



Elgin United Church Council, Elgin United Church, 77 Main Street, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0

**Elgin United Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting (Amended June 28, 2018 EUCC Mtg)**  
**May 1, 2018 7:00 – 9:22 p.m.**  
**Centennial Room**

In attendance: Ed Speers, Clint Halladay, Rev Takouhi, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Sandra Smith, Ted Brett, Jim Earl, Charalee Smith, Marg Ross, Brian Blowes, Adiran Overdulve

Regrets: Joanne Maclean, Carl Leggett, Roberta McKinney, Pat Greenhorn

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by the new Chair, Ed Speers, there being a quorum present.
2. Welcome & Opening Prayer: Ed opened in prayer and thanked us for being here and asked for our patience as we muddle through his first meeting as the new Chair!
3. Agenda: Motion to accept was given by Clint Halladay and seconded by Ted Brett. APPROVED.
4. Minutes of 3 October 2017 and 11 February 2018 Ted Brett motioned and Jim Earl seconded for both. The 3 Oct 17 minutes were not accepted at the very short council meeting which was held after Sunday Service on 11 Feb 18. Point G of the 3 Oct 17 minutes - Jim Earl asked if the honourarium was received and working. Brian Blowes stated that it was received and all is working well. Minutes were APPROVED.
5. Business Arising from Minutes of 3 October 2017 & 11 February 2018:
  - a. Preparation of 2018 Budget – We don't have anyone present tonight to present a budget. Ed Speers suggested that we hold a formal budget meeting. Jim Earl moved that we hold the budget meeting on Tuesday, 15 May 18, at 7:00 pm. Marg Ross seconded. Members within Council who deal with spending money should attend. APPROVED;
  - b. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Item 9A and 9B. We submitted a request for \$12,000 and received \$5,000 from Four Rivers Presbytery;
  - c. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Item 9A. RDHS Bursary. Carl Leggett will attend the RDHS Commencement ceremony and present the Elgin United bursary;
  - d. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Item 9B. Some Kind of Choir – 30 persons attended the concert. The weather that evening was very bad. The music was beautiful!; and
  - e. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Item 9C. Festival of Small Halls – We put in an application for 2018. The festival rep, Roseanne Lake, suggested that we submit for 2019 instead. We may have missed the deadline for 2018 by two weeks. Council agrees to submit for an event in 2019. The



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festival reps have already visited our church building and have responded glowingly.

We would make a small portion of the proceeds from the festival

6. Correspondence: – NIL

7. Committee Reports

- a. Treasurer: No report, the Treasurer being unable to attend.
- b. Minister's Musings: 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. It has been an amazing year so far, and I am looking forward to an awesome rest of 2018. At the end of March, my supervision ministry work concluded with Emma Pipes and she will be ordained on May 26, by the London Conference and serve somewhere in between Guelph and Cambridge area. This year, VIBE begins its 6th year and I am so glad to report that 8 members of Wall Street United Church are joining us in Elgin, as they found the title of the study intriguing... "The Me I want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You". We are all getting ready for our sabbatical. May 5th is the storytelling and singing evening here in EUC. June 10 is the Armenian-Lebanese Benefit Dinner at the Lion's Hall, where there will be Silent auction as well and 100% of the proceeds are for \_ "Peace through Education-Lebanon". In preparation for the sabbatical, the Worship committee will finalize the Sunday Supply info. at our next Worship Committee meeting on May 6th and will advise the Councils and the OB after the decisions are finalized. I would also like to recommend that Councils decide their Fall Meeting dates as soon as possible, so that the ministers who are offering their help during the Sabbatical, are aware of those dates in advance. We had one of the most amazing Conference Annual Meeting ever that I have experienced in the 18 years of attending UCC and I am so glad to see that – it just confirms, the Spirit is at work, even in the midst of chaotic remits and decisions of the church. I remain humbly because of Grace, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Incumbent Minister Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge
- c. Worship: Worship meets on 6 May 2018.
- d. Presbytery: Ted Brett noted that Four Rivers will stay together within Eastern Ontario Region 12.
- e. Ministry & Personnel: Nil Report
- f. Audio-Visual: Marg Ross reported that work has started on the Oct 20<sup>th</sup> fall concert. The theme is "Being Determined". A new hand held microphone has been purchased. Lydia Smith has been a big help and thanks are given for her stepping in when Clint couldn't be there.
- g. Property: Jim Earl referred to his report in our Annual Report of items needing attention. He requests \$10,000 to attend to the most pressing needs. He specifically mentioned the bell tower, removal of a tree and its roots which are clogging the septic system.
- h. CYAYA: Charalee Smith reported that Pat Greenhorn has been taking care of the kids at Sunday School. Char has maintained an involvement as well. She would like volunteers

Elgin United Church Council, Elgin United Church, 77 Main Street, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0 to help out periodically. Pat has sent a letter to Council, with a plan, requesting funds. CYAYA would like to use a new curriculum called Spark which is based on the Spark Story Bible. Cost is \$150 per year. Sharing that curriculum, with Portland, would be authorized by Spark. Knowing that we have an approved \$500 budget for CYAYA, Council blesses moving forward with Pat's vision. The Sunday School Report is attached as **Attachment 1**.

- i. Music: Jim Earl reported that the choir is having a lot of fun! They are enjoying a robust choir. The bass foundation is strong. They were very appreciative of Meaghan's joining them for a short time. Her solos were lovely.
  - j. Official Board: Ted Brett reported that Cam MacKay (Portland United) is the new Chair and Margaret Martin is the new secretary of the OB. The September OB meeting will be moved to August, before Rev Takouhi goes on sabbatical. A huge word of appreciation was noted for Ted and Clint serving on our behalf over the past year and a half!
8. New Business
- a. New Fence for the Nursery School: Jim Earl reported that the school now has government funding to put up a fence from the manse, over to the hedge, and on to the church, along with a gate. Jim would proceed asking for quotes. Ted motioned and Clint seconded. APPROVED
  - b. Proposal of Compensation for Substitute Music Director: Jim Earl spoke of the efforts of Charalee Smith and Karen Earl who have stepped in to replace Margaret when she's away. There was never a remuneration process. Retroactive to 1 Jan 18, Jim moves that \$80 be remunerated to the substitute accompanist on Sundays when Margaret is absent. Clint seconded. APPROVED Charalee Smith abstained.
  - c. Review of Upcoming Building Renovations: This was put off until the Budget meeting.
  - d. Update of Fanout List for Emergency Calling: Clint Halladay started the discussion. It was evident, due to some weather events recently, that we need to have an up-to-date list and process. Jim Earl noted that we have a Sharing and Caring list, but it's out of date. Sharing and Caring committee is dormant right now. Jim will approach Gail Simpson to assist Anne Overdulse to update the Roll, and then we can also use it, in part, as a fanout. Once the Roll is up-to-date, then standard operating procedures (SOP) can be developed for our fanout. Maureen Bee noted that the pastoral charge secretary Norma also does not have an Elgin list. We will provide the list to the secretary. Charalee suggested that Anne Overdulse share our existing list with Norma now. Adrian Overdulse will ensure this is done.
  - e. Fundraising: Margaret spoke of fundraising concerts and that the focus had been Dental Issues and augmenting our Audio Visual assets. She believes Dental Issues are much



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better funded provincially now and wonders if we might potentially re-direct our focus.  
Clint will check with Country Roads on dental issues.

Talk emerged of the usefulness of PAR for fundraising. Margaret believes we might want to do a PAR campaign.

Adrian asked if we're having any dinners this year. Brian is thinking of organizing and cooking an Indian food dinner for audio-visual fundraising, and for the fellowship enjoyed. He talked of the possibility of renting the Portland church hall. Takouhi suggests the AV committee contact Portland and recommend a joint effort and split the proceeds.

Adrian Overdulse and Paul Simpson are enthusiastic to organize a fund raising fish fry. Adrian will investigate the logistics of a fish fry at the Elgin Lions Hall.

- f. Proposal to Increase the Music Director's Compensation: Clint briefed us that historically Portland and Elgin were close in remuneration of our music directors. Portland is now paying \$12,000 annually to their music director. Elgin is paying \$5,720 to our music director. There has been no increase in her salary in over six years. She brings dedication, talent, and leadership to Elgin. We could agree that we could never pay her what's she's worth! Clint moved an increase from \$477 to \$600 monthly, from January 2018, with a commitment to review annually. Ted seconded. APPROVED
  
9. Remarks from the Council Chair: Ed thanked us again for helping him in his first meeting. As the council discussed music many times this evening, Ed spoke of the beauty and universality of music and how it brings us together.
  
10. Closing Prayer: Rev Takouhi offered the closing prayer.
  
11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

**Approved as amended at EUCC Meeting June 28, 2018**



Sunday School Report

Attachment 1

April 2018

It has been a privilege to be involved with Children's Ministry at EUC over the past several months. I have been using the "Sermons 4 Kids" resources weekly, which are free on-line, and follow the lectionary. I will continue to use this curriculum until the end of June. Over the summer I do not plan any formal Sunday School classes but will provide 'pew packs' with activities for any children who attend.

I have found that with a lectionary-based curriculum the children are not hearing key Bible stories, and I feel they are not understanding the flow and progression of the Old and New Testament. Starting in September 2018 in Sunday School, I would like to use an exciting new two-year curriculum called "SPARK -Activate Faith". The SPARK lessons cover Old Testament stories in the fall, and New Testament stories in winter and spring. They reflect the church calendar year, with Christmas and Easter stories at the appropriate time. They are based on the "SPARK Story Bible" which I have been using already in Sunday School this year. The children are familiar with it and really enjoy the format of the stories, and the colourful illustrations on every page.

The cost of this curriculum would be \$150 for the year. For this cost, there is on-line access to all leader guides, lesson plans, activity sheets, etc. for multiple users. This means that any other volunteers who would like to help could have their own access, or we could share the curriculum with Portland church if they are interested.

I would like to send out letters to children in the community inviting them to join us in September, as I always find a personal invitation is exciting for kids and lets parents know that we are ready to welcome them and their families.

I am happy to answer any questions about the proposed curriculum and would also ask your help in recruiting volunteers to teach. If we have two or three people who could commit to one Sunday a month, it would be a huge help!

Yours in Christ-

Pat Greenhorn



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