



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 24, 2022
Held in the Gathering Room at 4:00 p.m.

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Council Members: Charles MacDonald (Chair), Rosalind MacDonald (Lay Pastoral Minister), Mary McFadden (Council Secretary), Vince Bury (Accessibility), Janice Sinker (Affirming), Virginia Scott (Christian Development), Lynne Desjardine/Lois Gill – Co-Chairs (Fellowship & Outreach), Bryan Beattie – (Finance/Treasurer), Steve Northey (Ministry & Personnel), Deb Gill (Property Management), Bob Illman (Trustees), Ruth Ann Eagleson/Wilma Harris Co-Chairs (Worship).
WOW Representatives: Bob Illman, Ruth Ann Eagleson and Rosalind MacDonald

Members Present: Charles MacDonald, Rosalind MacDonald, Mary McFadden, Janice Sinker, Virginia Scott, Lynne Desjardine, Lois Gill, Steve Northey, Bob Illman (Zoom), Wilma Harris (Zoom), Ruth Ann Eagleson, Vince Bury, Deb Gill (Zoom)

Absent: Bryan Beattie

Guest: The Rev. Laurie O’Leary (Supervising Minister)

Quorum Present

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** approximately 4:00 p.m.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY** (Read by Charles MacDonald)
3. **CANDLE LIGHTING** – Charles MacDonald
4. **OPENING PRAYER** – Rev Laurie O’Leary
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - **MOTION** was made to approve the agenda as distributed. Moved, seconded and carried.
6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** –
 - **Letter to Council** – will be discussed in New Business.
7. **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - **MOTION** was made to approve the January 27, 2022 Council meeting minutes as amended. Moved, seconded and carried.
 - **Correction** under Team Reports – Lay Pastoral Minister: **Connectiveness** – has completed a four-week program called "Social Connector for the Grand Bend Area CHC." This is an online virtual volunteer position where you get to connect with others who are isolated and help them find community events, programs or organizations to belong to, or just an opportunity to chat and engage with others.

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- **Correction under Team Reports – Lay Pastoral Minister (cont'd):**

This is often referred to as Social Prescribing and our health centre staff will be referring people for the service along with self-referrals. Then another program called, "Welcome to Paradise" is in connection with the Medical Centre, the Sunshine ...

8. BUSINESS ARISING: None.

9. COVID-19 UP-DATE – Charles MacDonald: Carrying on with "Open Church". Mask mandate could change by mid-March. Once the mask mandate has been lifted, It will be an individual choice. We can continue to implement the mandate of wearing a mask . Will have a Regathering meeting soon.

10. TEAM REPORTS

- **SEARCH TEAM – Janice Sinker (spokesperson):** in addition to the submitted report, the documents: "Our Living Faith Story" and the "Job Position Description" can be upload on our ChurchHub profile. Once uploaded, a Regional liaison will make our information live.
- **PROPERTY – Deb Gill:**
 - in addition to the submitted report, Deb announced that the \$20,000 grant from Faithful Footprints, ,was accepted! A Zoom meeting will be organized with Finance and others will be invited, to lay out the project plan. Will share with the congregation through Shorelines and a verbal announcement.
 - **Discussion:** What to do with the extra hymnals and pew bibles. Suggestions were expressed, i.e., if given in memory, the book could be offered back to the family; ask if any of the community of faith would be interested. It was suggested to keep a supply of both hymnals with music and just words. The books with just words are important for accessibility. It was suggested to put on our website that the service is displayed on large screens and that hymnals and pew bibles are available.
- **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT – Virginia Scott:** a question was asked if any plans are in place for the "Family Service Picnic" or the program, "Kids in the Kitchen". These programs will be discussed by the team soon.
- **TRUSTEES – Bob Illman:** No report.
- **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL: Steve Northey:** No further report.
- **WORSHIP REPORT – Ruth Ann Eagleson and Wilma Harris:** No further report.
- **WOW – Bob Illman, Ruth Ann Eagleson and Rosalind MacDonald:** in addition to the submitted report, there was a February 22 Zoom meeting. Mentioned that many churches are looking for new ministers. Plans are to go back to meeting in person. ~~WOW meets quarterly.~~ **WOW meets in the spring and fall.**

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- **LAY PASTORAL MINISTER – Rosalind MacDonald:** in addition to the submitted report, Rosalind has heard back from Pastor Frank, New Life Community Church (formally the Church of God). NLCC will be hosting a Good Friday service. This will not be a shared service and our community of faith has been invited. Information will be available soon.
- **FINANCE – Bryan Beattie:** As Bryan was absent, Steve Northey read a commentary written by Bryan. Bryan requested that if there were any questions or concerns about the financial report, that individuals get in touch with him by calling or emailing. As there were many questions, it was agreed to have a Special Council meeting to resolve any concerns. This meeting will be a one item agenda – to approve the 2021 Finance Report and the 2022 Proposed Budget.
 - **MOTION to defer the approval of the 2021 Finance Report and the 2022 Proposed Budget until the Special Council meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Moved, seconded and carried.**
- **GRAND BEND PLACE – Bob Illman:** No further. Press release re upcoming spring concerts will be published in March.
- **FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH – Lynne Desjardine/Lois Gill – Co-Chairs:** Nothing further.
- **ACCESSIBILITY – Vince Bury:** Nothing further.
- **AFFIRMING TEAM – Janice Sinker:** Nothing further.
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS W.G. – Charles MacDonald:** Will be put off hiring until the new Supply Minister is on board.
- **SABBATICAL W.G – Charles MacDonald:** After Charles complimented the work of the Sabbatical Team, it was explained that the Team would now be disbanded.
 - **MOTION to acknowledge the work of the Sabbatical Team and that the Team be disbanded. Moved seconded and carried.**
- **NOMINATIONS W.G. – Janice Sinker:** No report.
- **WOW – Rosalind MacDonald, Ruth Ann Eagleson, Bob Illman:** In addition to the submitted report, from Ruth Ann: Rosalind and Ruth attended the Regional Council Representative Gathering on Tuesday, February 22 via zoom hosted by John Neff. Many churches are facing similar challenges to ours, Ministerial search, getting back into sanctuary, etc. The Council Rep's are going to meet quarterly as a group and consider meeting as cluster groups from similar areas.

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11. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Janice – Letters of Hope:** The thought is to charge \$15 . In some cases, there would be no charge, i.e., Jessica’s House and community of faith in nursing homes. The printing will be done in house and the binding will be done by Track 21. Hoffman’s will be a sponsor. It was suggested that congregants could donate to the production expenses.
- **Bob Illman – Stain Glass Windows:** \$15,000 is allocated for the stain glass windows. An individual has donated \$5,000. \$10,000 remains to cover full cost.
- **Rosalind MacDonald –** From the book, “Fishing Tips” by John Pentland, Rosalind referred to the terminology that we’ve been “Swimming in Jello”. Expressed that we need to give ourselves a pat on the back. A tough year is behind us and a challenging one is coming in 2022. Rosalind challenged Council members to embrace our own community of faith. She spoke on the behalf of others that there is a real need to GATHER.
- **Charles MacDonald – Letter from congregant (attached):** Charles shared his thoughts about this letter and invited other to comment. As a summary to responses made:
 - **communication** – it was felt that we have made a maximum effort to communicate but will work on improving.
 - **involving the community of faith** - the Community Living Room is an example of the involvement of many teams and individuals. However, inclusiveness can be improved.
 - **Minutes** – starting immediately, all attachments to the minutes of the Council meetings will be included when posted on our website.
 - **Decision making** - Council is elected by the COF and entrusted to make decisions for the COF. Council does ask for input from the COF from time to time.
 - **Thanking volunteers** – we can improve on communicating our appreciation of our volunteers.

Charles will respond to this individual in writing and will invite to chat about the concerns addressed by this individual.

- **Charles MacDonald - Sabbatical:** Reminded us that we can get in touch with Kate re her Sabbatical video.

12. **NEXT MEETING: Special ZOOM Council meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

13. **MOTION to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.**

Charles MacDonald,
Chair

Mary McFadden
Council Secretary