Regular Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church Council

303 Jackson Street, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

30 October 2017

**MINUTES**

In Attendance: Chair: Betty-Anne Elliott

Randy Willick Rev. Gord Dunbar

Gary Munro Margaret Elliott-Niesen

Deb Sutherland Bev Cameron

Secretary: Anita McNeil

Guests: John Inglis

Bev Willick

1. Welcome and Call to Order at 7:00 PM

2. Spiritual Sharing – Rev. Gord Dunbar

* Shared a reading about being called to duty
* Invited those present to look closely at each other, and think about the parallels of this group to those gathered at the last supper, and the building of relationships
* Rev. Gord shared a prayer derived from the Celtic tradition, being thankful for the diverse gifts we all bring to the table

3. Behavioural Covenant – recited by all in attendance.

4. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** Bev Cameron

**Seconded by:** Deb Sutherland

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes of 26 September 2017

* Chair called for report of any errors or omissions

**Moved by:** Gary Munro

**Seconded by:** Margaret Elliott-Niesen

That the Minutes of Meeting dated 26 September 2017 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

* Rev. Gord extended thanks to Secretary Anita McNeil for Minutes

6. Previous Meeting Action Item Follow-Up

6.1 Susan Smith - Correspondence

* Chair reported that a letter was sent in response to her first letter.
* Further correspondence received will be discussed later in this meeting

6.2 Congregational Meetings

* Chair reported that two motions were passed at the congregational meetings of October 1 and October 15, respectively
* Result of motions is that the Transition Team has now been approved, and that establishment of a quorum for St. Paul’s Council will now follow the United Church of Canada Guidelines.
* The establishment of quorum now stands at four (4)

7. Reports

7.1 Treasurer’s Report – Gary Munro *(report attached)*

* Gary reported that the deficit projection for the year is $19,000.00
* Deficit to date is at $37,000.00, which will reverse due to change in cost of Ministerial compensation
* Gary commented that donations are down. Those members enrolled in PAR have not changed the total, however, envelope donations are less, and there have been no unanticipated lump sum donations.
* Gary has amended the projected deficit to be between $5,000.00 and $12,000.00, which is some improvement.
* Gary sought direction from the Transition Team with respect commencing a budget for the coming year – he indicated the need for projected costs of Ministry, and without that information, an expenditure budget may be created.

7.2 Presbytery Report – Margaret Elliott-Niesen

* Margaret announced that Sunday, December 5, will be Rev. Gord’s covenanting service in Kincardine, and invited all to attend.
* Service will be at 7:00 PM

7.3 Trustee Report – Randy Willick *(no report)*

7.4 Stewardship – Deb Sutherland

* Deb commented that there may be Mission & Outreach information to be discussed, and that Peter Thor is the new Chair of that committee.

7.5 Ministry & Personnel –

* Bev Cameron indicated that a letter had been received by M&P from Susan Smith, and that it would be discussed later in this meeting.

7.6 Faith Leader (*position vacant – no report)*

* Chair, Betty Anne, indicated that if there are children at church, there will be a Kid’s Church, with activities.
* Chantelle Neuman has been working with the young people
* Currently teaching how to pray
* Young people may create Christmas cards for the We Care Team to deliver, as well as making cookies for distribution.

7.7 Transition Team – *(report attached)*

* Rev. Gord reported that the team has had a preliminary meeting
* The Team will need to be approved by a Congregational Meeting, coming on Sunday, October 1, 2017.
* Rev. Gord indicated that they have three prospective names for the post of Interim Minister.
* At the next meeting of the Transition Team, one member will be assigned to report to Council
* Transition has met once, unofficially.
* Bev Cameron commented on how well Rev. Cathy Paul interacts with the young people on Sunday mornings

7.8 Worship Committee – *(report attached)*

* Reported that pulpit supply for Sunday will be Fred Monteith, who will prepare the sermon, with the choir doing the rest of the service.
* Gary expressed a concern about a former member of our congregation who is dealing with a very serious medical diagnosis, which has had severe financial impact on the family. There is a fundraising initiative begun. Gary commented on the St. Paul’s emergency fund – discussion took place with respect to making a donation from this fund.
* If there is a desire to contribute, a cheque can be made out directly to the family.
* Chair asked for someone to lay the wreath for St. Paul’s – Anita McNeil volunteered.

7.9 Pastoral Care – *(position vacant – no report)*

* Chair reminded Council that Fred Monteith will be our pulpit supply on Sunday.

7.10 We Care – Bev Cameron

* Bev Cameron indicated that cards are usually distributed within the first week in December, and asked that the young people might have cards prepared by then.
* Chair indicated they would endeavour to have cookies prepared by then as well.

7.11 Future Directions – *(on hold)*

7.12 Transition Team - *(report attached)*

* members John Inglis and Bev Willick in attendance
* Roles have been designated – representative to Council will be John Inglis, however, John may not always be the member attending Council meetings – he will be the contact person
* Peter Thor will act as Secretary, and Bev Willick and John Inglis will act as Co-Chair of the Transition Team
* John reported that the team is functioning well – not backing away from any difficult issues or questions
* Their last meeting had discussion of budget – they do not know what an Interim Minister will cost, but indicated that it would be possible to see reserves decrease by $70,000.00, which may be slightly less than previously thought – however – St. Paul’s will remain in a deficit position.
* The team is in the process of scheduling interviews, and is still continuing to expand the search for a potential candidate.
* Chair asked if there had been any interest by candidates – John replied that applications had been received.
* Deb Sutherland questioned if there was a pool from which to draw for candidates – John replied that the pool is limited.
* Rev. Gord reminded Council that candidates must be suitably trained as Interim Ministers, and must be certified by the Interim Ministry Committee of Hamilton Conference.
* Rev. Gord commented on the superb quality of our Transition Team.
* Anita questioned if there was the possibility of an Interim Minister becoming a full time Minister for a congregation – Rev. Gord replied that it is not possible, and goes against the entire idea of Interim Ministry.
* Comments made that St. Paul’s United Church has something of a reputation with respect to past ministers who have left.
* Rev. Gord commented that part of the task of an Interim Minister is to separate rumour from fact.
* Chair asked how the congregation may be kept up to date on progress and status of the Transition Team
* John Inglis expressed a willingness to report to the congregation when there is something to be reported. Deb Sutherland commented that the congregation may like to hear from a member of the team, rather than second hand from Council.
* Chair suggested making use of the “Minute for St. Paul’s” on Sunday morning.

7.13 Just For Us – Just for Fun – report on pot luck

* Deb Sutherland expressed her appreciate for the support and the willingness of people to step up
* Questions have already been asked about hosting another event in the Spring
* It was a very nice evening – enjoyed by all.
* Bev Cameron suggested personal invitations by phone may have brought more out to attend.
* There are pictures on the website

8. Other Business

8.1 Doors Open 2018

* St. Paul’s has been invited to participate in Doors Open, September 29th, 2018
* Discussion – may be exactly what St. Paul’s needs
* Feeling was that we should get our name on the list right away.
* History of this building could be on display – brochures could be prepared
* Good way to display the strengths of this congregation
* Question – could Jane play during the open house? – music would add much to the day.
* Comment that it would be wise to provide tours with guides

**Moved by:** Deb Sutherland

**Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

That St. Paul’s accept the invitation to participate in Doors Open, September 29, 2018.

**CARRIED**

* Anita will let Laurel know the decision of Council to participate.
* Comments that it may be a good idea for the young people to act as tour guides.

8.2 Finance Committee Resignations

* Gary reported that, as Communion Coordinator, Lynn Reddon has agreed to take on the role of assistant Communion Coordinator
* Gary reported that Finance Committee has had a resignation – and questioned Council about how to replace this person, for example, what is the process. Is it up to Gary to find a replacement, or is it up to Council?
* Chair commented that there is a “People Resources Committee”, which currently has no members.
* Discussion followed regarding process to follow in approaching new members. Gary indicated he could come up with some names to be approached, Randy has indicated a willingness to approach those potential members. Further discussion took place regarding the extent of the commitment to any new member for the committee.
* Clarification of the process – names may be given by Gary, and members of Council may approach those individuals
* Gary reported on his resignation last March – and on his promise to stay on to prepare the budget. After much thought, the foundation has been laid, and there is a real need for financial continuity, therefore, Gary has decided he will remain as Chair of Finance for the next two years. *(this announcement was followed by spontaneous applause by all)*
* Rev. Gord indicated that the fourth task of the Transition Team had to do with leadership, and that the Interim Minister would work closely with leaders.
* Discussion followed regarding the process for acquiring an Interim Minister.

8.3 Communion Table – *(sketch included)*

* **Note – this item deferred until later in the meeting.**

9.0. Correspondence –

9.1 Letter to M&P Committee from Susan Smith

* Bev Cameron summarized the letter, outlining Susan’s disappointment

9.2 Letter to Council from Susan Smith, Dated October 15, 2017

* Susan had requested the letter be read, in its entirety, at the next meeting of Council
* Anita McNeil read the letter, in its entirety
* Discussion followed
* Bev Cameron commented on the response from M&P, including a personal meeting with Susan
* Rev. Gord commented on the process of conflict resolution
* Rev. Gord led Council in prayer

\*8.0

8.3 Communion Table (previously deferred)

* Chair referred to the sketch provided by Mac Bolton
* Sketch has been shared with Marilyn Greenham
* Open table, expandable to allow space for baptismal bowl
* Mac has the raw material to make this table out of cherry
* John Inglis remarked that Mike Inglis offered to create plans for its manufacture
* Randy Willick will contact Mike
* Discussion followed

9.3 Correspondence – continued

Chair advised that churches were being recruited to create directories.

* Discussion followed, that we may not be in a position at this time to have it done
* Chair had advised that the matter would be brought to Council

11. Spiritual sharing for next meeting will be done by Randy Willick

Chair moves that meeting be adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Council will meet next on **Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted:

Anita McNeil

Secretary