

PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH

Council Meeting via Zoom

August 13, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Hansen Downer, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees: Norma Cummings, Duncan Pickard, Larry Cochran, Connie Cochran, Will French, Hansen Downer, Blaine Tackaberry, Patti Evans, Rev. Takouhi, Helen Smith, Joan Kelly, Jan Haskin, Bruce Haskin

Absent: Betty Hoogenboom

Opening Prayer: Rev. Takouhi offered opening prayer

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Helen Smith Second: Duncan Pickard Carried

Approval of Minutes from June 4 and June 18, 2020 meeting: Moved: Blaine Tackaberry Second: Jan Haskin Carried

Correspondence: None received

Takouhi will distribute to all contacts (450) the notice regarding her November 2020 change of churches from Elgin and Portland to Gananoque

Business Arising from last meeting

Cemetery ownership – Blaine Tackaberry is now the official contact person for the township regarding the church cemetery. Blaine will receive all correspondence.

Property and Maintenance Chair – Larry Cochran will maintain the inside of the church and Bruce Haskin will be responsible for the outside maintenance.

Board of Trustees members – Will French discussed three new members: Went Sharp, Katy Gibson, Anita Cox. It requires a congregational meeting but can wait a few months.

Memorial Chair – Hansen suggested that the board of trustees handle the work for this position. Will French will review with the board of trustees members. Norma Cummings has been performing this work since Doug Bond's passing. She will continue to do so until the decision is made who will take over.

Signing Authorities:

Cemetery: Blaine Tackaberry, Bruce Haskin

General Account and Gift Card: Duncan Pickard, Norma Cummings, Katy Gibson

Christian Education: Duncan Pickard, Norma Cummings, Pauline French

Food Bank: Larry Cochran, Louise Martin, Norma Cummings

Committee Reports

Finance – Duncan Pickard: Duncan Pickard distributed financial reports via email prior to meeting.

Duncan discussed the spreadsheets in detail. He reported we have \$500+ in youth support fund. There is another fund called Mission Works (approximately \$400), which really has no champion. Funds have been sent to San Salvador in the past. It is not much used. Norma Cummings moved: Mission works moves to Christian Youth Fund. Second: Connie Cochran Carried

Budgeting process begins now. Please forward to Duncan ideas and thoughts for the upcoming year.

Sharing and Caring – Betty Hoogenboom – no report

Cemetery – Blaine Tackaberry – have not visited for a couple of weeks. Waiting for D. Bond's monument.

Fence needs to be painted. Area is clean and tidy.

Envelope Steward – Norma Cummings – nothing new to report

Fundraising – Hansen Downer – nothing new to report

Memorials – no update

Minister’s Musings – Rev. Takouhi – Pastoral Care not so much in person in hospitals. She is maintaining Covid-19 restrictions. Making phone calls, facebook/messenger communication visits, etc.

Outreach – no one is currently in charge. Hansen will speak with Liz Church.

Regional – Margaret Martin has resigned. Position involves about three meetings a year. Must be a full member of Portland United Church. Liz Church is the alternate for Margaret Martin.

Property: Larry Cochran reported that the septic system passed however, we need to install an alarm on the pump tank. Larry and Bruce will collaborate on this.

(Inside church) - Larry Cochran.

(Outside church) – Bruce Haskin. Sweeping and line painting of the parking lot will be put off to spring.

This will prevent damage from the snowplow. Will French will send Bruce a copy of the map showing church property boundaries. As winter comes closer, for safety reasons, Bruce to look at the installation of the railing along the walkway.

UCW – Connie Cochran – biggest pie sale ever... 350 pies.

Worship – Larry Cochran

M&P – Jan Haskin

Music – Helen Smith and Joan Kelly

Trustees – Will French – we have a new advisor at our investment company. We had a donation of \$500 to long term investment fund. Harassment and abuse policies were discussed. There is a copy posted on the wall in the church.

Bell choir will restart September 10. Due diligence has been done and all covid safety protocols will be followed.

Motion to Accept Committee Reports: Moved: Duncan Pickard Second: Helen Smith Carried

New Business

Larry, Norma and Duncan will meet to brainstorm ideas for safe opening under covid-19 restrictions.

Hansen Comment: to clarify, we started to look at the strawman for opening and then we got wrapped into a discussion on whether or not to open. A half hour discussion ensued since some council members did not want to spend 20-30 minutes on the strawman for reopening if we did not have an agreement on when to open. To move beyond the half hour discussion on reopening, I suggested setting up a committee to come back to the council with options for reopening with pros and cons for each. Will had also suggested other creative options such as outreach meetings in the church and I believe the committee was going to consider in their recommendations. We will have a special meeting on August 26 at 2:00 pm to review the findings of that committee, vote on the options, and then review and modify the strawman for reopening if appropriate. That plan needs to be submitted to Whit Strong two weeks prior to reopening for approval. If we submit a plan on August 27, we can then reopen on September 13, one week after Labour Day.

Hansen has asked all council members to please read the Operations Manual and be prepared to discuss at the next regular meeting.

Next regular meeting October 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Closing Prayer – Will French

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

DRAFT