

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2022

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. David Walker, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

David Walker	Chair
Elizabeth Burr ridge	Vice Chair
Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
Edna Matheson	Secretary
Rev. Neil McEwan	Minister
Bev Burgess	Member at Large
Ewart Morse	Past Chair
Karen Crouse	Member at Large
Randall Knox	Property and Grounds
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

Regrets:

Marion Brown
Marg Forbes

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER: David Walker read a message and prayer from the Upper Room.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Bev Burgess/Randall Knox that those persons present who are not Council members or designates can participate in discussion but will not have a vote. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Richard Greek/Ewart Morse that the Agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence to share.

MINUTES – May 25, 2022 and June 29, 2022

Motion: Richard Greek/Ruth Rudderham to approve the draft Minutes of the May 25, 2022 regular Council Meeting and the draft Minutes of the June 29, 2022 Special Council Meeting as approved. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

a) MOU with West Side United

The term will be for one year from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. It will be evaluated throughout the year to make recommendations to both congregations prior to the end of the term.

The specifics of the MOU were proposed by Rev. Neil McEwan in discussion with David Walker and Barbara Rafuse.

The proposal includes:

- 20 hours per week dedicated to West Side United (Monday and Wednesday)
- 20 hours per week dedicated to Bridgewater United (Tuesday and Friday)
- Thursdays off
- Total of 8 hours to be used throughout the week for preparing/leading worship on Sunday mornings, meetings, funerals, marriages, visits, extra worship planning scheduled beyond the designated days.
- Rev. Neil will lead worship at Bridgewater United on the first and third Sundays of each month and the second and fourth Sundays of the month at Westside United.

For the four months that have a fifth Sunday, there will be a rotation between the two churches:

- October 30, 2022 – Westside United
- January 1, 2023 – no service
- April 3, 2023 – Bridgewater United
- July 30, 2023 – to be determined as to what services will be offered in the summer months

- The cost to Bridgewater United will be \$2,961.00/month

Rev. Neil McEwan left the meeting prior to the discussion.

Questions and discussion points:

- The first Sundays of each month will continue to be a combined service of Bridgewater United, Westside United, New West Pine, St. Marks and St. Andrews and Caledonia.
- The second Sunday of the month at Bridgewater United will be led by lay leaders with the recorded video message.
- The fourth Sunday of the month will be covered by pulpit supply. David Walker has approached the six individuals who served on the Worship

EM

Committee to reconvene. Tracy Rafuse has been in contact with potential pulpit supply.

- Question was asked if Westside is in agreement with the one year term. David Walker said it was agreed upon by the Chair of the Board for Westside.
- Question was asked if the MOU would be cancelled if the Search Committee is successful. David Walker explained that the timeline for the Search Committee would probably cover the one year term.

Rev. Neil Mc Ewan returned to the meeting for the motion.

Motion: Bev Burgess/Ewart Morse to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. **Motion Carried.**

The next steps are for an acceptance of the agreement by the Board of Westside United and approved by Region 15.

b) Bridgewater United Search Committee

Two individuals have agreed to participate on the Search Committee, Jack Logan and Audrey Wambolt. David Walker encouraged Council members to consider serving on the Search Committee. The aim is to have the Committee in place by Christmas time. David Walker reviewed the timeline of performing the Search, moving through the process and allowing time for a minister to relocate would take months to a year.

Question was raised if the Living Profile needs to be revised and approved by the congregation. It will have to be looked at by the Search Committee.

c) Mask Rules

Discussion occurred regarding the dropping of restrictions by government including all mask requirements effective October 1, 2022.

Motion: Randall Knox/Tracy Rafuse that wearing a mask at church activities will be optional, effective October 1, 2023. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Tracy Rafuse to approve the committee reports as circulated. **Motion carried.**

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Neil asked what the group would want to have included in a minister's report. Suggestions included:

- What the minister has been working on since the last meeting.
- Report on findings/thoughts/feelings on preceding months.
- Pastoral Care team and concerns
- Filling in the gaps not provided by committee reports.

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- BUD Network
- Upcoming services
- Faithful guidance
- What we are doing right and what we could do better.

Rev. Neil described his role as being different from the last year now that it is 50% and expanded beyond the Pastoral Care role. He has gotten to know members of the congregation in a different way from his previous relationship with BUC but there are still more to get to know. He is enthused about how the relationship between BUC and Westside can grow in a multitude of ways. He is committed to the BUD ministry and there are plans for new productions and the Xmas shows. He described how individuals have found it meaningful, with viewers from Saskatchewan, Germany, and Aruba.

The Pastoral Care team will be resuming their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss the visits and the massive list of people connected to BUC. Rev. Neil would like to connect and support the individuals from other United Churches in the area who taking the course now.

Rev. Neil shared information from the national church:

- An online course on antiracism in the church. Rev. Neil would encourage participating in this opportunity as it is part of inclusion and welcoming to learn how a church could be racist without intent.
- Truth and Reconciliation activities on September 30th. The national office is supporting participating in local activities. Rev. Neil encourages congregants to attend the activities/speakers at Pijnuiskaq Park in Bridgewater.

This week's Sunday service will be a combined service for the BUD network and is worldwide communion.

Rev. Neil presided at a wedding ceremony in September and will be presiding on one on October 1, sharing with Rev. Jeff Chant. Rev. Neil acknowledged it will be the first same gender ceremony in this sanctuary.

Ministry personnel and staff have committed to meeting once a month.

Rev. Neil closed with encouragement to move forward the best way we can with the essence of love and in the spirit of doing good work.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) BUD Contracts

The current contracts will remain in place.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next regularly scheduled meeting planned for November 23, 2022 pending meshing of Bridgewater United and Westside United's calendars.

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

EM

Motion: Sam Elsworth/Tracy Rafuse 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 8:02 p.m. upon motion of Randall Knox/Ewart Morse.

Rev. Neil McEwan gave the closing prayer.

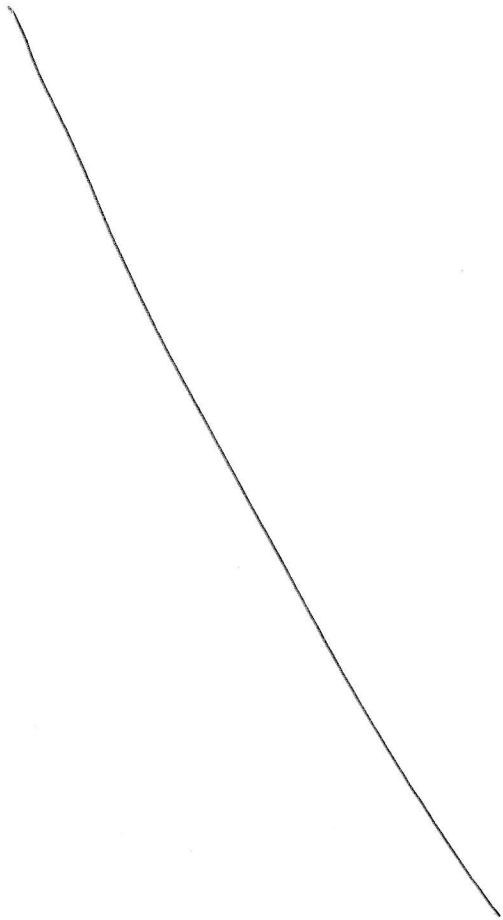
Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson

Edna Matheson, Secretary

David Walker

David Walker, Chair



Bridgewater United Church
Committee Reports for September 28, 2022
FINANCE COMMITTEE ~ Blake Hirtle. FOR THE EIGHT MONTH PERIOD ENDED AUG 31, 2022

RECEIPTS	2022
TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	104,329
TRUST RECEIPTS	
MISSION & SERVICE	11,745
UCW FUNDS FOR M & S	1,000
FOOD BANK RECEIPTS	3,890
DISASTER RELIEF	4,685
STARFISH CANADA	450
MISC TRUST RECEIPTS	3,050
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS	38,901
FUNDRAISING RECEIPTS	6,622
FUNDRAISING – MISSION FUND	995
BROADCAST SERVICE RECEIPTS	1,788
MISC. RECEIPTS	2,308
TOTAL RECEIPTS (Note 1)	<u>179,763</u>
 DISBURSEMENTS	
TOTAL TRUST DISBURSEMENTS	21,771
PASTORAL CARE EXPENSES	9,809
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	115,949
TOTAL OFFICE & ADMIN EXPENSE	10,715
ACCOUNTING FEES	5,551
HEATING FUEL	23,185
LIGHTS, WATER & SEWER	9,040
SNOW REMOVAL & SALTING	7,243
INSURANCE	8,509
FLOOR MAINTENANCE	316
OTHER PREMISES EXPENSES	7,334
UCC ASSESSMENT	5,360
OTHER MISC. EXPENSES	2,342
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (Note 1)	<u>227,124</u>
 ACTUAL OPERATING DEFICIT AT END OF PERIOD	47,361
CORRECTED BANK BALANCE	\$66,131.64

Note 1: TOTAL RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS DOES NOT INCLUDE BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS OR THE UNDISBURSED TRUST RECEIPTS

FAITH FORMATION ~ Diane Barry

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

- Due to the support of the church congregation and the Faith Formation Committee, four children were supported this summer for their experiences at church camp.
- The first day of Sunday School will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2022. A popsicle social will be held for the entire congregation following the morning activities.
- Volunteers are needed for the Sunday School program and the Worship Nursery. The Worship Nursery will remain open but will be supervised with a church volunteer only starting on Sunday, November 6, 2022.
- The Bridgewater United Church Youth Group (children grades 6-12) will meet the last Friday of each month from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The group is invited to meet this month on Friday, September 30, 2022.
- Another reminder that books are not to be left in the library as they need to be approved by church office staff first.
- A Korean bible has been purchased to support our Korean family. It will be used in the sanctuary as well as in Sunday School.
- The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, November 2, 2022 @ 4:00pm via Zoom.

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

- The Bridgewater United Church youth group met on Friday, June 5, 2022, and planted flowers and vegetables in the church gardens. The youth group will start up again in October 2022.
- Coffee Crisp chocolate bars were handed out at the Father's Day Service on Sunday, June 19, 2022.
- The Sunday School picnic was held on Sunday, June 19, 2022. With the weather cooperating, it was fabulous with an abundance of positive comments. Catering was provided by Kevin Lohnes and music by Stuart Franck. This year, the picnic was a time and place where everyone could relax and enjoy. We thank Janet Forbes again for her kind donation. Leftover rolls and salads were donated to Souls Harbour.
- Sunday School is completed for the summer. Games and activities will continue to be available in the church, at the children's activity table. Sunday School will start back up on Sunday, September 18, 2022, followed by a popsicle social.
- The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, 2022 @ 4:00pm.

Monday, May 30, 2022

- Carnations were handed out at the UCW/Mother's Day Service on Sunday, May 8, 2022.
- A copy of the book used in the recent Lenten Book Study, has been placed in the church library.

- A youth group activity night is planned for Friday, June 5, 2022 @ 6:30pm. The youth will finish packing up the blessing bags for Souls Harbour and work on the church gardens.
- 21 student care letters and gift cards were sent out this year.
- 3 children are registered for Camp Kidston this summer. 1 child is on a waiting list for Sherbrooke Lake Camp.
- A Sunday School picnic will take place on Sunday, June 19, 2022, in conjunction with a Father's Day service. The picnic will be held at the United Church in the parking lot with games and music. The event will be catered.
- The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, June 22, 2022 @ 4:00pm via Zoom to follow up from the picnic and pay any bills.

MISSION TEAM ~ Bev Burgess

Our Mission Team met to discuss fund raising activities and the possibility of a trip to the Dominican. After much discussion, it was agreed that due to health concerns in the Dominican, any future trips will be put on hold. We have also decided not to hold any more fund-raising events this year.

There is a possibility that another team from Nova Scotia may be going to Sosua this fall. This would be an opportunity for some of the Humanitarian suitcases we have packed to be delivered to Servants Heart.

Thank you again to our congregation for your continued support of our Mission.

UCW ~ Ruth Rudderham

- Approximately twenty of our members attended the South Shore UCW Luncheon at White Point Resort on Monday, September 12th. It was a beautiful and enjoyable sunny day as we gathered with women after a two-year absence because of COVID restrictions.
- UCW will be initiating our "No-Bake" sale again this year in October. This is in support of our outreach projects and contributions in the past two years have been very much appreciated.
- A date to keep in mind is the UCW Christmas Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 19th.
- UCW catered to a funeral reception on July 16th for the family of Alta Carey.

PROPERTY ~ Randall Knox

From Property meeting held on September 8, 2022

Report from Tracy R. (facility coordinator) was read and recorded

Report from Blake H. (cost recovery) was received and discussion about a meeting with Stephen Collette, Building Audit Manager representing Faith & the Common Good about applying for grants to improve our building's energy consumption. Meeting was scheduled.

Energy audit on building is planned to be conducted by CBCL on September 15 funded by Region 15

Annual furnace inspection/maintenance was conducted by Robinson's

Annual fire alarm inspection was conducted by Viking with 3 infractions, to be corrected

Annual fire extinguisher was conducted by Cumming's

Monthly building inspections are conducted by Randall K. correcting any infractions

Panic button in Secretary's office found not to be working. Process in place to install new system

BUC's lawnmower finally died. No special service necessary. A thank you has been sent out to

Kirk Barry for supplying BUC with a new self-propelled lawnmower

Roof drain still leaking, I'll make another attempt to stop the leak