

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge
Meeting of the Official Board
Dec. 2, 2018, 1 p.m.
Elgin United Church
Minutes

Approved as amended March 27, 2019

Attending: Rev. Kathy Walton, Ed Speers, Maureen Bee, Katy Gibson, Margaret Martin, Jim Earl, Larry Cochrane, Duncan Pickard, Ted Brett, Will French.

Regrets: Joanne MacLean, Jan Haskin.

1. A Chair, Ted Brett, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (quorum present). Chair, Cam McKay, was unavailable to chair our meeting today. We hope for a speedy recovery to Cam as his voice improves.
2. Opening prayer. Led by Margaret Martin.
3. Approval/amendments to the agenda. Addition of 9 A: Trustees Report. Moved by Katy; seconded by Duncan. Carried.
4. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of Official Board of Aug. 16, 2018. Moved by Will; seconded by Duncan. Carried.
5. Business arising from the minutes. Moved by Margaret to go "in camera" for discussion arising; an update on the in camera session from the August meeting for the O.B. members. Motion seconded by Will. Carried. Moved by Margaret to bring the meeting out of "in camera"; seconded by Will. Carried.
6. O.B. to establish dates for Congregational Annual reports. The proposal is for reports to be due Jan. 31st. Tentatively, we set the dates of Feb. 24th for Portland Annual General Meeting, and Mar. 3rd for Elgin Annual General Meeting. We want to confirm with Rev. Takouhi upon her return in mid-January.
7. Report of Ministry and Personnel Committee: Maureen Bee – Secretary Norma Cummings new wages. Maureen moves that O.B. approve M & P recommendation to increase Norma's hourly wage from \$17, to \$17.50. The job description, weekly hours, etc. remain unchanged. Duncan seconds the motion. Carried.
8. Report of Chair of Council of Elgin United (Ed), and of Chair of Council of Portland United (Katy). (See attached)

Ed indicated various events through the fall and into this advent season that Elgin has hosted. Katy outlined events and happenings at Portland, including, Dec. 2 "Manger Scene" with Sunday School, the upcoming event Dec. 10 with bake sale, Bell luncheon, and UCW tortiere order pick up.

9. Worship Committee report: No official report. O.B. members and attendees note that comments of feedback from the congregations indicate that people have appreciated and enjoyed the varied leadership of congregation members, Choirs and Bells, and visiting Licensed Lay worship Leaders.

9. A Manse rental: The rent has been in on schedule. The tenant has connection to us through Jim Earl, who pays visits occasionally. There have been minor repairs attended to. The furnace repair is in the works.

10. Report of O.B. Treasurer: Ted Brett – 1. Draft budget for 2019 for information only. (See attached) 2. New assessment from UCC.

Finances are sound at present. The assessment from Presbytery in 2018 was \$5,660. The new assessment under the new three council system, to be in effect as of Jan. 1, 2019 (which comes from national church office) is \$10, 302. Of the amount, \$6,233., is the minimum that must be paid. Duncan P. made the recommendation that we pay attention to how our expenditures are described and allocated in budgets, so that we will be assessed fairly on expenses that must be included, and not on expenses that should not be included in the new assessment formula.

11. Motion to accept reports. Moved by Katy; seconded by Maureen. Carried.

12. New Business A. Final Presbytery Report (see attached): Ted and Margaret each spoke to their individual attached reports. These are the final reports as the final meeting of Four Rivers Presbytery occurred in November. We move on into the Regional Council system. Our future area will be EOR, Eastern Ontario, Outaouais Region.

Duncan delivered a “thank you” to Ted and Margaret, on behalf of the Official Board, for their service on behalf of the congregations and the wider church over the years. As representatives of our congregations, they each have participated in tasks of the wider church.

Rev. Kathy spoke about the roles that congregational representatives have fulfilled in their work for Presbytery, and the nature of the amount of this commitment and work, being often largely not seen by the congregations.

13. Meeting Adjournment. Moved by Katy.

14. Closing prayer: Rev. Walton offered prayer.

Next meeting date: tentatively we set Tues. Feb. 26, 2019. The next meeting will be at the call of the chair, Cam.

Respectfully submitted by :Margaret Martin

Attachments:

I. Draft Budget 2019 – unable to attach excel file.

2. Report of Elgin Council (Ed Spears): October 20th we had our annual fall concert to a sold out performance. This years theme was Just One of Things complete with guest appearances Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Tom Paxton, Ray Charles, Etta James. Louis Armstrong. Buddy Holly Paul Anka Judy Garland. Manhattan Transfer. As always a chance to showcase the wonderful talent we have in this community.

November 25th we had our Feast of Stephen dinner. About 80 people attended

Tonight we will be celebrating the "Light of Christ" with the two other churches in town. We star off at the Catholic Church the go to Bethel, EUC, the Little Red Schoolhouse and end up at the community hall for cookies and got chocolate

Our next council meeting will be next Sunday December 9th.

2. Presbytery Reports (Ted Brett, and Margaret Martin)

Presbytery report December 2018

This is more a wrap up of my time as a presbytery representative for Elgin United Church.

I became a member of Four Rivers Presbytery about 5 years ago. Became Chair of The Resource and Communication Committee about a year later. We had 10 people on the committee pretty well equally split ladies and men. We approve any church improvement or repair programs over \$10,000.00. We approved the sale of manses and set new policies on how the money could be used from the sale of any manse even in the past.

We oversaw the selling and closing of four churches within our presbytery. Not a pleasant chore but we basically walked congregations through the process. I have heard the expression the church is only a building but to the people loosing their church it's "Their Building".

We managed the Development Fund and once we finally figured out what Conference would allow us to do with it we created a grant application and gave away just over \$80,000 in grants.

The presbytery treasurer being a member of the committee we assisted him with his budget and any other financial matters that came up.

The last meeting we had a lot of requests for funds. Some organizations we hadn't even heard of so a lot we just refused but we did get approval for some we thought worth while like a donation to the Old Hay Bay church.

The final meeting of Four Rivers Presbytery was on the 20th of November, held at Seely's Bay United Church. We changed our usual format and had the closing service at the end of the day after all the business of the day had been completed. I have heard rumours that there will be one last executive meeting to wrap up any unfinished business but basically Four Rivers Presbytery is finished.

I think both Margaret and I have put in an expression of interest to become members of the new Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region.

I was asked as early as last June if I would carry on as they want people that know the area to carry on for a while at least in the property area.

I have no idea where we go from here but by being a part of EOOR I will have a better chance of knowing and be able to pass it on.

Ted

Final Presbytery Report

We attended the final meeting of Four Rivers Presbytery last week in Seeley's Bay. It was a good opportunity to be together for one last time with those we've come to know over the last five years. In my case I was the rep for PUC for the closing years of Kingston Presbytery so that I guess my full commitment spanned about 7 or 8 years in all.

Overall that time my one consistent contribution to the work of the wider church had been with Pastoral Oversight...visiting various churches to meet and listen and reflect on how things were going for the local ministry of those congregations. Our committee wrote and submitted reports of each visit. Each pastoral charge was visited every three years. As much as possible that pattern was maintained.

I have served on Executive of Four Rivers Presbytery as chair of Pastoral Oversight, Chair of Nominations, and Member-at-large (2013 – June, 2018). From 2013 until present I participated on the Affirm Committee, initially to help coordinate and present educational opportunities within Presbytery to advance toward voting to align with Affirm United and have our Presbytery become an affirming ministry. I found the challenge and work, and that committee, to be very fulfilling and meaningful, as I found the whole inclusive movement in the wider church to be sustaining and personally rewarding. At a regional level, again action will be needed, for our region to align and agree to become affirming and officially join Affirm United.

At the level of the wider church I have served to coordinate and teach a Licensed Lay Worship Leader program over the past four years. We are just completing with our second cohort of students. This has been an intensive role, with remuneration. This endeavor has been at the initiative of our neighbouring Presbytery, Kente, within the scope of Bay of Quinte Conference. With Presbytery and Conference ceasing to exist, many of us do have LLWL future training/continuing education in our focus, wondering how that will evolve in the region. I have expressed my interest at the regional level, to continue to participate in this work in some way into the future.

I plan to try to keep PUC informed about the wider church with regional focus, at least into the start of 2019.

Margaret