

Elgin United Church Council

Minutes of a Meeting

6 August 2020, 7:05 pm

Zoom Meeting

Approved at Regular Meeting August 27, 2020

In Attendance: Ed Speers, Charalee Smith, Rev Takouhi, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Jim Earl, Marg Ross, Joanne McLean, Pat Greenhorn, Clint Halladay, Ted Brett, Cindy Carbino, Sandra Smith

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by the Chairperson, Ed Speers, there being a quorum present.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer Ed welcomed all to this important meeting which would commence the mapping out of our future and to look at today's challenges. He asked for a moment of silence and then prayed the Serenity Prayer.

2. Agenda Added to the agenda were the next Fundraising event, payment of an invoice for roofing repairs, and a report from Jim Earl regarding future building repairs and the need to involve Trustees. Pat Greenhorn motioned and Ted Brett seconded. APPROVED

3. Minutes of Council Meeting 23 July 2020 Nil report

4. Fundraising Chicken BBQ: Cindy Carbino, with the assistance of Clint Halladay and Pat Greenhorn, has planned a fundraising Chicken BBQ to take place on 29 August 2020. Cindy has been in contact with the Elgin Fire Department and proposed to jointly run the event out of the Fire Hall location. Cindy had suggested a 50/50 split of proceeds and the Elgin Fire Hall staff responded that they were in favour of a 60/40 split (60% to EUC). The Fire Hall staff will cook the chicken, we will supply the salads and takeaway containers. This will be a takeout event only. Patrick Yates has graciously agreed to provide the buns at no cost. Price will be \$15 for a half chicken and \$12 for a quarter chicken. Cindy notes that more events will be coming down the pipe! Cindy Carbino motioned, Pat Greenhorn seconded that we proceed with the event. APPROVED
Cindy Carbino

5. Roofing Invoice Jim Earl informed us that CW Roofing has been paid, 29 July 2020, for the work they did on the church building roof. The amount was \$3,427.29.

6. Upcoming Expenses Jim Earl explained that a considerable amount of work is required to further restore the roof and mortar. He does not know what the costs will be, other than that Jim Earl

they will be in the tens of thousands of dollars. He also mentioned that the Lower Hall floor needs replacement, and the furnace is approaching the end of its life. Jim noted that he needs the Trustees' guidance on how to proceed and that he will report back to Council.

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| 7. <u>Re-opening the Church</u> | In the UCC, a church must give Regional Council at least two weeks notice, plus submit the steps in place to re-open in their submission. Official Board approval is not required; this is an individual congregation submission. The other two Elgin churches are physically open, but "it is not church as normal". Rev Takouhi can send Council a copy of Bethel United's (Rideau Ferry) plan. Note, they aren't opening until January 2021. PUC also has created a plan. There was talk of how many persons we can accommodate using the 30% rule. Ed spoke of the distance between pews (64" between two rows). Clint has a diagram of the building layout from the Fire Marshall's report. He and Pat will measure the sanctuary. Talk arose regarding the need to prepare a plan now or to wait. The majority of Council believe, regardless of whenever we decide to re-open, it will be beneficial to have our steps in place, decided upon, and delegated sooner rather than later. | Clint Halladay
Pat Greenhorn
Ed Speers |
| 8. <u>EUC Visits</u> | Discussion of visits and check-ins was short. Physical visits are minimal. A fair portion of our older congregants do not use internet and can only be contacted by telephone or physical distancing restricted visits. | |
| 9. <u>The Way Ahead</u> | Charalee Smith stated that COVID 19 has provided us an opportunity to change how we operate, how we worship, and how we attract. A big question tonight was, "How do we determine the way ahead?". Takouhi proposed that the question might be, "How can we be partners on this journey of life with you?". Council agreed that a letter be mailed to all on the roll, as well anyone else who has had experiences with EUC, detailing what is going on, what we're trying to do, and reinforcing that "Your opinion matters". This would be followed up by a second mailing of a survey. Two council members, with some pastoral visit experience, would be ideal in responding to queries and concerns from the recipients of the letters (not decided upon). Jim Earl and Clint Halladay will work on drafting the letter and report back to Council. | |

There was much discussion about the possibility that the EUC building might have to close, if we can't manage our expenses. Some could hardly imagine parting with this beautiful worship and meeting place. Some saw the inevitability of it, and just wanted the congregation to remain together. Some spoke of the possibilities of meeting and worshipping in a rented space where we could use our offerings and talents, more often, for causes other than the building's upkeep. Others believed that

amalgamation with another congregation may be necessary. Mark Bee asked if PUC has had discussions amongst themselves about possible amalgamation. No one knew positively of PUC's plans. All agreed that, if the decision was made to close the building, by the whole congregation, that we must first physically re-open and give congregants the opportunity to come back home. There was not much talk of what would happen to the EUC building if that were to happen.

10. Next Meeting The next Council meeting will take place, via Zoom, on Thursday, 27 August 2020 at 7:00 pm. Use the same link.
11. Closing Prayer Pat Greenhorn closed the meeting, at 9:10 pm, with a prayer.