

PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH Council Meeting via Zoom

February 3, 2021

APPROVED- Regular Council Meeting March 2, 2021

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

Attendees: Norma Cummings, Connie Cochran, Larry Cochran, Duncan Pickard, Will French, Jan Haskin, Bruce Haskin, Liz Church, Hansen Downer, Chair, Patti Evans, Secretary, Rev Lynne Gardiner

Guest: none

Regrets: Blaine Tackaberry, Joan Kelly (did not receive the invitation-email address has been verified)

Opening Prayer: Rev Gardiner offered the opening prayer

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Liz Church Second: Duncan Pickard Carried

Business Arising from last meeting:

- Benevolent fund policy – a face-to-face meeting of the committee is required, hopefully around February 11, 2021, government restrictions permitting. Larry has requested that Liz Church and Duncan Pickard attend this meeting as well. Jan Haskin questioned if the Bursary section of the Bursary and Benevolent fund has been eliminated. Duncan explained there is a youth fund available. Hansen has requested the benevolent fund committee to sort this.
- Operations Manual – Duncan Pickard, Norma Cummings and Hansen Downer will form a committee and attempt to finalize this manual. Their goal is to report back to council at next meeting.
- Process for snowstorms – Hansen Downer and Clint Halliday agreed that each church (Portland and Elgin) set up their own procedure. Hansen has asked Bruce Haskin, Larry Cochran, Duncan Pickard and Hansen Downer to form the committee. The decision will be made the morning of the service and not the night before the service.

Committee Reports

Finance – Duncan presented the financial statement for year to date. All reports are included with the minutes on file. Joan Horsfall will perform the official review of the 2019 and 2020 financial statements. The information has been delivered to her. Transfer of funds from the long-term investment were not required in 2020, therefore there is a surplus in the PUC fund general fund.

Sharing and Caring – Liz Church has started to place a devotional in the weekly e-news. She is working with Annette to update the data base. Reached out to parishioners for birthdays, phone call visits, etc.

Reported that feedback is positive for her actions to date.

Cemetery – Blaine Tackaberry – not in attendance; nothing to report

Envelope Steward – Norma Cummings – income tax receipts have been issued.

Fundraising – Hansen Downer – no changes – all events are cancelled due to Covid-19. FundScript raised \$365 last month.

Memorials – Will French – nothing to report.

Regional – Liz Church – nothing to report. Has discussed with Rev Gardiner. Still needs to investigate further to get a handle on this role. Hansen suggested Liz contact Margaret Martin.

Property (Inside church) - Larry Cochran – focussed on the physical aspects of the church's assets, i.e., computer, WTC, defibrillator, thermostat downstairs (recurring maintenance). Making good progress on inside requirements. Had a session with the defibrillator maintenance tech today, February 3, 2021. Carolyn reached out to Connie regarding taking on the cleaning of the church again. Nothing is finalized at the time of this meeting.

(Outside church) – Bruce Haskin reports snowplowing is proceeding as required. No issues to report.

UCW – Connie Cochran – completed all normal commitments for the calendar with money left over in the bank. They are hoping for a take-out turkey dinner or turkey pies, depending on government guidance of COVID status.

Worship – no update

M&P – Jan Haskin – no report for M&P

Music – Joan Kelly – no update

Trustees – Will French – no report.

AGM extension is to June 30, 2021. The report will be available for distribution by the end of February.

Paper copies will be made available to the congregation. Rev Gardiner has requested that Hansen Downer forward copies to Whit Strong and Debora Kilgar (dkilgar@united-church.ca).

Decorating - Jan Haskin noted that when she and Connie Cochran removed the Christmas décor the tree is large and difficult to move and store. She suggests the church graduate to a pencil tree and has sourced one at a cost of \$65. Approval to purchase: moved Liz Church Second: Norma Cummings Carried

Motion to Accept Committee Reports: Moved: Duncan Pickard Second: Will French Carried

New Business

1. Review of latest government of Ontario regulations for COVID-19 and reopening church for virtual and or live services: Waiting for word from the government. Hansen is suggesting that the church remain closed until (possibly) March and asked for council guidance. There was no disagreement. Suggestion made by Norma that, once we are back to in-house live services, a schedule is set for which Sundays there will be a "live" preacher in the church.
2. Profile committee update – information needs to be compiled by both sites. Appears there is some confusion regarding the role and responsibility of the committee. Rev Gardiner explained: the profile committee (Portland and Elgin) is responsible to gather information, put together in one package then present as one pastoral charge. The whole of the pastoral charge will evaluate the information and offer decisions. The profile committee is not responsible to evaluate or recommend. The committee do not have the power to do anything but bring the information to the pastoral charge. Any interested party can check the regional website, pastoral licence, to glean information on responsibilities. Connie Cochran questioned if it would be worthwhile for the profile committee (Portland and Elgin) to have another meeting with Wayne to endeavour to sort our confusion. Rev Gardiner wholeheartedly agreed.

Closing Prayer – Rev Lynne Gardiner

Next meeting (follow-up): March 3, 2017 7:00 pm via Zoom

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm