

# Bridgewater United Church Council Executive Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Present: David Walker, Blake Hirtle, Rev. Neil McEwen, Richard Greek, Elizabeth Burrige, Edna Matheson at 7:30 pm

Guest: Sam Elsworth

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
1.	Call to Order Opening Prayer	
	The Church Council Executive met January 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 in the church library. David Walker called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm	
2.	Opening Prayer	
	David Walker read a reflection from the Upper Room	
3.	Agenda	
	There were no additions nor deletions	
4.	Correspondence	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request from Bridgewater Fire Department band David will reach out for more details before the next Council meeting. The event is not a fund raiser but community outreach. What will they need for set-up and impact on Suzanne Jerney re janitorial issues?</li> <li>2. Schofield Family Foundation Grant We have received \$3,500.00 this year. This is our fourth year receiving this grant.</li> <li>3. Grant opportunity – Relief Fund for Thriving Congregations We have an opportunity to apply for this fund. Are we carrying debt? Stewardship and Finance to have a look at this.</li> <li>4. Week of Prayer Our day to lead will be Friday Inter Church Council meeting will be this week. Tracy and Rev. Neil now receive emails re Inter Church Council.</li> <li>5. 2023 Request for Status Verification for Tax Exemption Form signed David will change the address to the church office</li> <li>6. Email from Bob Forbes re CBCL's Energy Audit Report and recommendations. The Property Committee met Jan. 12 and recommend implementing five of the eleven energy saving projects based on being the most cost effective with the most decent payback. The total estimated cost is \$25,335. The Property Committee will be applying for grant money</li> </ol>	

*EM*

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
	through “Faithful Footprints” to implement the projects. Any aspects that would require building renovations will be started upon successful approval of grant funds.	
5.	Minutes	
	Elizabeth will send out the minutes for Nov. 16, 2022 Edna has sent out the minutes for the Council meeting on Nov. 23, 2022	Elizabeth to send out Nov minutes
6. and 9.	MOU with West Side United and Search Committee Status	
	<p>West Side has updated their profile on Church Hub. The question of whether BUC has the capacity to meet the financial requirements for 1.5 FTE positions and if we can change this? Need input from Rev. Heather Ferrier.</p> <p>Must have an updated Church profile as we are changing substantially (Refer to Heather Ferrier’s email), i.e. rewrite church description and have approval of congregation.</p> <p>Governing body is responsible for updating profile. Rev. Neil shared the Profile Description Ministry Personnel Position developed by the LaHave New Dublin Pastoral Charge and submitted to Region 15 for approval.</p> <p>David will share an email from Rev. Heather Ferrier regarding the Search Committee. At this point we do not have the support of Region 15 to slow the process of searching for a 1.0 FTE minister. We would need a special congregational meeting instead of delaying it until the annual meeting in March.</p>	Executive is to review the Profile Description and if OK will present to Council.
7.	Service Calendar	
	Refer to agenda item #12 - Minister’s Report	
8.	BUD Network Agreements - update	
	There are now agreements in place and participants are paying but signed contracts are yet to be submitted by every COF.	
9.	Search Committee Status	
	Refer to agenda item # 6 – MOU with West Side United	
10.	Gunning/Cormier Concert update	
	Profit of \$1343	
11.	Treasurer’s update	
	The final calculation of outstanding deficit is now \$7,800 compared to \$40,000 in May. The number of influencing factors is the significant reduction in our ministerial costs; exceeding fund-raising goals; Schofields Memorial grant; and an increase in cash donations	

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
	<p>in December. Although less heating fuel has been used due to the mild fall weather, there has been a substantial increase in the cost of oil. One of the energy saving projects was programmable thermostats but the heating system in the church and hall is not zoned to use them.</p> <p>Creating a budget for 2023 is a challenge because of so many unknowns.</p>	
12.	Minister's Update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Meeting. Rev. Neil proposed committee reports be presented during the worship service the day of the annual meeting. Any business or votes can be conducted following the service. This way more of the congregation will be aware of the committee work, specifically any highlights of the year or celebrations.</li> <li>• Rev. Neil inquired whether thank-you notes are included with year-end receipts. Rev. Neil will start doing this.</li> <li>• Lenten groups will begin on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Neil answered questions regarding the Zoom offerings.</li> <li>• Service Calendar for Holy Week, Easter and Summer Services was shared. Who will lead Easter Service at BUC is to be determined.</li> <li>• Worship Committee – Rev. Neil suggested to reconvene the committee and meet after a Sunday service.</li> <li>• The timing of the Crescent Beach service on July 23<sup>rd</sup> is based on the tides.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> Richard Greek/Elizabeth to approve requests for ceremony of marriage for Laura Rudderham and Declan Toohey in the summer of 2023 and the ceremony of baptism of Malcolm Robert McMullin and Meredith Annaleigh Rose McMullin. <b>Motion carried.</b></p>	<p>Rev. Neil will include thank-you notes with year end receipts</p>
13.	Re-development Committee Status	
	<p>David has sent an email to the committee members to meet next Tuesday to propose disbanding the current committee.</p>	
14.	Church Council meeting	
	<p>Next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023</p>	
15.	Annual Congregational meeting	
	<p>The date for the annual meeting is March 5, 2023. The only position in the governing body that the term is defined is for the chairperson. David's term is concluding. David presented the idea of taking sabbaticals from long held positions on committees to serve on other committees or serve in different positions or to allow new persons to join the committee.</p>	

Item	Topic/Discussion	Action
	<p>Karen Crouse has retired from Interfaith Church Council. It was decided that two representatives from BUC was sufficient so Karen's position has not been filled.</p> <p>In light of a committee member's recovery journey, it was questioned whether a financial statement from the Trustees will be available for the annual meeting or come at a later date.</p>	<p>David will address with Brian Buck.</p>
	<p>In camera session started at 8:34 pm and concluded at 9:07 pm</p>	
	<p><b>Motion:</b> Edna Matheson/Elizabeth Burrige to pay Tracy Rafuse, Office Secretary a bonus of \$250/month for November and December 2022 and January 2023 In recognition and appreciation of the increased demands and hours of work performed. This is to be reviewed at the executive meeting in February 2023.</p> <p><b>Motion carried.</b></p>	
16.	<p><b>Next meeting date</b></p>	
	<p>The next executive meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2023</p>	
17.	<p>Closing prayer</p>	
	<p>Rev. Neil McEwan led the closing prayer</p>	
18.	<p>Adjournment</p>	
	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson  
Edna Matheson, Secretary

C. Elizabeth Burrige  
David Walker, Chair  
Elizabeth Burrige.

## Grant Possibility for B-United! - We Are Definitely Thriving By Providing Ministry in Many Aspects of Communication

Inbox



**Bridgewater United Church**

Thu, Jan 12, 9:01 AM (4 days ago)

to me, Elizabeth, Edna, Greek, Blake, sam.fish@ns.sympatico.ca, ewartmorse@gmail.com

### ***Grant Opportunity – Relief Fund for Thriving Congregations***

The United Church of Canada Foundation has sent us the below information for a grant opportunity that your community of faith may benefit from:

“Last year an anonymous couple, who have deep love for the church and who have been members of various congregations across the country, created the **Relief Fund for Thriving Congregations**.

This granting fund will provide the opportunity for congregations that have plans to continue to be of service to their communities and that have vibrant programs and outreach to receive a grant to help alleviate the pressure of debt.

We understand that some congregations in your region have been carrying significant debt and believe that this grant opportunity may be of help to you. We will be accepting applications for this grant from 15 January – 15 April 2023. The application, and additional details, is available on our website ([click here](#)).”

Please contact Jenna Yango Leonard, Foundation Coordinator at [JYLeonard@united-church.ca](mailto:JYLeonard@united-church.ca) or 1-866-340-8223 with any questions you may have and please feel free to share details of this grant with other congregations you think may benefit

<https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/general-grant-opportunities/>

Tracy Rafuse

*Office Administrator*

## Week of Prayer - Bridgewater United – January 13, 2023

Inbox



**Bridgewater United Church**

9:51 AM (1 hour ago)

to West, me

a) Week of Prayer: 22 January – 28 January Opening Service at 7pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church. M.T.W.T.F services are at 12:10 to 12:30 held at Salvation Army Citadel. Saturday breakfast at the Catholic Church Hall 9am. The following churches are responsible for the service

Sunday 22 Jan - St. Paul's Lutheran 7pm @ St. Paul's

Monday 23 Jan – New Life Pentecostal and Impact Church

Tuesday 24 Jan – Holy Trinity Anglican

Wednesday 25 Jan – Salvation Army

Thursday 26 Jan – Bridgewater Baptist

Friday, 27 Jan – Bridgewater United

Saturday, 28 Jan – St. Joseph's Roman Catholic 9am @ St. Joseph's Church hall

Tracy Rafuse  
*Office Administrator*

**FW: Fire Dept Band Concert- Bridgewater and Calgary**

Inbox



**Bridgewater United Church**

Tue, Jan 10, 12:31 PM (3 days ago)

to me, rwknox1950@gmail.com

**From:** Mike Morrissey

**Sent:** January 3, 2023 3:02 PM

**To:** [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca)

**Subject:** Fire Dept Band Concert- Bridgewater and Calgary

Good Afternoon,

I called a few minutes ago and left a voicemail but thought perhaps I would also email. At the suggestion of Wendell Eisner, I am investigating the use of your church facilities

for a joint performance by the Bridgewater Fire Department Band and a visiting Fire Dept Band from Calgary - The Cappy Smart Band.

We would be working with the Bridgewater Band organizing the details for the day of the concert, which is Sunday May 21, 2023. We would probably have a 2:30 or 3pm start time with the concert lasting approx 90 minutes. But the concert time is flexible at this point and could be moved to the evening if that works better for your schedule.

The concert would be open to the public on a 'donate what you can/wish' basis with any funds collected going to a yet to be named local charity or cause. The purpose of the concert is not to make money but to offer some holiday weekend entertainment to the community and provide an opportunity for both Fire Dept Bands from opposite ends of the country to perform on the same stage.

We will be approaching the Town of Bridgewater and Lunenburg Regional Fire & Emergency Service regarding sponsorship/support (not financial) for the performance.

Would it be possible for someone to get back to me to discuss the possibility?

Thanks so much,  
Mike

**Mike Morrissey**

Schools Out <sup>Tours</sup>

[www.schoolsouttours.ca](http://www.schoolsouttours.ca)

Toll Free 877-955-2244

Local 902-576-3422

Fax 877-445-7878

Email [mike@schoolsouttours.ca](mailto:mike@schoolsouttours.ca)

**Robert Forbes**

11:46 AM (7 hours ago)

to me, Randall, Sam, Blake, kevin.morrison.ns

Good Morning David,

This is to advise the Property Committee met on January 12/23 to discuss CBCL's Energy Audit Report and recommended implementing five (5) of the eleven (11) opportunities identified by CBCL.

The following are the list of projects recommended by the Property Committee to proceed with showing estimated costs and approximate payback time in years.

1. Replace Outdoor Air Reset Control for Boiler.  
Estimated Cost - \$1,119, Estimated Payback Time 3.6 years.

2. Upgrade to Programmable Thermostats.  
Estimated Cost - \$6,000, Estimated Payback Time 1 year.
3. Upgrade AC Window Units to Split Air Heat Pumps.  
Estimated Cost - \$5,000, Estimated Payback Time 3.7 years.
4. Upgrade to Heat Pump for Domestic Hot Water Heater.  
Estimated Cost - \$5,216, Estimated Payback Time 4.4 years.
5. Replace Weather Stripping on all Exterior Doors and Seal Exterior Window Openings.  
Estimated Cost - \$8,000, Estimated Payback Time 1.4 years.

Total estimated cost for the five projects - \$25,335.

The Property Committee is requesting approval to proceed with the above noted projects. Grant money through "Faithful Footprints" in the amount of \$30,000 is available and will be applied for as the next step in implementing the above projects.

Please advise if you require any additional information on the above projects or CBCL's Energy Audit Report.

Sincerely,

Bob Forbes