

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 23, 2022

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, November 23, 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
Edna Matheson	Secretary
Rev. Neil McEwan	Minister
Bev Burgess	Member at Large
Ewart Morse	Past Chair
Jack Logan	Regional Council 15 rep
Karen Crouse	Member at Large
Randall Knox	Property and Grounds
Richard Greek	Finance and Stewardship
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Marg Forbes

Regrets:

Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
Ruth Rudderham	UCW
Marion Brown	

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER: Rev. Neil McEwan read "The Kindness Book" by Todd Parr.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Karen Crouse/Jack Logan 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: Bev Burgess/Sam Elsworth that the Agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.



CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence has been received.

MINUTES - September 28, 2022

Motion: Jack Logan/Ewart Morse to approve the draft Minutes of the September 28, 2022 regular Council Meeting as approved. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

a) MOU with Lahave West Dublin Pastoral Charge

The MOU has been signed and forwarded to Region 15. There were suggested steps that are being worked on by the Lahave West Dublin Pastoral Charge.

b) Service Calendar

David Walker, Melanie Keddy and Rev. Neil McEwan worked on the calendar of services until September 2023. Each month the services calendar will be published in the church bulletin.

i) Sunday, November 29, will be the Interchurch Advent service. Although there were challenges with communications with the Interchurch Council, Rev. Neil will be participating in the service. Cookies will be donated by the UCW. There will not be a mass choir this year but there will be other groups providing the music. David Walker will attend the next Interchurch Council meeting and will re-establish contact information for future communications.

ii) Christmas Eve services will be at Westside United at 6 p.m. and at Bridgewater United at 8 p.m.

c) Bridgewater United Search Committee

Jack Logan, Audrey Wambolt, Chad Burrridge, Mandy Hynes, and Natasha Colp have agreed to participate on the Search Committee.

Discussion occurred on pausing the process of searching for a full time minister to address the financial commitment required in light of the ongoing deficit.

David Walker will contact Rev. Heather Ferrier for guidance on how to proceed which will determine the next steps before the Search Committee starts.

d) BUD contracts. All contracts have been developed and sent out. St. Marks has signed the contract to June 2023. Waiting to hear back from Caledonia. New West Pine is waiting for a Region 15 representative to attend their meeting to sign the contract.

David Walker suggested if anyone knows of other churches interested in the online digital services to contact us.

EM

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:

David Walker reported that Counting teams have been conducting counts twice a month. Now that there is a safe in the church, it is being considered to count once a month. An email will be sent to the team captains to suggest the revised schedule. It was suggested that the combination to the safe be changed.

Nominations have been assumed by Council executive. An email is going to be sent to committee chairs to ask committee members about who will continue to serve and identify vacancies.

Ways and Means Committee. The pie sale is happening Dec. 3rd. The goal of 200 pre-orders has been reached and there are enough volunteers to help.

The upcoming Xmas concert with JP Cormier and Dave Gunning will be Dec. 10th. Ticket sales are almost at the breakeven point. Looking for a few more volunteers to help with setup and the night of the concert.

Discussion regarding completing Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks occurred. Forms available through the church office. If anyone is charged extra for the check, they should let us know.

MINISTER'S REPORT: Rev. Neil reviewed his written report. Clergy have limited access to hospital inpatient lists so he relies on word of mouth when a congregant is in hospital. The restrictions related to clergy visits vary almost weekly. Rev. Neil gave more details on the Advent Study promoted by the National Church that will be occurring on four Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. AST. Rev. Neil will be minister representative for five annual meetings of congregations in the new year which will fulfill the expectation of a minimum of 5% of his time be spent working with the wider church.

Question was asked of how much the Cheer group is paying to rent the gym. It was confirmed to be \$20/hour.

Motion: Jack Logan/Ewart Morse to approve the committee reports as circulated.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

EM

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Jack Logan/Randall Knox 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 8:26 p.m. upon motion of Randall Knox/Jack Logan

Rev. Neil gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson

Edna Matheson, Secretary

David Walker

David Walker, Chair



**Bridgewater United Church
Committee Reports for November 23, 2022**

FINANCIAL REPORT ~ Blake Hirtle**For the 10 month period ending October 31, 2022**

TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	\$131,194
TRUST RECEIPTS	
MISSION & SERVICE	13,401
UCW FUNDS FOR M & S	2,000
FOOD BANK RECEIPTS	4,880
DISASTER RELIEF	4,685
STARFISH CANADA	450
MISC TRUST RECEIPTS	3,069
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS	50,126
FUNDRAISING RECEIPTS	9,672
FUNDRAISING-MISSION FUND	995
BROADCAST SERVICE RECEIPTS	1,988
MISC RECEIPTS	3,334
TOTAL RECEIPTS (Note 1)	225,794
DISBURSEMENTS	
TOTAL TRUST DISBURSEMENTS	25,416
PASTORAL CARE EXPENSES	9,809
WESTSIDE / BUC AGREEMENT	5,922
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	131,158
TOTAL OFFICE & ADMIN EXPENSE	11,933
ACCOUNTING FEES	5,551
HEATING FUEL	24,057
LIGHTS, WATER & SEWER	10,977
SNOW REMOVAL & SALTING	7,243
INSURANCE	10,737
FLOOR MAINTAINCE	3,756
OTHER PREMISES EXPENSES	8,327
UCC ASSESSMENT	8,040
OTHER MISC. EXPENSES	2,959
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (Note 1)	265,885
OPERATING DEFICIT END OF PERIOD	40,091

BANK BALANCE**\$70,021.38**

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

FAITH FORMATION ~ Diane Barry

- Faith Formation Committee members will update their police records check.
- The Bridgewater United Church Youth Group will meet on Friday, November 18, 2022. Plans are to go bowling.
- Children's Sunday/Faith Formation Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2022.
- The Hillside Pines church service will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 6:30pm for anyone that would like to attend.
- The Faith Formation Committee will help organize the Angel Tree project this year. 4 families will be supported. Angel Tree Sunday will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022.
- The Sunday School Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2022. A small gathering will take place afterwards with a visit from Santa.
- The next committee meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 4:00pm via Zoom.

MINISTER'S REPORT ~ Rev. Neil McEwan

We continue to develop our relationship in ministry together and in the development I continue to get into a rhythm of work and ministry within the 20 hours per week. The areas which fill my time each week are:

Worship/Preaching

Leadership of worship at Bridgewater United on two Sundays per month and preparing for worship, bulletin preparation assistance and on the recorded services of worship for use at Bridgewater United and those who are part of the Be United Community. Preparation and leadership at Hillside Pines once every other month.

Pastoral Care/Visiting

Connecting with the membership of the Community of Faith through visits at home, hospital, long-term care homes, in office or by telephone or other means of direct communication. Supporting the Pastoral Care Team and meeting with them on a monthly basis. It has been quiet lately for funerals.

Christian Education

Been part of the "40 Days of Anti-Racism" learning event offered by The United Church of Canada during this fall season. It is my hope to take portions of this program to be offered as a Lenten Study in 2023. Explored options for an Advent Study and have settled on a 4 week series of reflections offered by four leaders of Canadian churches in an online format (ZOOM). An announcements and how to register for participation in the study will be included in the bulletin this week.

Administration

The day-to-day tasks that supports the ministry of the Congregation, the groups and committees, maintaining/monitoring emails, meeting preparation, attendance at meetings, preparation of reports.

Work with the Wider Church

A commitment of time to support the work of our wider church – Regional Council #15 and the General Council of The United Church of Canada. To date this has not part of my time with this congregation but there will be some activity in the new year as we prepare for annual meeting time with congregations who are part of the Be United Ministries.

Ministry Team

Tracy, Barb and I take intentional time to meet as a team. We have meetings at least every other week to discuss upcoming services and what needs to be planned. We also meet to support, connect and strengthen our relationship as a Team who works for and with the congregation.

The Journey Ahead

There are challenges with being in a part-time ministry with an active and alive congregation, but with confidence in the ministry team and those who are fulfilling leadership rolls on groups, committees and in times of worship it has been a pleasure to be part of this ministry. The rhythm of work and ministry will continue to develop and unfold as we adjust and learn how to do the best and most ministry we can with the time, talents and treasures we are blessed to receive.

Work Schedule

Dedicated to West Side United on Monday and Wednesday.

Dedicated to Bridgewater United Church on Tuesday and Friday.

Scheduled Day of is Thursday.

Worship on 1st and 3rd Sunday at Bridgewater United

Worship on 2nd and 4th Sunday at West Side United

In the event of a 5th Sunday worship alternates between West Side and Bridgewater United Churches.

Adjustments to the above practice may be needed in the event of Weddings and Funerals and other events/meetings required and necessary.

MISSION TEAM ~ Bev Burgess

We received word that the Pregnancy Centre in Sosua was in need of supplies and that a team from Nova Scotia would be going to the Dominican in the near future. Three of our team members re-packed four of the suitcases we had stored with appropriate supplies for the Pregnancy Centre.

When we had our last Yard Sale, Greg Ritcey's Mother gave us Greg's Large Nativity Scene to sell. We were not successful in selling and in discussion with Shirley, she agreed that we could take the Nativity Scene to the Dominican to be placed in the Community Centre in memory of Greg.

We wrapped and packed the six pieces of the Nativity Scene and spread them among the four suitcases that were weighed and each suitcase was just under 50 pounds. They were delivered to Servants Heart here and given to the Team to take with them. We have received word that everything arrived safely and the Nativity Scene is beautiful.

We have another four or five suitcases packed with supplies for the School, Pregnancy Centre and the Community Centre ready for the next group that may go or when Donna and Philip Williams go to the Dominican.

A huge Thank You to our congregation for your continued support of this Mission.

PROPERTY ~ Randall Knox

From meeting held on November 10, 2022

Tracy's report-received and recorded- some issues from this report

- 1) Requesting clarification and documentation on "ownership" of white folding tables
- 2) Group passcodes will be assigned in the new year
- 3) Meeting with groups with stuff on the stage to assign space on November 14
- 4) Randy R. put up plaques from the Scouting group and to honour Ruby Wilson from Wee Wisdom
- 5) Request for new tables and a new step ladder

Blake's report- Financial report, recorded

Bob F. reported that the energy audit report from CBCL has not been received

Criminal Record Checks- At our last meeting Property received a letter from M&P requesting all members get a Criminal Record Check. There was confusion how the letter from BUC was to be initiated to give to the police. Sam E., Chair of M&P, cleared the confusion by indicating the process was all up to the individual member. Each member is to get in contact with the church office to initiate the process.

Freezer issues will be repaired

Robinson's still working on heating system to be able to control the heat

Still working on fire and security issues

Church bell not working, waiting for Oickle's to investigate why

On a positive note, everyone was very pleased with Jaspro's waxing job on the floors

Town & Country will be doing our snow removal again this winter

Addendum to Property Report regarding "ownership" of white folding tables

Emails from Brian Buck and Ruth Rudderham

Brian Buck

Tue, Nov 22,
7:03 PM

Randall

Clarification on plastic tables.

Janice and myself donated the tables to the church.

The reason was old tables in poor condition and mainly due to U.C.W. difficulty handling the tables when needed to be set up. U.C.W was to have excess to all tables on a first come basis.

Other groups can have access to the tables ensuring they are properly covered when paint etc being used around them.

If table(s) were to be damaged the group using them are responsible to replace. This does not apply to U.C.W.

The tables were to remain on church property and not loaned or rented to groups to use off the property.

When outside groups wish to use the tables within the church they were to be charged a rental fee.

To my knowledge there is no documentation stating the above.

Ruth Rudderham

Nov 23, 2022,
8:12 AM

Just to confirm Brian's reply to Randall regarding the tables. I was always aware that they are church property with the understanding that they will always be available for UCW to use for events as the Christmas Bazaar.

The only item that I was not aware of was a rental fee for outside groups to use them.

UCW ~ Ruth Rudderham

A successful No-Bake Sale was held this Fall and \$2500.00 was realized from donations which will be used for our Outreach Projects. We appreciate this support and thank all who helped us. 116 pairs of mittens, and a few scarves and hats have been given to the Schools Plus project for children in Queens and Lunenburg schools.

Again this year we have had a successful Bazaar on November 19th. People enjoyed shopping and bought many items. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the day.

The Arts and Crafts Unit held their Annual Collection of items to be given to Harbour House for Christmas gifts and these were gratefully received.

Unit 7 contributed money to the Schools Plus program.