



**Elgin United Church Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 18, 2018 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Centennial Room**

In attendance: Ed Speers, Mark Bee, Joanne McLean, Carl Leggett, Clint Halladay, Jim Earl, Cathy Ryan, Marg Ross

Regrets: Roberta McKinney, Pat Greenhorn, Brian Blowes, Charalee Smith, Maureen Bee, Ted Brett, Rev Takouhi

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair, Ed Speers, there being a quorum present.
2. Welcome & Opening Prayer: Ed opened in prayer and thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Cathy Ryan, from Presbytery attending in the absence of our minister Rev Takouhi who is on sabbatical.
3. Agenda: Motion by Jim Earl and second by Clint Halladay to accept the amended agenda.
APPROVED.
4. Minutes of Council Meeting 28 June 18 : Item 6C – change “vice” to “versus”. Motion by Clint and seconded by Jim . APPROVED.
5. Correspondence: Sandra Smith emailed Jim Earl. She is having knee surgery and won't be available for the decorating committee and assigning Minutes for Mission. Ted sent Ed an email he received a call from Presbytery asking if either church could be available for a workshop. Ed told him we could handle it and serve pizza. Clint noted that it would be the day before the Feast of Stephen and it might not be doable on our part. Cathy Ryan noted that Portland is considering it. Jane Campbell sent correspondence to Ed requesting use of our kitchen this coming Sunday. Ed gave approval. Clint received a letter from our bursary award winner Melissa Crump. Clint received an email complaining about the articles in the pastoral charge newsletter.
6. Business Arising from Minutes of 28 June 2018:
 - a. Building. APPROVED ;
 - b. Using the Church Building as an Arts and Cultural Events Venue. APPROVED ;
 - c. Fall Concert – APPROVED; and

7. Committee Reports

- a. Property: Looking for feedback on the sign relocation and priority. Church and Halladay Burial Place are very pleased with aesthetics of the new fence. Nursery School is in process of setting up before-and-after child care at the elementary school. Caretaker interim replacement will be needed for the end of September, for a minimum of two months. Spread the word. Compensation available. Jim will announce at church. One non-related item is that for the past couple of years Sandra and Ted have put up and taken down the outside Christmas decorations. With Sandra's knee surgery she won't be up to it so Ted will be looking for someone else to help.
- b. Ministry & Personnel: Nil Report.
- c. Audio-Visual/Music: Upcoming events: Saturday, October 27th, the annual Audio-Visual fundraising and musical evening, "Just One of Those Things". Rehearsals are currently underway. Tickets are now available.
- d. Presbytery: Four Rivers presbytery is heading into a wind down mode. We only have one executive and one plenary meeting after today's plenary meeting in Perth. However quite a few members are working on the transition team to get us ready for the new Region 12 that we will be a member of as of January 1st. As a church and pastoral charge we shouldn't notice much difference. We will no longer have a lay presbytery representative for each church but one lay regional representative for the pastoral charge. I am assuming that they will be voted in by the O.B. and be a member of and responsible to the O.B. Our minister will automatically be a member of the new Region. They are still trying to come up with a name. Eastern Ontario was thought of but we have 3 pastoral charges in Gatineau. For now we're region 12. Yes, our new region dues will be about \$2500 above what we are currently paying for presbytery dues. I just know if I was there someone would ask. Youth programs will continue. As a presbytery we have set money aside so that these things can go on as they do now.
- e. Treasurer: **Report is attached**. Total offerings to our Church are down \$6179 from last year so far. This excludes offerings received for M&S, DIG, Food Banks, etc. Joanne feels we would benefit from holding more functions to raise money. Jim opined that if we name an expense, the bell tower louver repairs with a goal amount, this focused urgent request would help. Clint suggested that 1) we include this in the bulletin and 2) that also we occasionally let our congregants know where we sit financially (both offerings received and expenses and assessments). Clint noted that if we're to run more events, we need to consider dates, type of event or meal, and communicate with other churches, legions, etc to avoid overlapping events. Our building is an excellent small concert venue, with great acoustics and sound system. We need to make use of it. Clint may have a contact at Merrickville United to make inquiries to regarding their arts and culture revenue generating model, which has been very successful. Refurbishment of the sanctuary is required and is a need that we believe would resound with our givers. Margaret suggested we send an appeal letter to our mailing list. Clint will email the last



Elgin United Church Council, Elgin United Church, 77 Main Street, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0
appeal letter to council members to review and then we'll work on sending an updated letter.

8. New Business

a. Modifications to Front of the Sanctuary: Ed noted the need to modify the stage area so that more people/musicians would fit. The idea would be to straighten it out, removing some of the curvature. A designer/engineer might be approached. Joanne noted Rideau Township might have to be contacted as well. Jim wondered is it time to remove the pulpit because it takes up so much space. Permission to investigate the idea is requested by Clint, Brian, Ed, and Marg. Motion by Margaret, seconded by Clint.
APPROVED

b. Church Dinners and Other Ideas to Raise Revenue: We tabled this to a later meeting.

c. Hosting Presbytery Workshop and Luncheon 24 Nov 18: Portland United will host the workshop.

d. Front Sign Person: Heather Gribben would be interested in passing on this task to a new person. It will be placed in the bulletin. Brian will get some new letters for the sign.

e. Backup Audio/Visual Person(s): We'll put a notice in the bulletin for a couple of service opportunities.

9. Remarks from the Council Chair: Ed remarked that we need to be open to new ideas and new ways of raising revenue, a necessity in church life. The thing about new ideas is you have to try them!

10. Closing Prayer: Mark offered the closing prayer.

11. Next Meeting: 16 Dec 18 after church service.

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.