

Elgin United Church Council

Minutes of a Meeting

9 March 2021, 7:05 pm

Zoom Meeting

APPROVED AS AMENDED APRIL 27, 2021

In Attendance Ted Brett, Charalee Smith, Rev Debbie Poirier, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Jim Earl, Marg Ross, Pat Greenhorn, Sandra Smith, Adrian Overdulse

Regrets Joanne McLean

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the Acting Chairperson, Ted Brett, there being a quorum present. **ACTION**
2. Welcome & Introductions Ted extended welcoming greetings to Rev Debbie Poirier, who presided as our Pastoral Oversight Supervisor. Debbie is the pastor at Christ Church in Chesterville. We quickly went around the Zoom room introducing ourselves.
3. Opening Prayer Mark Bee opened in prayer, keeping our Chairperson Clint Halladay, his son Ryan and their family in our hearts.
4. Agenda Amendment – add Destruction of hard copies of the EUC Visioning surveys as Item 8a(1). Add letter from Cathy Ryan regarding funding for the Four Rivers Cluster youth group. Pat Greenhorn motioned and Maureen Bee seconded that the agenda be accepted as amended. **APPROVED**
5. Minutes of Council Meeting 9 Feb 21 Charalee Smith motioned and Jim Earl seconded that the EUC council minutes of 9 February 2021 be accepted. **APPROVED**
6. Business Arising From the Council Meeting of 9 Feb 21
 - a. Sharing & Caring: Pat told us that a prayer shawl has been presented to Donna Bennett. A candle and card were given to Clint Halladay. Council members will have received their Sharing & Caring contact lists by now and are encouraged to communicate with their listed congregants. Pat will be emailing instructions shortly. Pat Greenhorn
ALL

b. Outreach: Please review the grants email that Pat distributed to council members. Please bring your ideas to council. Pastor Debbie mentioned that she sits on the Vision and Transformation Committee. Debbie urged us to contact her on this subject. Please see the two attached grant-writing attachments and the Mission and Strategy Fund attachment. ALL

c. Resumption of Services: In person worship services, with Rev Kathy Walton leading, are set to commence on 21 March 2021. We will follow the plan of 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. There are not services scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Council considered holding a Palm Sunday service as well, on 28 March 2021. Sandra Smith motioned that we proceed with that service, however no second to the motion was made.

A maximum of 30 attendees will be authorized, as per provincial regulations, at our worship services. The number of volunteers to organize and run our Sunday services was discussed. A registrar, greeter/screener, ushers, and sound/video person were suggested. Sandra Smith volunteered to lead in the preparation. We agreed that until a person knowledgeable with our audio/visual system is available, we will hold our services without the use of that technology. It was agreed that pre-registration to attend the services will be required. For the first in-person service, the registration deadline will be Friday, 19 March 2021. Council members can relay to their contacts the details of the resumption of in-person services. If they wish to attend the first service, guide them to contact Sandra Smith to get on the list! Sandra's telephone number is 613-359-5713. Sandra Smith

d. Annual Reports: All annual reports have been received.

7. Reports

a. Financial: See the attached Treasurer's report, submitted by Joanne McLean.

b. Property: See the attached report, submitted by Jim Earl. Jim pointed out that Part C of the Property Report lists seven possibilities for public use of our church building. He asked us if we have more ideas, plus can we develop a comprehensive plan that complements our desire to continue worshipping in our church building. Pat questioned if our trustees have looked at funding from the United Church and the province, and perhaps we might seek out persons such as Jane Campbell for a team to look for other sources. We bandied about the idea if we are willing to multi-purpose the sanctuary space. We agreed that however we investigate new avenues of assistance, it

should be multi-pronged and pursued simultaneously (Municipality, UCC, EOOR, Edge).

Jim has approached the municipality regarding the plaque that was placed in our entryway designating our church, as a heritage building. They confirmed that it would not interfere with making structural changes inside the building.

Jim made a motion, which Pat seconded, that Jim approach Sonya at the Nursery School to investigate their needed changes and possible additional space requirements. APPROVED

Jim Earl

(While this was listed on the Agenda as Item 8b in New Business, this item naturally developed during the Property Report discussion at was actioned at that time.)

Our congregation may not find a way to maintain the church for worship ourselves. Cindy reported members of the community expressed disappointment about thoughts of closing. Jim's township contact, Mary Ellen Truelove, would expect the same response. The Township facilitated the repurposing of the decommissioned Delta Anglican Church. If we provided a needs assessment, CAO Mike Dwyre would draft a Township staff perspective and if merited take it to Municipal Council. As listed in Jim's report there are possibly five streams of community involvement/visioning to attempt supporting our Survey's outcome and the position of some Council members. Adrian Overdulse made a motion, seconded by Mark Bee, that provided Jim the opportunity to investigate this Township opportunity. APPROVED

Jim Earl

The multi-pronged idea will be actioned. Pat Greenhorn is investigating grants with EOOR and the UCC, while Jim is simultaneously inquiring with the municipality. Jim provides the property perspective to Pat for her task.

Rev Debbie noted that costs for a possible consultation with Edge could be covered, in part, by EOOR Visioning & Transformation.

Jim has a 'needs outline' to discuss with trustees (directly involved). Trustees will then report to Council.

c. Audio-Visual: Marg Ross informed us that the large white screen at the front of the sanctuary has been replaced with a 55" television monitor, to provide better viewing.

The faster internet service, using fiber, has been installed. Amongst many things, we can now stream videos.

8. New Business a.Four Rivers Cluster Youth Group: A letter (attached) was received from Cathy Ryan which described some of the activities this youth group has been active in. They are reaching out for monetary support. Pat Greenhorn motioned that Elgin United Church contribute \$400 to them. Charalee Smith seconded the motion. APPROVED Joanne McLean
- a(1) Destruction of Survey Hard Copies: Being that all of the EUC Visioning Survey results information has been electronically tabulated and the report has been published and distributed, Mark Bee motioned and Pat Greenhorn seconded that the physical paper copies be destroyed. APPROVED Mark Bee
9. Next Meeting The next Council meeting shall be called at the discretion of the Chairperson.
10. Closing Prayer & Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. Rev Debbie sent us home with a closing prayer.

GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP VISION AND TRANSFORMATION FUND APPLICATION

CASE STUDY A: NEW MINISTRY AND MISSION

[This case study is an example of the application process – the sort of information to provide in filling out the form. It is not intended as a recommendation for what your own project idea should be. An important benefit of these applications, in addition to the possibility of obtaining grant funding, is to provide your community of faith an opportunity for reflection on your own ideas for new ministry and mission in your unique context – how you are uniquely called to deepen spirituality and engage in discipleship in today’s world.]

1. Name and contact information of primary applicant and alternate

Primary applicant: Applicant Name
Role: (e.g.) Chair of Council
Church: Happy United Church, Happyville, Ontario
Contact: happy@gmail.com; phone: 111-222-333

Alternate: Alternate Applicant Name

Role: (e.g.) Treasurer

Contact: glad@gmail.com; phone: 444-555-6666

2. A brief description of the community of faith

Happy United Church is a small congregation in Happyville, Ontario. There are 80 families on our rolls, and an average Sunday attendance of between 30-40 people. The average age is between 60+ and most of the members have attended the church all their lives. The church, located on Main Street, was built in 1870 and was originally a Presbyterian church. There is a part-time minister (50%) who preaches every second Sunday, and a volunteer pastoral care team that is in regular contact with congregation members. One expression of HUC's vision of how we are fulfilling Jesus' call to care for those in need is through our long time involvement with the Happyville Food Bank.

3. A statement of the project goals and objectives

The goal of this project is to expand our contributions to the Happyville Food Bank by developing a Food Bus Program where items from the Food Bank are delivered to isolated seniors who are not able to go to the Food Bank in person. We see this as an important expression of how HUC lives out the mission of the church through providing support to vulnerable people in the surrounding community. Our plans are to work with the Food Bank and Community Services to help identify seniors who are in need but no longer able to drive. The Food Bus will deliver a hamper of food to their doorstep. The "bus" is not an actual bus, but a list of volunteers who would use their own cars. Bus volunteers would phone the senior beforehand to arrange an appropriate time. The objective of this project is to support isolated seniors who may not be eating properly and to also provide a source of social contact. Bus volunteers will also benefit socially and spiritually through their involvement with this program. We believe this project will result in a new spiritual life within our community of faith because it is a way to share our vocation to live out Jesus' call to "love our neighbours" as active members of our community.

4. An outline identifying the community need and provide any letters of support

Happyville has a population of about 1200. It was originally a farming centre, but now most people commute to the nearest city for work, about 50 kilometers away. There is a growing number of seniors in the town and surrounding area who are on limited incomes, are living alone with no family members in the area and are no longer able to safely drive their cars. The social isolation of rural seniors is a growing problem in Canada with increasing rates of suicide. The aim of this project is to help address that need, as an expression of our congregation's commitment to living the gospel. Letters of support for this project are provided by the Director of the Happyville Food Bank, and the Chair of Community Services with the Happyville Health Unit.



5. The amount requested and duration of financial support

We are requesting \$4,500.00 for one year.

6. A budget supporting the requested amount and name any other funding sources

- Gas: approx. 50 k/trip x 100 trips x .44 cents/k = \$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
- Insurance: additional insurance coverage = \$1000.00	\$1,000.00
- Food Bus car sign: \$100.00	\$ 100.00
- Phone and office supplies costs: \$100/mo x 12 mo = \$1200.00	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
- (thinking through the details as much as possible)	
	<u>\$4,500.00</u>

No other funding sources have been approached at this time. If the program is successful in the first year, we will consider making application to other funding sources.

7. A description of the evaluation process

Volunteers will keep a log of their Food Bus trips (times, dates, distance), including a brief description of each visit (ensuring confidentiality so that any information recorded does not breach privacy guidelines). This log will be reviewed at the end of one year, with a tally of how many trips have been made, and a “quote book” of any comments participants have made over the year to reflect how they have been affected by this project. “Success” of the program will not be measured in the number of meals delivered, but in whether or not participants (drivers and recipients) feel the program is making a positive contribution to the community and reducing the isolation of rural seniors. “Success” will also be reflected through ongoing opportunities for theological dialogue within the congregation (monthly meetings reflecting on scriptural passages that support the aims of the project) to explore how this project expresses and deepens our understanding of our mission as the church. We are also committed to sharing our learnings with the wider church by publishing a description of this project to the EOORC newsletter.

8. A brief description outlining the ability of the Community of Faith to initiate and implement the project and any previous programs that have been implemented, if applicable

Happyville United Church has several retired congregation members with extensive driving experience in rural conditions, and who are keen to participate as volunteers in this program. We anticipate a roster of five active volunteers and five additional volunteers available on an occasional basis. We have never done anything like this before, but have been strong supporters of the Food Bank over at least two decades.



EUC Council Mtg Mar9 2021 – Property Report mar8

1. Visioning:

A. Elgin United Church - municipal support feb18, 2/18/2021 11:04 AM, Jim Earl,

To Mary Ellen Truelove

Thank you for your timely follow-up to our constructive phone conversation.

I've initiated limited conversations with church council. I am prepared to provide info requested but I have some doubt about being properly prepared for Feb. 24.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Mar.9. I would suggest a goal of providing a report a week following Mar. 9. Hopefully confidentiality would not be a factor by then. If EUC Council feels differently I'll be in touch.

Jim Earl

From: Mary Ellen Truelove <mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca> , February 18, 2021 at 9:07 AM

I spoke to Mike Dwyer, CAO regarding our telephone conversation last week.

He asked if you could put everything in writing and outline what is required in order to bring the church up to safety standards (bell tower and sanctuary roof). He would like to bring this to Council so they are informed.

Please provide as much detail as you can. I.e: past repairs, designation of the church, reduced congregation numbers, future vision for the building, nursery school use. You may also wish to outline what you currently have for finances or financial support (if any) through the United Church of Canada. Just some thoughts in order to give Council the whole picture.

If you would like to keep this confidential, we will place your correspondence on an upcoming closed agenda for Council to discuss.

The next meeting a letter could be placed on for closed session would be Monday, March 1st. If you would like to provide a letter, could you please have it to me no later than the end of day on February 24th for inclusion in the closed agenda.

Thanks Jim. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards, Mary Ellen Truelove

Clerk Township of Rideau Lakes 613-928-2251 ext 293 www.rideaulakes.ca

B. Sonya Seward, Mar2 2021

Good Afternoon Jim,

The board and I have been talking at potentially extending our program if possible within the next 1-2 years. We were curious to see if the church will be congregating anymore and if not if we could also rent out the upstairs space for a full day program year round Monday-Friday. Is this a possibility and if so what would we be looking at for rent wise for that space? We would also be sure that it would be



Elgin United Church Council, Elgin United Church, 77 Main Street, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0

permanent as we would have to get the space inspected and potentially some changes to meet ministry requirements. Please let me know if this an option for us?

Thanks, Sonya Seward, RECE Executive Director, Rideau Lakes Early Learning Centre, 29 Main St, Elgin ON, 613-359-0002

C.2/9/2021 3:59 PM, Jim Earl, to Clint Halladay

I have mixed feelings about N/S taking possession. Why would they knowingly take on the burden of maintenance that even we are in a quandary over?

I've just been speaking with Mary Ellen Truelove, Heritage Committee re any obligations due to our municipal heritage designation. There does not appear to be any.

1. The Township doesn't own the EUC; the difference between us and the Red Brick School House.
2. The Municipality facilitated a private investment making it possible for Delta to repurpose the Delta Anglican Church
3. If....:
 - a. Municipality facilitated private investment,
 - b. Along with EOORC funding,
 - c. Plus N/S-Ministry vision,
 - d. And our GIC & Memorials,
 - e. Assume the few random member donations that seem to appear unexpectedly,
 - f. Business plan for the performance venue opportunity....

What would we have?

2. Property Report:

- a. Sanctuary furnace replaced
- b. Norway Maple to the left of the front entrance pruned away from roof and windows
- c. Slow flow toilets downstairs are a result of lack of activity i.e. washing, flushing, coffee hour involving boiling water, cleaning, and sanctuary thermostat lowered constantly. Proper flow is maintained by continuous low flow of hot water down the ladies washroom sink during class hours. Will investigate need for heating coil for septic pipe. Centennial plumbing is not affected.
- d. RT's name needs removal from yard sign and phone message machine.



**ELGIN UNITED CHURCH
TREASURER REPORT**

February 2021

	TOTAL	GENERAL	M & S	DIG	FOOD BANK	BLDG	MISC	RENT	LEFT FOR EXPENSES
DEPOSIT FEBRUARY 28, 2021	520.51	320.51	0.00	0.00	0.00		165.00	200.00	520.51
PAR	3359.99	2894.66	262.00	55.00	65.00	83.33			2894.66
TOTAL	3880.50	3215.17	262.00	55.00	65.00	83.33	165.00	200.00	3415.17

DISBURSEMENTS

EPPC Assessment	1650.00
Bell Canada	65.44
Insurance	423.46
Hydro	359.00
Stinson	770.00
World Vision	37.00
Par service charge	10.00
TOTAL	<u>3314.90</u>

NET **100.27**

BALANCES AS AT January 31,2021

General	\$26,856	I have issued a cheque to Jim Earl for \$6921.25 to reimburse for furnace installation \$6554. and tree pruning \$367.25
Benevolent	\$561	
G I C	\$10,489	
Jessie Tree	\$398	*World Vision is \$37.00 per month

Elgin/Portland Four Rivers Cluster Connection

Over the past six years the young people from Portland/Elgin have been a part of the former Four Rivers Presbytery Youth group which initially consisted of 12 to 18 year olds. This group linked with myself and youth from Newboro, and I served with them as youth leader, travelling nurse and bus arranger. These young people had the opportunity to participate in a fall retreat, as well as attending the Annual Bay of Quinte Conference where the Annual Meeting and ordination of the new ministry personnel took place. This provided a great opportunity to meet and spend three days and two nights with other Christian young people. This group did grow to include youth from Carleton Place, Smiths Falls, Perth, Brockville, Lansdowne, Battersea, Inverary and Kingston. Many of these same young people have attended the Annual Youth Festival in Niagara Falls where over 400 youth came together and slept, ate, participated in worship, met the present Moderator Rev Richard Bott, laughed and shared their faith journey. As you are aware three of your very own youth have travelled to El Salvador as well as Pauline French and Rev Takouhi. This was an experience that these individuals have shared with other churches, and one that has changed their lives. As the strength of this group grew an opportunity was presented by the Bay of Quinte and Rev Jackie Harper to provide Confirmation classes which included Emily and David French, Leah Welch Turner and Alex Price. I was very blessed to be a part of that next step in their faith journey, which was celebrated separately in their own church with Smiths Falls, Elgin, Portland and Newboro being host churches for the classes. Our last event was a trip to Worshiplude in Ottawa where over 200 youth, young adults and leaders spent an evening together with a one and half hour worship service lead by the youth and young adults followed by pizza, games and lots of laughter. This event was free and we were fortunate for the Region of EOOOR to pick up the tab for transportation. The bus was provided by Martins Bus Service, and we have been very pleased with their organization for the safe and efficient transportation they have provided for us to many events over the past six years. Alex Price, David and Emily French have had the opportunity to visit several churches to share regarding their time in El Salvador, and also their gift of music. These were the initial youth that began YAYA when they were twelve and thirteen and are now our young adults, and many of them are in leadership roles at school.

As this group became well established the younger ones aged 10 to 14 were eager to be involved, but were not quite ready to travel as far as the older youth. Rev Heather McLurg Murphy and myself initially started monthly get togethers in the various churches in the Presbytery, with events being hosted by Lansdowne, Inverary, Battersea, Elgin, Perth Road Village, Portland, Newboro, Smiths Falls, Lynn and Toledo. As this group has grown we have been blessed to have experienced a vast array of activities: music, story-telling, bubble soccer, swimming, laser tag, clown ministry, a day learning drumming, smudging, a visit to a pow-wow, card making, hand bells, overnight camping at Camp Quin-mo-lac, a boat cruise, a horse show, bowling, skating, tobogganing, apple picking, and hiking the Rideau Trail with adults from Trinity United. We were lucky to have Emma Pipe, an ordination student, with us for eight months to help organize these various events. Many of these opportunities would not have been available to these young people were it not for the Youth Group. Unfortunately, we have had to put events on hold due to Covid, but we are very determined that we will once again be able to move forward in the future with this group now known as Four Rivers Cluster. These youth are excited to meet others, and many of our older youth have maintained their connections with youth and young adults from the old Bay of Quinte.

The greatest advantage that I have experienced as a leader is not having to work in isolation. Having been able to link with the other churches has broadened the opportunities we can provide for the youth and young adults in a safe environment and within a spiritual format. Often these are youth that feel they do not belong in other circles, and we firmly believe that no one should be excluded. The cost of feeding young people, and the admission and transportation costs to some of these events can become expensive. However, as leaders

we feel the price that has been paid by the various churches is well worth the investment in our young people if we want the church to survive, and if we want to develop leaders for the future.

We believe the help of the participating churches, and our open door, “bring a friend” policy, have both been essential in contributing to the success of our Four Rivers Youth Cluster. Therefore, we are reaching out not only to the churches that have supported the youth group this in the past, but to three other churches that are interested in becoming involved. When we spread the events around it helps with transportation as well as the cost to host. Elgin/Portland sits in a very central place for holding events with bowling, a rink, hand bells, clown ministry, Skate the Lake, etc, so we are hoping that you will continue to support this program and consider being a host in the future.

As both of your churches are determining your futures, I ask that the children, the youth and young adults are not forgotten. Even though we do not have many on Sunday morning, our cluster has 40 + young people, which started with just a couple of youth from each of our congregations. We presently have a young adult with background experience in recreation and fitness who is willing to help with the youth and events across the region. With Covid we may not have a lot of opportunities currently, but this will change and your contribution would help us organize some events in the short term- a possible VBS, some fun activities- and also be crucial for future planning. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. My number is 613-272-2026 or email cryan@rideau.net.

Faithfully submitted by Cathy Ryan

GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP VISION AND TRANSFORMATION FUND APPLICATION CASE STUDY B: DISCERNING YOUR FUTURE [This case study is an example of the application process – the sort of information that might be provided in filling out the form. It is not intended as a recommendation for what your own project idea should be.] 1. Name and contact information of primary applicant and alternate
Primary applicant: Applicant Name Role: (e.g.) Chair of Council Church: Glad United Church, Gladville, Ontario Contact: happy@gmail.com; phone: 111-222-333 Alternate: Alternate Applicant Name Role: (e.g.) Treasurer Contact: glad@gmail.com; phone: 444-555-6666 2. A brief description of the community of faith
Glad United Church is a small, rural congregation in Gladville, Ontario. In its heyday in the 1960s there were 80 members on the rolls, but as the town size has dwindled there are now only 20 members, with an average Sunday attendance of a dozen people. The average age is over 70. Most members have attended this church all our lives. There hasn't been a new member in years. The church, located on a secondary road 2 kilometers out of town, was built in 1870 and was originally a Presbyterian church. We do not currently have a minister and have been advertising for a part-time minister for a long time with no applications. For worship we rely on a combination of pulpit supply when it is available and a member of the congregation who has completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leadership Training program. 3. A statement of the project goals and objectives.
In looking at our finances and members, the members of Glad United Church know we are facing important decisions in the near future. We are continuing to draw down the money in our foundation. The way things are going, the church may have to close its doors within the next few years. In this application, we are applying for funds to engage in a facilitated process of reflection about our future. We do not want our continuing existence to simply be for the sake of survival alone. We want to reflect on how our future may be viewed as part of our continuing journey with God. 4. An outline identifying the community need and provide any letters of support. In considering the question of “community need” we think about community in two ways. The first is our community of faith – Glad United Church. Our need as a congregation is to move beyond our current inability to decide our future in a way that affirms our sense of living out the church's mission, understanding that we are part of something much larger than our congregation alone. The second is the village of Gladville, where our church is situated. In our reflections on the future of our

community of 2 faith, we want to consider our decisions in light of our relationship with the wider community, as an expression of our vision of “loving our neighbour” as a core part of our mission as the church. No letters of support are required for this application 5. The amount requested and duration of financial support. We are requesting \$1250.00 to undertake a six-month book study, using Carl Dudley and Nancy Ammerman’s book *Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing and Adapting in Changing Communities* as a guide for our reflections, with the support of an external consultant who can guide us through the process. 6. A budget supporting the requested amount and name any other funding sources. Dudley & Hammerman (2002), *Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing, and Adapting in Changing Communities*, \$31.00 CAD x 10 copies = \$310.00 + tax and shipping = \$350.00 Consultant fee (\$50/hour x 3 hours per month x 6 months) = \$900.00 \$350.00 \$900.00 \$1250.00 No other funding sources are required for this application. 7. A description of the evaluation process. The effectiveness of this project will be evaluated in three ways. First, the book study process itself entails ongoing evaluative reflection on who we are as a community of faith and where God is calling us now. Second, we will gather feedback from all who take part in the project asking how the process was helpful for them and anything we might have done differently. Third, the results of this grant will be considered effective to the extent that this process results in a decision that the members of the congregation accept as an appropriate expression of our ongoing spiritual journey. 8. A brief description outlining the ability of the Community of Faith to initiate and implement the project and any previous programs that have been implemented, if applicable. Glad United Church is a small congregation but the members or the congregation have a strong commitment to making a good decision about our future. There are three members of the congregation (Treasurer, Chair of Council, Lay Member) who will do most of the leg-work in getting this project off the ground and seeing it through – i.e., the work of identifying a consultant we can work with, and liaising with the consultant to develop an effective book study process.