



**MINUTES of Council Special Meeting**  
**(Presentation on “Community Innovation Hub”)**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2021**  
**Held in the Zoom Platform at 4:00 p.m.**

**p. 1**

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**Members Present:** Janice Sinker (Chair/Affirming); Mary McFadden (Acting Council Secretary); Virginia Scott (Christian Development); Charles MacDonald (Ministry and Personnel); Deb Gill (Property Management) Ruth Ann Eagleson (WOW/Worship); Rosalind MacDonald (WOW); Bob Illman (Board of Trustees/WOW); Wilma Harris (Worship); the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford (Minister)

**Absent:** Vacant (Accessibility); Lynne Desjardine (Mission & Outreach), Bryan Beattie (Finance/Treasurer); Lois Gill (Congregational Care)

**Guest:** Carla Leon

## **AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order by Janice Sinker 4:05 p.m.– quorum was present**

**2. Acknowledgement of Territory** – was read by all Council members and guest.

**3. Opening Prayer** – Lead by Rev Kate Crawford.

**4. Introduction of our Special Guest – Charles MacDonald:** Charles introduced Carla Leon of Edge (a United Church publication). Carla holds the position of “New Initiatives Manager, Embracing the Spirit “ She is Co-Founder of “Community Innovation Hub” (CIH). We have joined CIH but are exploring the viability for HSUC right now.

**5. Presentation – Carla Leon:**

- Carla provided a lively account of how she obtained her MBA (in China) and her return home (Toronto). With her entrepreneur spirit, she explained how she grew into the business of “Social Enterprise” and becoming co-founder of CIH.
- In Carla’s presentation, many advantages of being a member of the CIH organization are covered in the explanation provided by Charles (**attached**). The attached also includes the initiatives that HSUC has already put in place. Charles also provided Council members with a “Starter Kit”, which Carla referred to throughout her presentation.
- Our church has been a case study.
- Used a slideshow to share examples of becoming a “CIH” such as: Garden, Centre for the Arts, Farmer’s Market, etc.
- Used a chart showing improved percentages in areas of church involvement.

### 6. Discussion and Questions:

- Carla invited Council members to ask questions or make comments. Overall, the comments made were how in many ways, we do many of the things that CIH encompasses, such as our renovation and development of Grand Bend Place. Just as our church and Grand Bend Place had many programs in place and running well, the pandemic hit and halted all programs.
  - An important conversation was raised about the unsuccessful attempts of obtaining a Trillium Grant. Carla explained that just recently representatives from the Trillium Grant organization are having conversations with the United Church. Our membership with the CIH can help us with applying for a Trillium Grant – especially now that Grand Bend Place has its own identity.
  - A comment was made that there is a Community Foundation meeting on Wednesday, January 27. Several of our Community of Faith members are attending. The agenda will explore topics such as, social justice, the environment, youth, health care, business, and civil society. It was asked that the topics of special needs and affordable housing are also be discussed. All these areas directly relate to how CIH can help us in developing future programs at our church and Grand Bend Place.
  - The “Community Wellness” program is on hold due to COVID-19 but will be re-established in the near future. The Community Wellness Program directly relates to being a “Community Innovation Hub.”
- Janice and Charles thanked Carla for her presentation.
  - Will follow up at the January 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.

### 7. Janice Sinker adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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Janice Sinker  
Chair

Mary McFadden  
Acting Council Secretary