

PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 via Zoom

Call to order: Hansen Downer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Attendees: Joan Kelly, Blaine Tackaberry, Norma Cummings, Connie Cochran, Larry Cochran, Duncan Pickard, Will French, Bruce Haskin, Liz Church, Hansen Downer, Chair, Wayne Harris

Guest: none

Regrets: Patti Evans

Opening Prayer: Liz Church offered the opening prayer

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Connie Cochran Second: Norma Cummings

Approval of Minutes of Feb. 3, 2021 PUC Council Meeting Moved: Liz Church Second: Larry Cochran

Committee Reports:

Update on Profile Committee from Wayne Harris

The recommendation from the Profile Committee goes to the Official Board of the Pastoral Charge who have the option to accept the recommendation or return it for further work.

All updates to the congregations should be in writing so that both congregations receive the same updates

In this process, the church council members are part of the congregation and will receive updates and surveys at the same time as the congregation

Updates from Liz Church are included in the attachments Approval of Liz' updates: Moved: Blaine Tackaberry Second: Duncan Pickard

Discussion on opening the church: It was agreed that Rev. Kathy Walton will provide live services on the first and third Sunday of each month. Her first service will be Sunday, March 21

It was agreed that starting Sunday, March 14, video services will be held in the church on those Sundays when an in-person service is not being held.

The maximum church capacity in green and yellow zones as defined by the Government of Ontario is 30% of total capacity. In the case of Portland United Church, that is 30% of 150. We will retain our published guidelines of maximum attendees of 30-35 people depending on the mix of families and individuals.

All previously approved COVID guidelines will remain in effect including social distancing, everyone wearing face masks, hand sanitizing before entering the church, no singing, and no taking of collection.

Summary: Portland United Church opens on March 14 at 9:15 AM for a video service. Norma Cummings will identify the service to be used. Joan Kelly and Norma Cummings will continue to identify music videos for the hymns and other music in Rev. Kathy Walton's services.

Discussion regarding a youth fund to support the activities of Cathy Ryan across multiple churches (Portland, Elgin, Newboro, Westport, Burrige). There is currently \$300 in the Youth Fund that can be used to cover immediate needs. It was agreed that we can supplement that with fund raising as required and Duncan volunteered to add a comment on the Youth Fund in an upcoming enews. Cathy will be asked to work with Connie Cochran, Larry Cochran, and Liz Church to pull together a plan or a template for a plan that would identify upcoming funding requirements well in advance of the time they are needed and establish a process for forwarding those requests to the Youth Fund committee. Hansen Downer will communicate that to Cathy Ryan as well as the requirement for council updates every 3-6 months. A previously established Youth Fund committee of Katy Gibson, Bruce Haskin, and Duncan Pickard will review funding requirements and determine if the events will be funded and also initiate the necessary fund raising as required.

Church Caretaker: We need to find an appropriate person to do the necessary cleaning in the church on a weekly basis. The cleaning takes approximately 4 hours and the pay is \$18 per hour. Hansen Downer will post the requirement in this weekend's enews and on the EPPC Facebook site.

AGM: The AGM must be completed before the end of June and must be announced for two Sundays in church before it can be held. Timing will be discussed at the next PUC Council Meeting

Operations Manual: Hansen Downer will work with a team to provide a draft for approval at the next Council Meeting

Benevolent Fund Policy Manual: Larry Cochran will work with a team to provide a draft for approval at the next Council Meeting

Update on financials submitted to the Profile Committee: Duncan noted that the financial updates to the Profile Committee include the yearly gains and losses of the Long-Term Investment Fund, not just the standard operating expenses and revenues from the Church General Fund. Including the gains or losses of the LTIF puts the church in a break-even or positive position in 5 of the last 7 years. Without the impact of LTIF the church expenses exceed the revenues in 6 of the last 7 years.

Closing prayer: Liz Church

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM