

Elgin United Church Council
Minutes of Meeting
December 9, 2018 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Centennial Room
As approved May 5, 2019

In attendance: Ed Speers, Rev Kathleen Walton, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Carl Leggett, Jim Earl, Ted Brett, Marg Ross, Brian Blowes, Pat Greenhorn, Charalee Smith, Sandra Smith, Joanne McLean

Regrets: Clint Halladay, Heather Gribben

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by the Chair, Ed Speers, there being a quorum present.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer: Ed opened in prayer and thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Rev Kathleen Walton attending in the absence of our minister Rev Takouhi who is on sabbatical.
2. Agenda: Motion by Marg Ross and second Maureen Bee to accept the agenda.
APPROVED.
3. Minutes of Council Meeting 18 September 18: Motion that amended minutes be approved by Jim Earl, seconded by Carl Leggett. APPROVED
4. Correspondence: Charalee received a letter from our World Vision child. She will announce it in church to make the contents known. Rev Jean Stairs, Edith Rankin United, reached out to Charalee to see if Alex was still interested in going to El Salvador in March 2019, as Jean hadn't heard back from Cathy Ryan regarding Alex's interest level.
5. Business Arising from Minutes of 18 September 2018:
 - a. Fund Raising – to be tabled for 2019, next meeting (maybe a spring campaign);
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Property: Vacancies to be filled were published in the bulletin. Lydia Smith is our new caretaker. Heather Gribben has joined Decorating. No one volunteered for the outdoor sign. Clint Halladay is filling in temporarily. An alternate A/V volunteer is still needed. Minute for Mission coord and School Breakfast coord – no responses to Jim. Bell Tower maintenance – a contractor was engaged and work will continue in the spring. Choir loft changes – with the pews out, we can put in 21 chairs. Pulpit – it is easy to move for a concert venue, at its present location, it doesn't need to be removed. Nursery School –

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- all is good. Lawn care – looking for a new person. Furnace has been annually serviced. Fellowship kitchenette and house closet has been cleaned up. South gable – contractor has fixed it for \$185. Outdoor sign – a second set of numbers and letters are to be purchased. Karen Earl beautified the flower beds. Permanent location of the organ is undecided. The \$3,000 appeal that was in the bulletins this autumn had no response.
- b. Music: Charalee reported that we are busy all the time, keeping our music relevant to the lectionary. A workshop was held at Elgin United on Sep 8th, that brought choirs in the community together. Organized by Graham Lowe. Approximately 60 people from SE Ontario attended.
 - c. Ministry & Personnel: Maureen Bee noted that M&P has reviewed Norma’s contract and have renewed. Jan Haskins is the new M&P chair. Elgin needs a second M&P rep for the committee.
 - d. Audio-Visual/Music: Marg noted that we had a sold out concert again this year. Net income was approximately \$2,000. Thanks to Joanne for organizing the donation of cookies. The concert was extremely well received. The money raised goes into our A/V account for future and existing expenses.
 - e. Coffee: Heather Gribben gave her reports to Mark. She asks, “Do we use fair trade coffee at \$12 to \$16 per 300g bag or regular coffee at \$7 to \$9 per 300g bag?” Mark stated that for such a small amount and for the principle of it, we should continue using fair trade. All were in agreement. No motion necessary to continue as is.
 - f. Memorial: Heather has the Memorial books and will enter information as it is given to her.
 - g. Ushers and Readers: The 2019 lists are ready and will be distributed by Heather prior to Christmas.
 - h. Presbytery: This is 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 looked after the web page and planned the meeting schedule. 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 losing 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 regular Plenary 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.

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That is where Four Rivers Presbytery started so we figured that is where it should end. 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. We did have one executive conference call in December to wrap up the left-over business. 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 EOOD I will have a better chance of knowing and be able to pass it on what I find out. I actually enjoyed my time on presbytery even with being busy as it was a new learning experience. Ted
Jim thanked Ted for all his time and dedication to Presbytery over the years!

- i. CYAYA: Pat Greenhorn purchased the Spark House curriculum and donated it to Elgin United.
 - j. Treasurer: Feast of Stephen – lower turnout this year. We served about 80 vice other years when it was 120. It was Grey Cup night. We cleared about \$700 this time. The treasurer's report is attached. We currently have \$302 in operating expenses. Fuel expenses have been higher because temperatures have been lower. Offerings are running between \$600 to \$800 a week, beyond PAR. PAR runs \$3,000 per month. Hoping not to have cash any GIC's. Memorial funds were received in memory of Laree Smith, approximately \$1,000. Memorial funds can be borrowed from, but can't be used for general expenses. Jim made a motion that we establish an Elgin United Church Bursary Fund. Seconded by Ted Brett. APPROVED Joanne motioned that the Bursary Fund be funded from the Memorial Fund. Seconded by Mark Bee. APPROVED A motion to designate \$2,000 to the Bursary Fund, for this year, was made by Ted Brett and seconded by Maureen Bee. APPROVED On a yearly basis, we will have review the Bursary Fund amount and needs. If Alex Price were to go to El Salvador, we could offer her bursary funds. Female participants can apply to the national UCW bursary, defraying costs of the El Salvador trip by \$200. The Rideau District High School band was also identified as a group of young people that we might make a youth support outreach in the amount \$215. It would get them to \$300 including the money raised, by donation, at the Feast of Stephen. Motion made by Joanne and seconded by Marg. APPROVED
7. New Business
- a. Year end reports for the pastoral charge are due 31 January 2019;
8. Discussion More than Business The Light of Christ event went very well and good attendance. Ed wondered how we could avoid this event conflicting with Westport dates for their event. Four years out of seven, the first Sunday of Advent is in December, the other three in November.



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Carl wondered that due to cold and flu season, should we avoid shaking hands in passing the Peace of Christ until springtime. Rev Kathleen will announce it.

Kathleen noted that the GF bread crumbles and causes problems during intinction. We need to only have GF bread for celiacs and gluten intolerant persons, not for the whole congregation.

Maureen will call Roberta to come up with a plan.

9. Remarks from the Council Chair: Ed thanked all for their continuing service to God and to Elgin United.
10. Closing Prayer: Rev Kathleen offered the closing prayer.
11. Next Meeting: Budget meeting, 20 Jan 19, 12:30 pm. AGM on first Sunday (3 Mar 19) after church service.
12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm .