

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2023

WELCOME:

The regular meeting of the Bridgewater United Church Council was held in the Church Sanctuary on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Elizabeth Burrige, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and introductions were conducted.

ATTENDANCE-REGRETS:

Council Members (Voting Delegates) Present:

Elizabeth Burrige	Chair
Audrey Wamboldt	Vice Chair
David Walker	Past Chair
Blake Hirtle	Treasurer
Edna Matheson	Secretary
Rev. Neil McEwan	Minister
Bev Burgess	UCW Co- Chair
Jack Logan	Regional Council 15 rep
Randall Knox	Property and Grounds
Tracy Rafuse	Faith Formation

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

Brian Buck	Trustees
Marion Brown	

Regrets:

Richard Greek	Finance and Stewardship
Sam Elsworth	Ministry and Personnel

It was determined that a quorum was present.

OPENING WORSHIP/PRAYER: Rev. Neil McEwan read from Clifford Elliot's book, "Apples of Gold" for opening worship.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Motion: Jack Logan/David Walker 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/David Walker that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

It was noted that David Walker forwarded an email from Donna Stitt regarding her resignation from Chair of Ways and Means Committee.

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MINUTES – February 8th, 2023

Motion: Jack Logan/Bev Burgess to approve the draft Minutes of the February 8th, 2023 regular Council Meeting as approved. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:**Bridgewater United Profile/Search Committee**

Audrey Wamboldt gave a verbal report. The committee has met twice in the last month and the next meeting will be May 12th, 2023. The Region 15 representative, Rev. Heather Ferrier met with the committee for the first meeting. Tracy Rafuse compiled a “Profile” binder for the committee to review. The edits required in the Profile are related to how Covid has affected us and they will be looking at the job descriptions. The next steps would be to submit the changes to Council then the Congregation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS:**Handbook Revisions Committee**

David Walker requested that each committee review their Terms of Reference in the Handbook and submit what needs to be modified.

Redevelopment Committee

David Walker reported that the committee met this past Tuesday. Those present were in consensus that there are more important issues needing to be addressed such as looking for ministry personnel than the redevelopment of the CEC, until the province has determined the future of the Day Care.

David reported that there is a possibility of losing the Cheerleading group as renters.

UCW

Bev Burgess identified that there is a discrepancy with their new catering fees and what is printed in the document for rentals. The issues will be addressed at their meeting in May.

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Randall Knox to approve the committee reports as circulated. **Motion carried.**

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Neil presented his report verbally.

- The Caring Workshop, originally planned to be held in 2020, will be held April 29th, 2023. There are 30 registrants coming from a variety of places.
- Worship services at Hillside Pines LTC have been reduced from monthly to about every 6 weeks. There have been two requests to conduct worship service at Ridgewood and Ashwood Lodge 'occasionally' but it may be beyond current capacity to provide them.
- Funeral services. Rev. Neil identified that he hasn't been notified of deaths of persons associated with BUC so he and Tracy are starting to follow the local funeral services' postings.
- Region 15 Annual Meeting will be over two days in Halifax in early June.
- BUD services and BUD Network. The BUD team is working on a library of newer content. Region 15 has given support to the BUD Network contracts that are currently in place.
- Sabbatical for 2023-2025. Rev. Neil answered questions about his previous sabbaticals and the opportunities for coverage during a sabbatical.
- Summer worship services will alternate between BUC and Westside.
- Rev. Neil replied to the question of keeping to 50% by commenting that funeral services have been abundant but also provide an honorarium. The scheduled days at Westside and BUC are working well. Donna Kelly's student ministry placement with Westside finished at Easter but they are working at having her back in Sept. When he accumulates overtime, he intends to use it the next week but inevitably something comes up that needs his attention. As a result when he feels that he is not as productive, will leave early and doesn't feel guilty. He will not be present at BUC on Friday April 28th but available by phone or email.

NEW BUSINESS:

Handbook Revisions – addressed under Committee Reports

Vacancies on Council and Committees

The Members at Large positions on Council are vacant. The roles included being liaisons with Scouting and Day Care. These roles could be filled by current council members.

The list of the committees that have vacancies needing to be filled include: Trustees, Ministry and Personnel, Worship, Faith Formation, Ways and Means, Scouting Liaison.

Discussion points:

- Committee members know the skill set that might be needed for their committee.
- Each committee could recruit members they need. If that fails, it would be left with the executive. Any recommendations are to be referred to the chair of each committee.

- Rev. Neil suggested to add announcements in the bulletin of the needs and speak of the role and needs during church service.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Following discussion, it was decided the next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

Region 15 Self-Assessment. Rev. Neil presented the Self-Assessment questions and suggested that the questions be distributed by email to Council members for responses.

CLOSING MOTIONS AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Motion: Tracy Rafuse/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.**

Rev. Neil gave the closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 8:09 p.m. upon motion of Jack Logan/Randall Knox.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Matheson, Secretary

David Walker, Chair