

Present: Sandra Smith, Clint Halladay, Margaret Ross, Reverend Takouhi, Brian Blowes, Heather Gribben, Carl Leggett, Joanne McLean, Jim Earl

Guest: Margaret Martin

Regrets: Ted Brett, Marion Cooper, Charalee Smith

The meeting was held in the Centennial Lounge of Elgin United Church, called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Clint Halladay, with a quorum present. A welcome was extended to council and to our guest Margaret Martin, followed by the opening prayer given by Clint Halladay.

3. Approval of Agenda - Additions requested to Reports: f. Nursery School; g. Trustee; h. M&P; i. Volunteer Service Awards; j. A.V. Committee

Motion by Sandra Smith, seconded by Joanne McLean to adopt the agenda with the additional items added. CARRIED

4. Minutes of the October 31, 2016 meeting - no additions or errors

Motion by Carl Leggett, seconded by Sandra Smith to adopt the minutes of October 31, 2016. CARRIED

5. Business Arising from meeting October 31, 2016

- a. Report on Auction (5.b.vi) Jim Earl reported. Execution of the sale was effective thanks to many hands. However there were less than 30 bidders with no interest from several serious buyers and few bids on most sales. Elgin Lions Hall rental \$169.50; 20% commission paid to consigners; approximately \$500 net proceeds to church.
- Outreach opportunity - donation of surplus brown upholstered stacking chairs (stored in our furnace room) to the Portland Seniors Fitness Program operating out of the Portland Community Hall. 12 chairs were restored and donated as agreed to by the auction team.
- b. Stewardship (5.c) Clint Halladay reported. 124 letters were sent out to congregants with good results at this time. Plans will begin for our 2017 Stewardship Campaign.
- c. Feast of Stephen (7.d) - Joanne McLean reported that it was a good evening despite the poor weather. \$1000 raised for EUC.
- d. Alternating Services (8.a) - Clint Halladay reported that the proposal was withdrawn by the Official Board after Portland United Church sent it back to them.

6. Correspondence

- Sympathy cards were sent to Bert Petro, Brad Gibson and Bob Butcher.
- Cheques and an increase in PAR were received in response to Stewardship Campaign

7. Reports

a. Treasurer - Joanne McLean		ATTACHMENT # 1
Bank Balances	Benevolent Fund	\$1055 (Rev. Takouhi cash float \$300)
	GIC	\$9900
	Current Acct.	\$17168 (Treasurer has cash float \$300 for events)
	Included in current account	
	Building	\$740
	Memorial	\$9323
	M&S	\$500
	DIG	\$105
	Food Bank	\$155
	Balance for operating	\$6345

Outstanding Bills

15th Stinson \$773.36

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20th Pastoral Charge \$4000
28th Commonwealth \$381.58

PAR is now \$2866 per month

Joanne reported that the annual report reflects that we are in the black at this time due to the Stewardship drive and some very generous donations. Also, the cashed in GICs have given us some room to operate. Joanne asked for discussion about using some of the Memorial Fund to do repairs of the sanctuary plaster.

Motion by Jim Earl, seconded by Sandra Smith that Joanne McLean be tasked with creating a report for presentation at the next council meeting outlining appropriate uses for funds transferred out of the Memorial Fund.
CARRIED

- b. Minister - no report
- c. Property - Jim Earl
 - church and manse septic tanks pumped out in November
 - expired smoke detectors replaced in Fellowship, Lower Hall, and Nursery School room
 - CO detector added to the sanctuary
 - fire extinguisher annual inspection done with two being serviced
 - snow removal team - Terry French/Doug Morton: backhoe plowing of road shoulders in front and at the side (\$500 to date); Township plowing and sanding of the road sidewalk; Jim shovelling entry sidewalks and using cat litter instead of salt to manage ice.
 - the annual report highlights that although we have no committee we do have an extensive team of groups who are able to work independently and effectively.
 - there was no group to care for the flower beds in 2016
 - GREAT NEWS - Paul Simpson has rejoined our team, with renewed enthusiasm, resuming full responsibility for facility bookings, thermostat programming, door key management, etc. Thank you Jim and Paul.
- d. CAYA - Reverend Takouhi reported that confirmation classes have begun with Alex Price attending from EUC. Easter Sunday service will include the confirmation as well as the reception of new members.
- e. Music - Jim Earl.
 - pleased to have four bass choir members with Morgan Wright joining in November. The choir enjoyed a renewed joint choir experience through October and November while Portland continued its search for a new Director of Music. This was made possible through significant added responsibilities for Margaret Ross and Charalee Smith.
- f. Nursery School - Jim Earl
 - the Board has requested permission to operate a summer camp, Monday to Friday, 9 - 1 PM, from July 3 to August 25; brown bag lunch (no kitchen needed); rent to be increased to reflect the additional use. Discussed by council and commitment in principle to support this initiative.

Motion by Jim Earl, seconded by Carl Leggett, that Elgin United Church Council gives permission in principle for the summer camp proposal to be operated from July 3 to August 25, 2017.
CARRIED

- a twelve month discussion re a rent increase to reflect the change from half days on Tuesday and Thursday, to include Wednesdays has resulted in the Nursery School offering to increase the monthly amount from \$150 to \$200. Council was in favour of this increase with the understanding that if the school needed to reduce the amount at some future point they just had to ask.
- a parent donated a vacuum for use in cleaning the lower hall.

- their grant application was insufficient to support the proposed duct cleaning (\$530) and will instead be used to provide a book shelf.
- a new teaching team began the new year

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- g. Trustee - Jim Earl
 - a joint meeting has been called for February 16, 2017 3:30 PM at EUC to review the manse rental program.
- h. M & P - Jim Earl
 - 2016 was not a productive year related to few committee meetings resulting in limited engagement with our minister and secretary. Revitalization is essential re the execution of our first Sabbatical in 2018.
- i. Volunteer Service Awards - Jim Earl
 - 2016 nomination report submitted in January with six adults and no youth
 - 2017 draft report is ready with nine potential adults and one youth
 - the selection process was improved by moving to a consultative process with nominees to ensure accurate year and designation information and to facilitate prioritization.
- j. Audio/ Visual - Margaret Ross
 - a concert is being planned for October 21, 2017. Details to come.
 - three more DVDs have been requested by Addison United Church. Brian Blowes will arrange this. Proceeds from this initiative go into either the a/v fund or the general fund.

8. New Business

- a. Participation in Canada 150 celebrations - Clint Halladay
 - discussion re our advertising of events to reflect the 150th. At this time we have a concert on April 22, 2017 by the Westport Arts Council to be held in Elgin United Church. There are five members from EUC and one from Portland that will be singing in the choir. Freewill offering. This event will give EUC exposure as a wonderful concert venue.
 - Our application is in for the Festival of Small Halls, to be held in September/ October. Jane Campbell has asked if EUC would provide a luncheon as we did last year. The Red Brick Schoolhouse has also applied for the festival.
 - Clint Halladay will get the advertising in to the Rideau Lakes summer calendar before the deadline.
- b. Community Dinners - Joanne McLean
 - the question of continuing the CPHC luncheons was raised. A lot of work for a small group of volunteers and not much money cleared.
 - Brian Blowes would like to present another Indian Dinner - date to be decided
 - our three main dinners are the fish fry, BBQ, and Feast of Stephen. After discussion it was decided to drop the fish fry this year and continue with the BBQ and Feast of Stephen. Clint Halladay will confirm the dates and check with the Lions Hall for availability.
 - we will have a Ham and Bean Dinner at the Lions Hall on March 26, 2017. A coordinator is needed.
- c. AGM 2017 - February 19 after church, with a soup and sandwich lunch. Clint Halladay and Sandra Smith will coordinate the soup.
 - positions to fill ; secretary, sharing and caring, social, fair trade coffee.
- d. Briefing of Remits - Margaret Martin
 - power point presentation of remits 1 - 4. Information is provided to council (now) and congregants (at AGM) and the Official Board votes on our behalf.

- Remit #4 - Funding a New Model
- Remit #3 - Office of Vocation
- Remit #2 - Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
- Remit #1 Three Council Model

Information and explanation can be found on these remits online at the United Church of Canada website
<http://www.gc42.ca/remits>

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9. Closing Prayer - Reverend Takouhi

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Next meeting - April 5, 2017 - 7 PM

DRAFT