Regular Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church Council

303 Jackson Street, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

25 August 2020

**MINUTES**

In Attendance: **Chair**: Deb Sutherland **Vice Chair**: David Inglis

 Randy Willick (Trustee)

 Gary Munro (Treasurer)

 Shelley Crummer (Stewardship)

 Bev Cameron (Ministry & Personnel)

 Anita McNeil (Secretary)

 Nina McTeer (Pastoral Relations)

 Rev. Cathy Paul (Minister)

Regrets: Margaret Elliott-Niesen (Regional Rep)

 Tom Traversy

Guest: Bob Weber (property)

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

2. Spiritual Sharing – Bev Cameron

Bev shared an article from the Toronto Star about the newfound importance of home, particularly during the pandemic. She also shared a saying that hung by the door of her home, followed by a prayer of thanks for bringing us all together with common caring.

3. Behavioural Covenant – recited by Randy Willick.

4. Approval of Agenda

 **Moved by:** Randy Willick

 **Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

 That the Agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes of 4 August 2020

 **Moved by:** David Inglis

 **Seconded by:** Gary Munro

 That the Minutes of Meeting dated 4 August 2020 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

\*special note – Minutes of Meeting from March 3rd, 2020 will be brought to Council’s meeting on September 22nd, for approval at that time.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

Chair commented that all of tonight’s business is arising from the minutes, and proposed that Council take reports prior to discussing business.

7. Reports

 i. Minister’s Report – Rev. Cathy Paul

* Rev. Cathy proposed re-starting the payments to M&S, given our financial situation.
* Decision to defer payments was made due to the uncertainty of the pandemic
* Discussion followed regarding the amount to be paid – it is at Council’s discretion to decide on an amount.
* Rev. Cathy commented that M&S is a key part of what the United Church stands for.
* David Inglis commented on the long tradition of giving by St. Paul’s, and suggested that we start gradually to give
* Gary commented that the financial emergency is over, however, was reluctant to name an amount, because largest donations tend to happen in the Fall.
* Discussion that we begin donations anew, and do not seek to make up for payments not made during the emergency for the time being.
* 50% of previous givings would round up to $400.00/month to M&S.
* Recommendation that we revisit this matter at each meeting. Government assistance will ultimately end

**Moved by:** Randy Willick

 **Seconded by:** Anita McNeil

That Council begin monthly donations of $400.00 to M&S beginning in September, and Council review and reassess this donation prior to year end.

**CARRIED**

* Rev. Cathy expressed appreciation for everything that Rob Weber has done as a volunteer, and stated that there is no expectation that he will now step up and do even more to meet the safety protocols of COVID-19.
* Chair echoed the thanks on behalf of Council.
* Rob Weber commented on the rules for cleaning for Sunday service. He reminded Council that there is no COVID in the sanctuary. Chair commented that a professional clean would offer peace of mind to members of the congregation about attending services.

 ii. Treasurer’s Report – Gary Munro

* Gary noted that the walnut tree at the centre of the church parking lot has been removed, and that Bester’s have purchased the wood, and that the removal of the tree should be covered by the sale of the wood.
* Gary continues to apply for the government subsidy

8.0 New Business

 i. Card of thanks

* Chair shared a card of thanks from Leslie and Elena Dobson

ii. Girl Guides request

* Chair commented that there are several groups wishing to resume use of the church – given that we are not yet open for Sunday services, we may not be ready to grant access to outside groups yet.
* There will need to be rules about what areas are available to guides.
* Guides can do registration on 15 Sept, in the parking lot, but no access to the church building.
* They will need to be provided access to their materials – Chair will speak with Michelle Mancel.

iii. Cleaning quote

* Weiler’s have been contacted, but have not called back
* Canadian Fire and Flood – would charge approximately $45.00/hour. Also discussed an ozone misting cleaner. Inspector at the Health Unit was contacted, but did not know anything about this machine and could not recommend it. Health Unit recommended not using a chlorine based cleaner, but did recommend ammonia.
* Durrer’s Cleaning – have not yet got back to chair – will contact her and arrange an onsite visit to determine cost to clean.

iv. Plan for Cleaning

* Bob Weber reminded Council that COVID does not survive after 48 hours, therefore, the sanctuary will not be an issue for cleaning after services.
* Chair discussed decorations for the church – there needs to be timing so that people are not in the sanctuary within at least 48 hours prior to Sunday service. Chair would be more comfortable with a four day window.
* Shelley commented on the protocols in place at Bluewater Board
* Chair stressed the need for coordination of cleaning personnel.
* Bob commented that the sanctuary is currently cleaned twice a month
* Discussion about putting away tables in the hall to permit social distancing
* Council to be mindful of how the reopening of schools in September will impact our decisions.
* Nina commented on washroom cleaning – not necessary to deep clean after each person departs. Post sign showing schedule of washroom cleaning.
* Comments that people who are nervous about being in a public space will not likely be among the first to return to church.
* Chair indicated that staff need to feel safe and comfortable also. Chair will speak to Laurel about signs required regarding closed areas in the church and rules about mask wearing etc.
* Basement washroom to be closed.
* Council members have volunteered to clean the washroom – a worksheet will be made for people who clean to show when and where they’ve cleaned.

9.0. Correspondence –

* Card from Leslie and Elena – previously shared

10. General Discussion

* Chair commented that church will not be “social” for a long time to come
* Comments about how church will operate – collection plate at the back of the church – ushers trained to seat people, etc.
* More specific information will be sent out to the congregation prior to reopening.
* Anita will go through the list of protocols and tailor it to St. Pauls’ needs
* Chair commented on the number of church keys in circulation
* No admittance to the church outside of open office hours.

Re-cap:

* Guides will be contacted
* Washroom cleaning, by volunteer, to commence next Monday and Thursday
* Signage to be made
* Sign in sheets to be made
* Discussion regarding return of Wendy Fung as pianist. Position of musical director is vacant.

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

 Chair moves that meeting be adjourned at 8:11P.M.

 Council will meet next on the **22nd of September 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted:

Anita McNeil

Secretary