



Elgin United Church Council
Minutes of Meeting
October 3, 2017 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Centennial Room

In attendance: Clint Halladay, Sandra Smith, Heather Gribben, Ted Brett, Carl Leggett, Charalee Smith, Rev Takouhi, Joanne MacLean, Marg Ross, Brian Blowes, Mark Bee

Regrets: Marian Cooper

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by the Chair, Clint Halladay, there being a quorum present.
2. Welcome: A moment of silence was held for events around the world this week. He also mentioned that Marian Cooper's mother is doing better.
3. Opening Prayer: Mark opened in prayer.
4. Agenda: Agenda accepted. Ted will note on M&P. Add Heather for Fair Trade Coffee (5c). Mark/Heather Approved
5. Minutes of June 19, 2017 These minutes need further review. Mark and Clint will look at them over the next month.
6. Business Arising from Minutes of June 19, 2017:: Buddhist speaker (Deborah is liaison), pending. Manse update – Ted notes that Trustees need to go to Landlord Tenant Board to discuss eviction. Letter from Township that the mess outside the manse needs to be cleaned up also. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Fair Trade Coffee – Heather notes that it is becoming very expensive. Orders had to be made in multiples of 5 lbs. Heather ends up with excess that isn't being purchased. Joanne pays the company and then Heather's customers pay. Heather ends up buying the leftover coffee. She's not adverse to being coffee rep, however we need to change the way we operate -packaging small coffee packs and not using gourmet coffee. Sandra suggests looking into Country Market for their fair trade coffee and their prices. Joanne notes that several people have asked why we don't have a basket for donations for Sunday coffee. M&P rep: Mary-Lynne Alderdice expressed interest in being an Elgin M&P rep, replacing Jim Earl. Keep in mind we will need a new Council Chair soon. Presbytery Grant Opportunity will be discussed in new business.
7. Correspondence: – For use of Sam Hutching's Table and Pinkerton Baptismal Table. A thank you card was received from Elgin Area Historical Committee. Charalee presented a letter received



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from Zyra Joy Villegas, letting us know how our Sunday School World Vision child sponsorship is helping her.

8. Committee Reports

a. Treasurer: Joanne MacLean presented her report. We're doing pretty good and looking a lot better than last year. Between cashing in the GIC last year and the letter last year informing congregants of our financial status and encouraging somewhat increased giving, we had a cushion to pay the bills without getting into reserves. PAR is so important to count on – now at \$3231 a month. Very little DIG contributions in the last three months - only \$630 for the whole year. It is believed that many other organizations are now contributing to DIG and they're not relying on EPPC alone, and are doing fairly well. Another Signing Officer is needed. It was suggested that Marion Stacey might be asked. Joanne has added Audio Visual and Youth sections on the Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report is attached.

b. Minister's Musings: ... As you all know, Summer has been a busy time and I have shared my activities with congregants with notes in August, and the response has been very positive. I plan to continue doing that... As much as possible. .

I am grateful to God for the Community Called Elgin-Portland, and I am looking forward to continuing this journey together to grow and deepen our roots in God's Love.

Yes, the work of ministry has changed, if I get 3 days off in a month, it is a miracle... The vocation has become a 24/7 calling, thanks to Facebook and my office being at home, I am immersed in my work all the time. However, in all things, there is a rewarding factor that I am aware of as I journey with people and see God working in different ways, even in the wrestles of life.

I am working with the supervisee of our Presbytery, Emma Pipes and putting to action what I have learned over the course of June 2016-May 2017. On September 29, 2017 – I participated in a workshop called, "Children's and Youth Ministry in the Way of Jesus". "In the Way of Jesus" having a double meaning... As the way Jesus did his ministry and or as us interfering in the way of Jesus... I am grateful for the Congregational Life and Christian Growth Committee of our Presbytery that offered to pay for the expenses incurred from this one day trip with Emma Pipe, because I learned a lot and I am still percolating the things I have heard... All Good.

On February 1, 2018 we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of our ministry together, however, I still feel that we have just begun and we are taking baby steps in this relationship of Grace. But we all know that a 5-year term completion allows a UCC minister to experience a Sabbatical. A Sabbatical is a time of rest from the regular demands of a Call, a time to rejuvenate and also to reflect on the work of God through different avenues.

As I plan for my Sabbatical, I have advised the OB, that I would like this sabbatical to be an "EPPC Sabbatical", and not just "Rev. Takouhi's Sabbatical". What do I mean by that is that I have asked permission if I can do a few fund-raising events to raise money for

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the school I attended in Lebanon – who are carrying the mission of God through offering education to the Syrian Refugee Students through grants and scholarships from North America. Their motto is, “No One should be left behind”. And when I was a young student at that same school, I was one of the recipients of grants and scholarships, my parents could not afford to pay full tuition with 9 mouths to feed. So, since the OB meeting I have dreamt a little dream and have decided to enlarge the circle of partnership and invite others to join us in this mission through EPPC and raise \$35,000.00, as next year marks the 35th year that I have been away from Lebanon. The idea is to prepare an evening in Portland and an Evening in Elgin and share my life’s journey and share the need of this partnership and do a fundraising for student tuition - NOT for my travel expenses... I will also do different forms of fundraising online and accomplish things beyond our imagination. I believe we can do this and help EPPC be a beacon of God’s Light all the way into Lebanon, where I was born and raised. On September 30th, UCC called back all the Commissioners for GC42 and we voted upon the implementations of the work at hand, after the next GC43.

I remain humbly because of Grace,

Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

Incumbent Minister Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge

- c. Worship Committee: Met on September 24th. Discussed different aspects of Christian growth and looked back at last year’s Christmas – there wasn’t a service on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day. This will not occur again, if the 25th is on a Sunday, there still be a joint service. Baptisms and confirmations galore. Passing of Gary Hanna. Conversation that in the past EPPC had done fifth Sundays of the month as joint services. Next year there could be 4 or 5 – just throwing it out there. Worship will work on sabbatical preparation. Joint service in February, in Elgin, as a joint service and covenanting service. February 1st will be our fifth anniversary together with Rev Takouhi! The Pentecost-Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2017-2018 calendar for EPPC is attached.
- d. Presbytery: Ted Brett noted that they’re winding down. Meetings are scheduled until November 18th, 2018. Ted loses his position then. Youth Event at Christ United Church in Lyn will take place on October 14th, 2017, run by Emma Pipes (student minister mentored by Takouhi). One remit to go at presbytery level. All others have passed.
- e. Ministry & Personnel: No report
- f. CAYA: Charalee Smith noted that Pat Greenhorn is enthusiastic about getting involved. She demonstrates good initiative and she has a curriculum ready. There is also a letter prepared to send to families with children. Aiming for Advent. The Elgin Council Chair thanked Charalee for her devotion and hard work!



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- g. Audio Visual: AV staffing of back desk is going fairly well. AV still needs help. Lydia Smith has filled in for Clint and it is noted and appreciated! Sandra Smith mentioned approaching the high school again with an opportunity for community service.
- h. Property: No report
- i. Music: Jim Earl is still chair of Music. He isn't here tonight. The men's section of the choir has grown and are very enthusiastic!
- j. Official Board: A copy of the OB minutes from September 26, 2017 is attached

9. New Business

- a. Four Rivers Presbytery Grant Opportunity: It may be possible to apply/receive grants for audio visual enhancements. Approximately \$300 is needed for the streaming interface module, currently being worked on. Approximately \$1,200 was spent on purchasing the piano dolly. If approved, 40% of these expenses could be refunded. Brian Blowes motioned and Carl Leggett seconded that Council give our go ahead. CARRIED. The application is being prepared.
- b. Audio Visual Enhancements: The Chair noted that we need to be looking at a new video camera, lapel microphone, and projector lens. We need to consider, do we want to continue presenting our services on-line. If we do, then we need to fund-raise to replace/purchase the equipment we need. A question was asked, "Could the purchase of the camera be part of the Four Rivers grant", and the response was that yes it can be.
- c. Municipal Housing Storage: Residents of the municipal housing complex have no place to store items such as shovels, wheel barrows, etc. Seeds of Hope might be an option for us to help.
- d. With a Little Help from My Friends: The concert, focusing on Beatles songs, takes place October 21, 2017. Tickets are on sale. A refreshment coordinator is still required.
- e. Feast of Stephen: ...takes place on Sunday, November 19th. The price may be raised to \$25 for the meal and entertainment. Start promoting at least 5 weeks ahead of the event. Planning on 120 people.



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- f. Fundraising Dinner: Brian offers his cooking services (various ethnic cooking – we can pick one), if someone would organize a dinner. Clint suggested a weekend night close to Valentine’s Day, perhaps February 18, 2018, preferably at Elgin United Church , but the Lion’s Hall is always a choice too.

 - g. Addison DVDs: Brian has to do hours of editing to prepare each DVD to have them the way Addison United requests. Clint suggested that we have a motion that we give an initial \$200 honourarium for the original six DVDs plus \$30 to Brian per DVD moving forward as a token of our appreciation. Heather Gribben and Carl Leggett seconded. CARRIED. Funds received from Addison United should go into General Funds for accounting purposes.
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10. Remarks for the Chair: It is nice to see where we’re running in the black. Good stuff with our AV ministry. Thank you all for first coming, and secondly participating! The next council meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. If possible, we’ll try for the café on the corner of Main Street for a dinner/meeting. Place to be determined.

 11. Closing Prayer: Rev Takouhi offered the closing prayer.

 12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Note: Birthday party 80th for Carl Leggett at Lion’s Hall on Dec 3rd.

PENTECOST – ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – EPIPHANY 2017-2018

September

- **September 24 – Sunday – 16th after Pentecost**
 - **VIBE group Suggested TO WATCH A DVD AT THE WORSHIP e-mail approved.**
 - **Worship Planning Committee Meeting**
- **September 27 - Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #4 "Why It's a Small World After All"

October

- **October 1 – Sunday – 17th after Pentecost**
 - **Communion – Served**
 - **World Wide Communion Sunday**
 - **Blessing of the Animals in Elgin - October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis**
 - **World Wide Communion Ecumenical Service – Elgin Community Complex**
- **October 4 – Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #5 "Three Days that Changed the World"
Last Session of the Jesus Series...
- **October 8 – Sunday – 18th after Pentecost –**
 - **Thanksgiving/Harvest SUNDAY**
- **October 11 – Wednesday - NO VIBE – Thanksgiving continues**
- **October 15 – Sunday – 19th after Pentecost**
 - **Laity Sunday - A Service to recognize our Lay Leaders in Our midst.**
- **October 18 – Wednesday - VIBE - New Series**
 - "If You Want to Walk On Water You've Got to Get Out of The Boat"
 - #1 "What's Water Walking?"
- **October 21 – Saturday - EUC Concert - 7:30 p.m.**
- **October 22 – Sunday – 20th after Pentecost**
 - **Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation – October 31**
- **October 25 – Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #2 "The Tragedy of the Unopened Gift"
- **October 29 – Sunday – 21st after Pentecost**
 - **Rev. Takouhi Off – 1 Sunday Vacation Sunday.**

- **Hymn Sing Sunday - Led by Lynne Dimma at PUC & by Charalee Smith at EUC**

November

- **November 1 – Wednesday**
 - #3 "Find Your Calling and Get Your Feet Wet"
- **November 5 – 22nd after Pentecost**
 - **ALL Saints Sunday**
 - **Communion Intinction**
- **November 8 – Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #4 "Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears"
- **November 11, 2017 – Saturday**
 - **The Legion is holding their Cenotaph Services on this day and NOT the 5th.**
- **November 12 – Sunday – 23rd after Pentecost**
- **EPPC will hold the Remembrance Services on this Sunday the 12th.**
- **November 15 – Wednesday - NO VIBE**
- **November 19– Sunday – 24th after Pentecost**
 - **Rev. Takouhi Away on Family Vacation – Rev. Lynne Gardiner will be the contact for emergencies.**
 - **Paul Whiteley – Lay Worship Leader Student from Lyn, ON.**
- **November 22 – Wednesday - NO VIBE**
- **November 26– Sunday – Christ the King – Reign of Christ**
 - **Rev. Takouhi Away on Family Vacation – Rev. Lynne Gardiner will be the contact for emergencies.**
 - **Charlotte Hoy – Lay Worship Leader Student from Addison, ON.**
- **November 29 – Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #5 "Good News for Cave Dwellers"

December

- **December 3 – Sunday - ADVENT 1 – Hope**
 - **Children's time in – Sunday School - Portland**
 - **Communion Served**
- **December 6, 2017 – Wednesday - VIBE**
 - #6 "Learning to Wait on Our Big God" (Last VIBE for the Year)
- **December 10, 2017 – Sunday - ADVENT 2 – Peace**

- December 17, 2017 – Sunday - ADVENT 3 – Joy
- December 24, 2017 – Sunday - ADVENT 4 – Love
Morning Joint - Rev. Takouhi - Portland - 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve – PUC 6:00 p.m. – EUC 8 P.M.
 - **Communion Served (Way too many people to do Intinction)**
- December 31, 2017 – Sunday – **Low Sunday - Elgin**
 - **At 10:00 a.m. CANTATA????**

January 2018

- January 7, 2018 - Epiphany Sunday - **NO COMMUNION**
- January 14, 2018 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
- January 21, 2018 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Ecumenical Sunday)
 - **Communion Intinction**
- January 28, 2018 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 2018

- February 4, 2018 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany
- February 11, 2018 – **Transfiguration Sunday**
- February 14, 2018 – **Ash Wednesday**
- February 18, 2018 – 1st Sunday in Lent
 - **COMMUNION Intinction - Easter will be COMMUNION - SERVED.**
- February 25, 2018 – 2nd Sunday in Lent