Regular Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church Council

303 Jackson Street, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

29 May 2018

**MINUTES**

In Attendance: Chair: Betty-Anne Elliott

Randy Willick Rev. Cathy Paul

Margaret Elliott-Niesen Deb Sutherland

Bev Cameron

Gary Munro Secretary: Anita McNeil

Guests: Bev Willick – Transition Team

John Inglis – Transition Team

Gord Smith – Doors Open Committee

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

2. Spiritual Sharing – Randy Willick

Randy shared a message from Philippians entitled “Running Toward the Goal”, followed by a short prayer.

3. Behavioural Covenant – recited by all in attendance.

4. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** Randy Willick

**Seconded by:** Margaret Elliott-Niesen

That the Agenda be approved as circulated

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes of 24 April, 2018

**Moved by:** Deb Sutherland

**Seconded by:** Randy Willick

That the Minutes of Meeting dated April 24, 2018 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

6. Previous Meeting Action Item Follow-Up

6.1 Doors Open – Gord Smith

* Discussion regarding requests made by the Doors Open Committee
* Budget request – Finance indicates this is incremental funding – the committee requests $500.00
* Some items requested are not just stand-alone costs for the day of the Doors Open event
* Council had discussion on all requests, specifically the communion table and lectern.
* Discussion regarding installation of a light on the southeast stained-glass window – Council granted permission for the installation of the light, and Laurel will be asked to make arrangements to have the light installed.
* Gord indicated that the committee is seeking any and all historical information available for this event

7. Reports

i. Minister’s Report – *Rev. Cathy Paul (report attached)*

* Rev. Cathy shared some points from the last meeting of Hamilton Conference
* Theme – *“To Everything There is a Season”* – Changing Seasons
* Hamilton Conference is now officially an Affirming Conference
* Communion service was offered at Brucelea Haven on May 3rd, and Maple Court will be offered one on June 14th.
* Next St. Paul’s communion service will be June 10th, the exact date of the 93rd anniversary of the United Church of Canada.
* Each attendee received a personalized card from Council Chair, Heather Leffler and Peter Hartman, Executive Secretary.

ii. Transition Team – John Inglis

* John commented that setting goals, dealing with failure, and humility are key components of leadership.
* Team has been meeting continuously
* Focussed on what they think is best for the congregation – goals set out by presbytery and team goals
* Working through “Fresh Start” program as well and as quickly as possible
* Goal remains to form Joint Needs Assessment Committee, followed by a Search Committee – all other items are leading us to that goal
* Communication – comment that Rev. Cathy is a major contributor to the evolution of St. Paul’s.
* Presbytery has assured the Team that Rev. Cathy’s covenant will be renewed for a further one year – Committee strongly recommends that this be announced to the congregation as quickly as possible, to give a sense of stability.
* Chair indicated that announcement should come from Council
* Rev. Cathy commented that it should be made clear that her covenant is for part time, not full time. Office hours will be specified.

Workshops Feedback

* St. Paul’s is committed to one more workshop in June – comment that June may have smaller numbers of attendees.
* Transition have come to think that workshops, perhaps, should not take the place of worship on Sunday mornings
* Communicating with the congregation is challenging – in a healthy congregation about 14% oppose whatever you’re doing. Team listens carefully and continues to push forward on the correct course.
* Team believes that one-on-one communication may work better than reporting from the front of the church on Sunday morning.
* Fresh Start was a conscious choice by the Team, due to the belief that there were no appropriate Interim Ministers available to St. Paul’s
* The Team considered there was no other option – the two-year term has begun counting down
* Workshops will be offered at times other than Sunday mornings. September 15 (Saturday morning), workshop on History will be offered. Sunday September 23rd the Team hopes to incorporate a theme of history
* Discussion regarding how finances are affected by our situation, and how to make the congregation understand the state of our finances.
* Discussion regarding putting numbers in the bulletin, ie: what the givings were from the preceding Sunday, and what the goal $ needs to be.
* Bev Willick commented regarding the two-year transition timeline – we do not have an end date, but we do have an end goal.
* Transition Team will be putting forward an interim report in January
* What is our legacy going to be?
* We keep trying to have people come to us – perhaps we should be going to them. Be more community minded, sponsoring things, etc.
* Discussion regarding inviting new members
* We Care Team works well with seniors and shut ins, should they become involved with younger families?

iii. Treasurer – Gary Munro

* Discussion regarding memorial donation by Marilyn Greenham, specific to a new communion table OR a lectern.

**Moved by:** Gary Munro

**Seconded by:** Randy Willick

That unexpended Memorial Funds be used for the purpose of purchasing a new lectern for St. Paul’s

**CARRIED**

* Discussion regarding who should research this item.
* Anita is to ask Laurel to advise the Property Committee to research a new lectern, and to request that Myrna provide her research materials to them
* Deb Sutherland commented that the painting for the parlor is currently on hold
* Discussion regarding Doors Open request for $500.00 budget. Council believes a smaller amount is more acceptable, and that if any expenses should exceed the budgeted amount, they would be considered and approved on an individual basis by Council.

**Moved by:** Deb Sutherland

**Seconded by:** Randy Willick

That a budget of $200.00 (two hundred dollars) be given to the Doors Open Committee

**CARRIED**

* With respect to Doors Open request for refurbishment of the historical communion table, Council has turned down funds for this.
* Council would like to see this table placed somewhere visible in the church on a permanent basis. Table should be cleaned and cared for as best as possible, and left as a historical monument to St. Paul’s.

iv. Presbytery – *Margaret Elliott-Niesen (no report)*

v. Trustee – *Randy Willick (no report)*

vi. Stewardship – *Deb Sutherland*

* Report provided regarding result of the Trillium Walk in aid of Food Grains
* Discussion – this is an outside fund raiser which is not through St. Paul’s
* Comments that this particular project may have run its course – this year was a very poor turnout.
* Discussion that any fundraiser which has been sanctioned by St. Paul’s Council needs to have funds go through the Finance Committee

vi. Ministry & Personnel – *Bev Cameron – (no report)*

vii. Faith Leader – *(vacant)*

* Chair reported on the success of the spaghetti dinner
* Estimated profit of approximately $845.00
* Kitchen helpers are anxious to do this again

viii. Worship Committee *– (no report)*

ix. Pastoral Care – *(no report)*

x. Future Directions *– (committee on hold)*

xi. We Care Team – *(no report)*

8.0 Other Business

i. Kitchen

* Health Unit inspector will come to inspect our kitchen on Thursday AM
* Kitchen has been cleaned.
* Refrigerator is not cooling adequately – microwave is not working – one coffee pot is not working

9.0. Correspondence –

* Message from New Horizons for Seniors Grants Initiative
* Discussion followed regarding what items may be eligible for the grant
* Council will permit Anita McNeil to prepare and submit the application

10. Council will meet next on **Tuesday, June 26, at 7:00 PM**

11. Spiritual sharing for next meeting will be provided by Betty-Anne Elliott

Chair moves that meeting be adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Anita McNeil

Secretary