Regular Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church Council

303 Jackson Street, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

26 March 2019

**MINUTES**

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

Randy Willick (Trustee)

Gary Munro (Treasurer)

Shelley Crummer (Stewardship)

Margaret Elliott-Niesen (Regional Rep)

Bev Cameron (Ministry & Personnel)

Anita McNeil (Secretary)

Nina McTeer (Pastoral Relations)

Rev. Cathy Paul

Guests: Peggy Munro

Bev Willick

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

* Chair, Deb Sutherland, expressed a special welcome to new members of Council, and thanked them for committing to St. Paul’s.
* Chair shared her thoughts on the state of St. Paul’s, that we are in a very good place right now, and sees a bright future.

2. Spiritual Sharing – Rev. Cathy Paul

* Cathy shared an exercise with those present, with an invitation to all of us to reflect. She handed out cards with two questions, 1. What do you want to release? And 2. What do you want to embrace? Inviting us to be more contemplative during the season of Lent.
* Cathy shared a poem, showing how to take brokenness and turn it into blessings.

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 written.

**CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by:** Gary Munro

**Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

That the Minutes of Meeting dated 3 February 2019 be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by:** Randy Willick

**Seconded by:** Margaret Elliott-Niesen

That the Minutes of Meeting dated 17 February 2019 be approved as written.

**CARRIED**

6. Business Arising from Minutes

* Chair reported that Rev. Gord Dunbar has been appointed as liaison between St. Paul’s and the Region

7. New Business

7.1 Church Pews – Peggy Munro – *(report attached)*

* Arising from the Wednesday discussion group, Council is asked to consider a motion to investigate replacing pews with chairs in the main portion of the sanctuary.
* Pews at the rear of the sanctuary, in the elevated space, would remain.
* Suggested that Council strike a three person committee to develop a proposal for this project
* Suggestion that, following completion of this project, an implementation committee be appointed with respect to marketing of the space
* St. Paul’s has a balanced budget at this time
* Council discussed options

**Moved by:** David Inglis

**Seconded by:** Randy Willick

That Peggy Munro be empowered to take the lead in formation of an investigative committee to explore the potential for replacing pews with chairs in the sanctuary.

**CARRIED**

7.1.1 Sign – Peggy Munro

* Peggy provided an update regarding costs and available space if an outdoor sign were to be approved.
* She reported she had met with a provider, who walked around the property, and will see if he might come up with options
* Discussion followed re: advertisement potential of a new digital sign

7.2 Marriage Policy

* Transition Team requested particular wording to be included in our marriage policy.
* Discussion regarding where the wording fits into the current policy
* Wording deemed to be a preamble or introduction

**Moved by:** Anita McNeil

**Seconded by:** Bev Cameron

That the wording, as provided by the Transition Team, be incorporated into the marriage policy of St. Paul’s.

**CARRIED**

7.3 Congregational Meeting – no information

7.4 Church Directory –

* Chair provided information that the gentleman in charge had contacted her.
* Provider has been told that we are in transition at this time, and it may be more appropriate to deal with this in the Fall.
* Rev. Cathy commented that this gentleman has spoken to her also.

7.5 Cooler

* Chair advised of a group who wish to do a fundraiser in May, and will be dependent on having refrigeration available.
* Discussion followed regarding repair of the current appliance, which is costly and not waranteed.
* New Horizons have been contacted, but the application is still under consideration
* Shelley offered to research prices
* Chair reported that the next Soup Sunday will be the week following Easter

7.6 From the Mind of the Chair

* We need to spend some time doing some visioning, and planning for the future
* What are we saving our investments for? We are currently in a balanced budget position.
* Are we trying to build the church and attract new people
* The Constitution – no longer relevant to St. Paul’s today
* Time to move forward

8.0 Reports

8.1 Minister’s Report – Rev. Cathy Paul *(no report available)*

8.2 Transition Team – Bev Willick

* With respect to the church profile – when it is completed it will be placed on the “hub”
* Includes a position profile – including the Minister’s job description, a church profile – the living faith story, including a financial viability report, and a demographics report
* Bev thanked Gary and Laurel for their assistance in providing facts and figures for the financial viability report
* Transition Team is working to condense the information, and include links, because it will all be online
* Team hopes to have it ready by Friday (March 29)
* Steps whish must happen: 1) Council approves church profile provided by TransitionTeam, 2) congregational meeting is called and profile presented for their approval, 3) liaison (Rev. Gord Dunbar) needs to be available, and this can be done electronically.
* After approval by congregation, profile is sent to Region 8 for their approval.
* Following their approval, the “search” may begin
* Transition Team recommends the following timeline:
  + Profile will be provided to Council no later than mid-April
  + Congregational meeting may be called for May 5th
  + Notice must go in bulletin April 21 and April 28.
  + Goal is to have the approved recommendation to Region 8 for their meeting on May 15th.
  + Once Region 8 accept the profile, Council may “formally” enter into discussions with Minister
  + Region 8 is fully in agreement with all of the process the Transition Team is entering into.
* Transition Team recommends the next following timeline:
  + The Minister’s contract be presented to the congregation at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 2nd
  + Bulletin announcements to be May 19th, and May 26th
  + This timeline will facilitate Rev. Cathy’s vacation and the summer
* Chair commented that Council will make it work, if more meetings are needed, Council will do so.
* Council will meet at the call of the Chair

Constitution and Structure

* Present Constitution of 2016 needs to be updated
* Transition Team will review the Constitution and make recommendations to Council
* Suggestion that an ad hoc committee be formed about September to revise the Constitution

8.3 Finance Report – Gary Munro *(attached)*

* Gary reported that, as of the end of February, St. Paul’s is breaking even
* Cash reserves are in no imminent danger of being depleted.
* David Inglis commented on the loss of givings – this is down 9% for the first two months, compared to last year.
* PAR is slowly eroding – this is expected to be a trend, and has been built into the budget.

8.4 Regional Report – Margaret Elliott-Niesen

*(no report)*

8.5 Trustee – Randy Willick

*(no report)*

8.6 Stewardship – Shelley Crummer

* Shelley requested information on her new role – to be found in the Constitution
* Chair, Deb Sutherland, as past Chair of this committee, advised Shelley on some of her duties

8.7 Ministry and Personnel – Bev Cameron

* Bev reported that approval was gained from the Transition Team and from Region 8 to begin discussions with Rev. Cathy as our permanent part-time minister.

8.8 Faith Leader – (position vacant)

8.9 Pastoral Care – Nina McTeer

* No report at this time. Nina will look at the Constitution to potentially reduce some of the committees no longer relevant.
* Discussion – question regarding Kids Church – falls under Faith Leader, which is currently vacant. Betty Anne Elliott has agreed to carry on informally with this.

8.10 Future Directions – committee on hold

8.11 We Care Team – *(no report)*

9.0. Correspondence – *none*

10. Spiritual sharing for next meeting will be provided by Anita McNeil

Council will meet next on **Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Chair moves that meeting be adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Anita McNeil

Secretary