Regular Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church Council

303 Jackson Street, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

15 January 2018

**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: Bev Willick – Co-Chair, Transition Team

1.0 Welcome and Call to Order at 7:00 PM

2.0 Spiritual Sharing – Bev Cameron

* Shared observations taken from the Observer regarding how to assist Church Boards in moving forward
* Moment of prayer
* **C**elebrate God’s goodness
* **A**sk God for help
* **L**eave your concerns with Him
* **M**editate on the good things

3.0 Behavioural Covenant – recited by all in attendance.

4.0 Approval of Agenda

* Chair proposed to change the order of the agenda, allowing the report from Transition Team to be first.

**Moved by:** Randy Willick

**Seconded by:** Margaret Elliott-Niesen

That the Agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

5.0 Approval of Minutes of 28 November 2017

**Moved by:** Deb Sutherland

**Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

That the Minutes of Meeting dated 28 November 2017 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

6.0 Previous Meeting Action Item Follow-Up

6.1 Brainstorming session held January 2, 2018

* Randy reported that David Inglis had been approached to be Vice Chair, and although not able to take part this year, in 2019 he would seek that role.
* Randy further reported that Martha Barrett would consider a leader’s role on Council in 2019.
* Deb Sutherland indicated she was “pondering” further roles on Council
* Anita McNeil reported that both potential candidates for secretary had declined. Anita McNeil also indicated that she would remain in that role.
* Chair questioned if those people might consider any other role on Council. Anita reported that they were not keen to do so.
* Chair reported that Lois Freiburger has taken on the We Care Team
* Bev Cameron reported that Janet Field will take on small roles, but would prefer not to take on Pastoral Care
* Margaret Elliott-Niesen suggested that Paulette McTeer is currently on leave, and may be approachable to take on a short-term role.
* Question posed as to whether Council members in current positions may wish to move to other positions on Council.
* Current openings on Council are:
* Vice Chair
* Faith Leader
* Pastoral Care Leader
* Treasurer (upcoming vacancy in two years)
* Committee positions

6.2 Pulpit Supply

* Rev. Gord reported on conversation he had with Presbytery, regarding “Appointment” of Minister on an ongoing basis, which requires us to use the salary grid.
* Discussion ensued regarding the cost to St. Paul’s if Rev. Cathy Paul were to be agreeable to such an appointment.
* Bev Cameron commented that it was her understanding that Rev. Cathy was comfortable with the status quo.
* All comments received by Council regarding Rev. Cathy are extremely positive
* Rev. Gord indicates that Presbytery would be in line with the potential appointment of an Interim Ministry Consultant. That role is separate from Sunday worship services. If this appointment occurred, St. Paul’s would still require a Supply Appointment, however, our time would begin counting regarding the two year requirement for Interim Ministry.
* The Appointment would hold for the pastoral year, which ends on June 30th. A new form would be required to commence on July 1st for the following pastoral year.
* In the event that an Interim Minister is found in the meantime, a 90 day notice period is required, and this amount of time could be negotiated.
* Margaret reported that Rev. Cathy does have the qualifications of an Interim Minister, from a different conference.
* Rev. Gord recommended a meeting with Rev. Cathy to clarify her wishes
* Discussion continued regarding the ability of an Interim Ministry Consultant to make any connection with the congregation of the church.
* Bev Cameron indicated that she and Peggy had planned to be meeting with Rev. Cathy following service on Sunday.

6.3 We Care Team

* We Care Team is now advertised on St. Pauls’ Website.

6.5 United Fresh Start Program

* Rev. Gord reported that there are a number of individuals being trained to offer the modules of instruction.

7.0 Reports

7.1 Transition Team – Bev Willick

* Reported on the informal meeting held January 2nd
* Team is feeling a level of frustration due to no response to ads for Interim Minister
* Some Presbytery rules are hampering their search
* Very limited list of Interim Ministers, which Presbytery would not provide to the team
* No applications have been received – team is feeling as though they are in Limbo – not healthy situation for the church.
* Following information received at this meeting from Rev. Gord, Transition Team may have found a new direction and the ability to move ahead
* St. Paul’s has been close to 7 months without a Minister, and this time has not counted towards the two years required.
* Chair extended thanks to the team for their hard work.

7.2 Treasurer’s Report – Gary Munro

* Gary extended appreciation to Laurel for preparing the financial statements
* Gary moved through the past year’s financial statements, and made recommendations regarding the budget for the ensuing year.
* Bev Cameron reported that staff salaries were increased for 2018
* Rev. Gord expressed appreciation for the website, which increases traffic
* Gary purposely left pulpit supply and Minister’s wages at zero, in order to show what monies would be available for those costs.

**Moved by:** Gary Munro

**Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

That the Financial Report and Budget presented be included in the Annual Report.

* Discussion on the motion proceeded, regarding the presentation of a zero amount for Minister and Pulpit Supply.

**CARRIED**

7.3 All other reports did not require discussion

8.0 Other Business

8.1 Neighbouring Congregations

* Discussion regarding neighbouring churches, and their status – particularly Mildmay United Church . Is it appropriate for us to approach / invite other congregations?
* Margaret Elliott-Niesen will speak with Marion Boyd at the next day’s meeting.

8.2 Annual Report

* Chair called for members to come up with reports to submit to Laurel for inclusion in the Story of St. Paul’s
* Rev. Gord offered to submit something to Laurel

8.3 Men’s Coffee Morning

* Suggestion that neighbouring congregations could be invited to social times such as this

8.4 Sanctuary

* Broken heating radiator – unsure of cause
* Chair shared a report from Property regarding repairs required

9.0. Correspondence –

* Offer of help for Doors Open and Church Directory
* Council to thank Myrna
* Church Directory will not be considered until some time in the future
* Chair read thank you card from Rev. Cathy regarding the loss of her father.
* Chair read thank you card to Sunday School for the Christmas card and cookies

10. General Discussion

* Bev Cameron shared an invitation to St. Paul’s to assist with the food booth at the Paisley Steam Show.
* Requires three days, lots of work, but does provide monies to the church.
* Requires quite a number of volunteers
* Chair suggested finding someone to take the lead on this project
* Women Together are having a Valentine Coffee party on Feb 13.

11. Spiritual sharing for next meeting will be provided by Deb Sutherland

Chair moves that meeting be adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Council will meet next on **Monday, February 26th , 2018 at 7:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted:

Anita McNeil

Secretary