

# Bridgewater United Church Council Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2022

Present: David Walker, Edna Matheson, Elizabeth Burr ridge, Richard Greek, Blake Hirtle

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order Opening Prayer	
	The Church Council Executive met March 7, 2022 in the church library. David Walker called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.	
2.	Opening Prayer	
	David Walker	
3.	Agenda	
	There were no additions nor deletions to the agenda.	
4.	Correspondence	
	a) Trustee resignation – Beau Prince b) Letter from Wendy Fraser expressing appreciation for her retirement service. c) Email from Town of Bridgewater re Tax Exemption and the request to confirm registered charitable status.	Blake Hirtle and David Walker will submit confirmation of registered charitable status.
5.	Minutes – January 12, 2022	
	<b>Motion:</b> Richard Greek/Blake Hirtle to accept the minutes of January 12, 2022 to be approved. <b>Motion Carried.</b>	
6.	COVID Restrictions	
	The most recent easing of restrictions for church services is the increase of capacity to 75% with social distancing as much as possible and not asking for proof of vaccination. <b>Motion:</b> Richard Greek/Elizabeth Burr ridge to waive the proof of vaccination for attendance at church services and events. <b>Motion carried.</b>	
7.	Financial Status	
	Blake Hirtle reported on the financial status for January and February. Discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses have increased and revenue has decreased compared to Jan/Feb 2021.</li> <li>• Heating costs have increased. Discussed options regarding decreasing usage without increasing risk of frozen pipes.</li> </ul>	Blake Hirtle to discuss with Randall Knox

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility of using remote control sensors near areas where pipes have frozen.</li> <li>• Recheck the thermostat timer settings.</li> </ul>	
8.	Congregational engagement plan	
	<p>Jeff Chant described the plan to engage with members. The purpose of engagement is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express appreciation for members’ support, especially during Covid</li> <li>• Extend an invite to the annual general meeting and Easter services</li> <li>• Inquire if they have been attending and if not, what would help them feel comfortable to return to in-person services.</li> </ul> <p>At least ten to twelve individuals will call every member of the congregation. There will be training for the callers on the purpose of the calls, to review a prepared script and what questions might be asked.</p> <p>Briefly discussed the idea of having a social before Easter Sunday service.</p>	Jeff Chant will email the list of callers to the executive.
9.	BUD Network Update	
	<p>Jeff Chant presented the Be United Digital Ministries Network proposal, developed in collaboration with David Walker and David Hewitt from Region 15. The two grant applications from EDGE have been approved to build on the hybrid model successful with New West Pine and to develop a new online church network.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The challenges of congregations to find ministry personnel/pulpit supply, the burden on lay worship leaders, the extension of temporary supervisor roles, pastoral care expectations, congregations to gather in their community/remain independent and maintain their identity.</li> <li>• Opportunities include collaborating and expanding our connections with local United Church congregations and sharing resources.</li> <li>• Revenue stream with tiered fee schedule based on what services are contracted.</li> <li>• The capacity of BUC minister performing in-person services at other churches and what BUC would accept.</li> <li>• The potential for other ministers to participate.</li> <li>• The challenge of meeting pastoral care needs and expanding the pastoral care team with members from other congregations.</li> <li>• The burden on Jeff Chant and the need for support and leadership on church work/activities.</li> </ul>	

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	The proposal will be presented at the annual general congregational meeting.	
10.	Dave Gunning Christmas Concert	
	There is an opportunity to book a Xmas concert with Dave Gunning and JP Cormier. It was agreed to proceed with booking this concert.	Jeff Chant will follow up.
11.	Potential Spring Concert	
	Discussed potential dates for end of May/early June.	
12.	Nominating Committee	
	Those present have agreed to offer that they will continue in their current roles on the executive. David Walker will contact the members at large to ask about another term and ask chairpersons of committees to verify members.	David Walker
13.	Sr. Friendly Accessibility Audit	
	<p>Reviewed the recommendations from the accessibility audit. The recommendations that are more costly include a ramp at the front of the sanctuary and a bathroom closer to the sanctuary. A bathroom has been looked before but estimated costs were prohibitive. It is recommended that it be revisited considering Judith Pyke's donation and potential funds from accessibility grants as a priority but long-range plan.</p> <p>It was recommended that the audit be reviewed by Property Committee to plan how to address the recommendations. It was suggested that since the Inclusivity Committee requested the audit that the committee could reconvene to collaborate with Property Committee on a plan of implementation.</p>	
14.	Judith Pyke Donation	
	David Walker reviewed information from a meeting and email correspondence with Judith Pyke regarding her commitment of funds for accessibility projects. David Walker will follow up with Judith Pyke to clarify questions related to her commitment and inform her that the audit will be forwarded to appropriate committee/s to develop a work plan.	David Walker
15.	Pastoral Care Position Evaluation/recommendation	
	<p>The part-time pastoral care position is included in the 2022 budget to the end of August. Discussed the challenges with how to evaluate the role and choosing performance indicators. Jeff Chant will talk to chair of M&amp;P, Sam Elsworth about personnel evaluations.</p> <p>It will be recommended at the congregational meeting to continue the contract until the end of August, 2022.</p>	Jeff Chant to talk to Sam Elsworth

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16.	Easter Services	
	Jeff Chant reviewed the schedule of Easter week services shared between Westside and BUC.	
17.	Staff Vacations	
	Jeff Chant reviewed the schedule for vacations. Elizabeth BurrIDGE reported that coverage for pulpit supply is filled until May 15 <sup>th</sup> .	
18.	Counting teams/dates 2022	
	During COVID, the number of donors on PAR has increased, so counting of offerings is done every two weeks. Blake Hirtle suggested to schedule a count after the last Sunday of each month. It was suggested that there isn't a need for a safe at this time.	
19.	RC15 Annual Meeting	
	David Walker is registered for the annual meeting for Regional Council 15 from May 27 to 29 by Zoom.	
20.	Next Meeting Date	
	The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.	
21.	Adjournment	
	Blake Hirtle/Edna Matheson the meeting be adjourned at 9:13 pm.	

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson  
Edna Matheson, Secretary

C. Elizabeth BurrIDGE for  
David Walker, Chair



February 14, 2022

To the attention of  
Chairperson Brian Buck  
Reverend Jeff Chant

Please accept this formal resignation  
for W. Beatrice Prince as a trustee  
of the Bridgewater United Church  
effective immediately.

Signed by Mary Prince Feb 14, 2022  
POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR W. BEATRICE PRINCE

CONTACT INFO

MARY PRINCE  
398 SCOTCH LAKE RD  
GEORGES RIVER, NS  
B1Y 3W2

PHONE: 902-919-5425  
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27 Weagle Drive,  
Holtville, N. D.  
February 2, 2022


Mr. David Walker  
B.M.C. Church Council

Happy New Year to you all! It's hard to believe it's already February.

I am writing to express my deepest appreciation to you, the committee and planners for the wonderful formal service. I truly feel you went above and beyond. Hearing from all the Clergy was unexpected and moving. We were fortunate to be able to celebrate at that time. Meeting in the hall was also a nice time and special mention to Elizabeth Burridge for the beautiful organ solo.

As I said on that day, being an Organist was my life's ambition. Now with over 46 years and 33 at B.M.C., I am very proud of this accomplishment.

Thank you dear friends and may God continue to richly bless our B.M.C. community.

Sincerely,  
Wendy J. Finner 

February 3, 2022

Bridgewater United Church  
87 Hillcrest Street  
Bridgewater, NS  
B4V 1T2

via e-mail: [ewartmorse@gmail.com](mailto:ewartmorse@gmail.com)

Attn: Ewart Morse, Chair – Bridgewater United Church Council

**RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - CHAPTER 192 – PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

To Whom it may concern:

Please be advised that in accordance with *Section 5 of Chapter 192 – Property Tax Exemption By-law* which states “*the owner of the property, upon initial application for the exemption, provided for in this by-law, and each year thereafter, on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, shall provide to the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Bridgewater, proof of its eligible status. Failure to provide said proof shall result in the removal of the property from Schedule “A” and the immediate termination of any exemption set out, therein.*”

As such, we request your association forward a letter stating/validating your **active** status as a registered charity to maintain your tax exemption for the two outreach programs: Wee Wisdom Nursey School and Bridgewater Daycare Centre.

You may forward the information to the attention of my Executive Assistant Amanda Shupe to the following address:

Town of Bridgewater  
Attn: Amanda Shupe,  
Executive Assistant to CAO  
60 Pleasant Street,  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 3X9

Or email to [Amanda.shupe@bridgewater.ca](mailto:Amanda.shupe@bridgewater.ca).

Thank you for assisting in this matter.

Yours truly,



Tammy Crowder, MURP, MCIP  
Chief Administrative Officer  
/aes

cc: Nancie Kelley, Revenue Clerk