery School rooms met August 26th, 2021. A directive from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development was reviewed which mandates there be no increase in parent fees due to the new Child Care initiative proposed by the Federal/Provincial program, which is to be implemented over the next 5 years. Discussion took place with regard to this new program and how it could impact our Centre. Due to the pending Federal election September 20th and the change in the Provincial Government, it was agreed to recommend no increase in rental fees for these rooms at the present time. The Committee will meet once more information is received on how this new Plan will impact our Centre.

MISSION TRIP REPORT ~ Bev Burgess

On the long weekend in September, our members were in Liverpool to sell some crafts and treasures. The sum of \$125.50 was raised and this will be our last sale in Liverpool. The lady who held the Scarf Party is unfortunately another casualty of COVID so that fund raiser is not possible. We have agreed that we halt any fund raising activities until the new year. At that time, we will meet to discuss what fund raising activities we could hold. We have the shed at Bucks with Yard Sale items so a Sale in the spring may be a consideration, depending on what the COVID restrictions are at that time. Thank you again to Bucks for storing these treasures.

Our total fund raising to date for the Ministry is a little over \$16,000.00. We again wish to thank the congregation for their continuing support of this Mission.

FAITH FORMATION ~ Diane Barry

- 129 goodie bags were delivered as part of the Friendship Project.
- 3 youth from Bridgewater United attended Sherbrooke Lake Camp this summer.
- The annual Sunday School picnic will be held on Sunday, September 12th, 2021. A barbeque lunch will take place in the church parking lot after the regular service that day. A potluck can be held but servers will be needed for dipping out food. 150 people are allowed to attend the outdoor event. Families will need to sit grouped in their bubbles.
- Both Sunday School and Worship Nursery will start up on Sunday, September 12th, 2021. Welcome back letters will be sent out to all families. The Sunday School program will follow the same format as what was used this spring. The program is using all the proper COVID protocols.
- Baptisms are once again allowed – one baptism per service.
- The Faith Formation Committee members would like to thank Angela Clifton for her time and commitment to the committee.
- The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6th, 2021 @ 4pm via Zoom.

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS ~ Randall Knox

From meeting held September 09, 2021.

- Tracy R. is now coordinating the monthly calendar and meeting space.
- June 10 cleanup had a small turn out but a lot was accomplished, front windows cleaned, rear ditch cleaned out, parking concrete bumpers reset and debris around yard and building cleaned.
- Repairs to furnace are now complete.
- Heat pump heads cleaned and found both fan motors defective. On warranty but not replaced yet.
- Roof drain over back office leaked and repaired again.
- Phone connections in the furnace room were repaired but still from the 60's.
- All yearly inspections have been completed.

Many other maintenance issues completed through the summer however:

- CEC door stopper still not adjusted
- Oil tank not painted
- Heat registers not cleaned
- Roof restoration not complete

UCW ~ Ruth Rudderham

Because of limited fund-raising opportunities we have decided to once again hold a "no-bake sale" in support of our outreach projects; Grandmothers to Grandmothers, Starfish International, Brunswick St. Mission, Schools Plus Emergency Fund and Mission and Service. This will be held during the month of October.

A General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 18th at 1:30 pm. Unit members will be also encouraged to attend.

Mittens for Schools Plus will be collected in October.

A Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 20th.