

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 8, 2023

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023. 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 Burridge	Vice Chair
Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
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
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Regrets:

Ruth Rudderham	UCW
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER: Rev. Neil McEwan read the first chapter from the Lenten study book, edited by Alydia Smith titled "Good Courage - Daily Reflections on Hope.

David Walker announced that lay worship leaders are needed for services on Feb. 12th, April 9th and May 14th. UCW Sunday is March 12th.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Bev Burgess/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.**

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Bev Burgess/Ewart Morse that the Agenda be approved with the addition of the correspondence regarding the request to buy new tables under New Business. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: David Walker acknowledged the receipt of a thank-you letter from Servant's Heart Ministries.

MINUTES – November 23, 2022

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Jack Logan to approve the draft Minutes of the November 23, 2022 regular Council Meeting as approved. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:**a) MOU with West Side United**

The MOU has been approved by both churches and has been forwarded to Region 15. The next steps are to update the ministers' job descriptions for both churches and upload to Church Hub. Westside has completed this step and BUC will be mirroring their 50% description.

b) Bridgewater United Search Committee

David Walker attended a Zoom meeting with Rev. David Hewitt from Region 15 and Rev. Heather Ferrier regarding the status and process of a Search Committee. The following people have volunteered to serve on the Search Committee: Jack Logan, Audrey Wambolt, Mandy Hynes and Chad Burrige. David Walker is looking for one more volunteer, preferably one who would represent youth/young adults. The first step for the committee would be to reexamine the Profile. Rev. Heather Ferrier will meet with this group. The process may or may not take a while.

c) BUD Contracts

The contracts with the three churches have been signed by both sides. Region 15 is concerned about who will provide governance oversight for the other churches. We don't want Rev. Neil to assume more than the 50% by being assigned this responsibility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:**Property and Grounds Report**

Randall Knox presented an update to the report submitted.

- Fire Alarm Certification. Randall explained the background behind the delays in addressing the violations from the inspection last fall. Two of the three violations have been repaired and re-inspected. Randall is addressing the delay in repairing the third violation.
- Randall has phoned the company again to repair the bell and the outside light.

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- CBCL Energy Audit. Randall reported that there is an opportunity to increase the scope of implementing recommendations from the energy audit from \$25,000 to \$40,000 as a result of a meeting with the Church Extension Board. There are a number of issues to be investigated further regarding the increased scope of this project. Randall and Blake Hirtle responded to a questions and comments related to the CBCL Energy Audit and the Church Extension Board. Following the Property Committee meeting tomorrow evening, Randall will submit an update to his committee report to be added to these minutes.
- Programmable thermostats. Replacing thermostats to programmable ones was being looked at before the Energy Audit.

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Bev Burgess hold work on the all the CBCL Energy Audit recommendations until after the congregational annual meeting because of the lack of clear understanding of our future direction. **Motion carried.**

Annual Reports - Tracy Rafuse requested that annual reports be submitted so they can be distributed two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Motion: Karen Crouse/Jack Logan to approve the committee reports as circulated. **Motion carried.**

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Neil McEwan acknowledged he recognizes that persons are being challenged with understanding where we are moving forward as a congregation and plans to be more available to attend/be present at committee meetings to be aware of what's going on. He requested that his willingness to attend to support be extended to the committees and groups. He intends to investigate what resources there are to guide congregations in visioning and hopeful planning. He encouraged people to drop in when he is in the church office on Tuesdays or Fridays or to make an appointment. Although these two days have been working well for Rev. Neil, this past month there have been days that have deviated from the schedule because of funerals (each funeral takes up to 16 hours to prepare and perform).

Pastoral Care Team meeting monthly to report on who they contact and meet with and any concerns.

Worship service planning and relationship with staff is working well. He acknowledged that both Barb Pate and Tracy Rafuse as great supports.

Annual meeting. The process will be a little different where those who submit reports will be take part in the worship service and present their highlights of the year. Following the worship service, there will be a shortened business meeting.

Lenten Study Session. There will be a joint study session on Tuesday evenings alternating between BUC and Westside United and a Zoom meeting on Wednesday evenings.

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Workload. In reply to the question of whether the workload is becoming too much, Rev. Neil replied that at this moment in time, it is manageable but is constantly shifting. The profile of the 50% position will define the terms and expectations to assess what he is doing and where he could be in fulfilling the expectations of the position. Having Thursdays off has been good.

Rev. Neil would like to reintroduce pre-worship coffee time.

Rev. Neil announced that he will be interviewed on the topic of the importance and presence of rural churches at the inaugural launch of the Community Village Coastal Radio (CVCR) station on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

New table project. The request for new collapsible tables to be used by all groups for events in the CE Center was discussed. It was questioned whether this is an appropriate expenditure until we determine where we will be as a church. It was clarified that the monies raised is separate from our expenses. New tables are a practical solution to the amount of time, energy and safety risks associated with using the older wooden tables. This initiated a discussion on the challenges faced as a congregation, the upcoming changes in Council representatives and leadership roles and what prospects are available to reimagine what and how we do things, whether it continues in this building or not. David reported the interest in the use of the sanctuary for musical events by four to six outside groups.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for March 22, 2023. The annual congregational meeting is planned for March 5, 2023.

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Jack Logan/Blake Hirtle 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 8:49 p.m. upon motion of Randall Knox/Jack Logan

Rev. Neil McEwan gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Edna Matheson, Secretary



David Walker, Chair

**Bridgewater United Church
Committee Reports for January 25, 2023**

FINANCIAL REPORT for the TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED DEC. 31, 2022 ~ Blake Hirtle

RECEIPTS

TOTAL LOCAL RECEIPTS	\$176,889
TRUST RECEIPTS	
MISSION & SERVICE	16,113
UCW FUNDS FOR M & S	3,000
FOOD BANK RECEIPTS	6,460
DISASTER RELIEF	4,685
STARFISH CANADA	450
MISC TRUST RECEIPTS	4,745
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS	59,557
FUNDRAISING RECEIPTS	12,534
APPROX. INVESTMENT INCOME (trustees)	20,000
MISC RECEIPTS	4,320
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TOTAL RECEIPTS (Note 1)	<u>308,753</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

TOTAL TRUST DISBURSEMENTS	35,713
PASTORAL CARE EXPENSES	9,809
WESTSIDE / BUC AGREEMENT	11,844
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	143,677
TOTAL OFFICE & ADMIN EXPENSE	14,279
ACCOUNTING FEES	5,551
HEATING FUEL	34,276
LIGHTS, WATER & SEWER	13,031
SNOW REMOVAL & SALTING	7,243
INSURANCE	12,965
FLOOR MAINTAINCE	3,756
OTHER PREMISES EXPENSES	12,181
UCC ASSESSMENT	10,720
OTHER MISC. EXPENSES	1,526
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (Note 1)	<u>316,571</u>

OPERATING DEFICIT END OF PERIOD**7,818**

FAITH FORMATION ~ Diane Barry

Faith Formation met briefly in December to approve payment of some bills. There are no other official highlights.

MISSION TEAM ~ Bev Burgess

The Mission Team are still collecting bottles at Oickles Bottle Exchange as a fund raiser. We wish to thank the congregation for their continued support. No decision has been made about another trip to the Dominican.

PROPERTY and GROUNDS ~ Bob Forbes

From Property Committee meeting January 12, 2023

Report from Blake Hirtle was received – advised in receipt of funding for CBCL's Energy Audit and completed payment of the invoice. He also gave a brief update on the church's finances for the end of 2022.

Randall is still working on obtaining the Fire Alarm Inspection Certification.

It was noted that the TV was moved to the library from the closet in the parlour to provide additional storage area.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing CBCL's Energy Audit. After much discussion it was decided to start with implementing five of the eleven recommendations as noted in the Energy Audit. Attached is a copy of the email sent to David Walker dated January 16, 2023 listing the five items and requesting approval to proceed with the work and applying for grant money available through "Faithful Footprints".

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.

Update to Property Committee Report received by email from Randall Knox on Feb. 10, 2023

Here are the 2 additions that Property would like to add to our report to bring our Energy Audit recommendations up to \$40,000.00 as promised:

- 1) Upgrade building envelope at church main entrance
Estimated cost \$4,515.00. Estimated payback time 8.3 yrs
- 2) Upgrade single paned windows to double paned argon filled (choir loft windows)
Estimated cost \$10,150.00. Estimated payback time 11.3 yrs

UCW ~ Ruth Rudderham

Since last reporting in November, UCW has held their Annual Meeting in December and because of the financial success of the Bazaar and our "No-bake sale", we have been able to support our outreach projects: "Grandmothers to Grandmothers; Starfish Canada; Brunswick St. Mission; Sherbrooke Lake Camp; Schools Plus; the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church, and extra funds above our allotment to Bridgewater United Church.

UCW continues to host the Tuesday and Wednesday morning "coffee times", and this week are working to provide a "Take-out" dinner on Saturday. The support of the congregation is always appreciated.

We have catered to funeral receptions for the families of Joan Hebb in December and for Wendy Fraser in January.