

Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge

Official Board – Regular Meeting

Portland United Church

March 4, 2020 – Minutes

Approved June 27, 2021

Official Board: Regular Meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m.

1. Chair Cam remarked that he hopes for a much better and brighter spring in 2020 than he had in 2019.
2. Connie moved, and Ted seconded approval of the agenda for the regular meeting of Mar. 4, 2020. Carried.
3. Minutes of regular meeting of Dec. 11, 2019 were reviewed. Moved by Katy, and seconded by Jan, to approve, noting the amendment to include Chair Katy's report for Dec. 11, 2019.
4. Business arising from the minutes:

Item 7 – A sub-committee of Ted Brett, Duncan Pickard, and Joanne MacLean or her designate, has not taken place in the interim period between Dec. 11 and today. Ted Brett will take action and announce the meeting.

Item 11 – Clint remarked that as a board, as we consider strategies and plans into the future of the pastoral charge, that we recall the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, and that the intention at that time of release was to engage with action items and review. Clint encourages that we do not shelve new plans in future.
5. Minister's Report: Rev. Takouhi began her remarks with an expression of gratitude to all members of Official Board. She is excited to see the development in each point of the charge to study what it means to be affirming. Rev. Takouhi has updated the concern for the family of Rae Lynn to indicate that other municipal funds have been made available. Funds collected to date will be forwarded to help. Rev. Takouhi says, "Handle everything with love, with care and with prayer."
6. Ministry & Personnel Report: Jan H. – Annette is working well in her new role. Not surprisingly, events that occur once a year (such as annual reports) are initially a hurdle, but everything is settling out. The M & P committee will have a review meeting within the next few weeks.
7. Draft Budget: Ted Brett – Report attached. Ted moved to approve the draft budget. This was seconded by Duncan. Carried.

8. Reports from Council Chairs:

Katy – P.U.C. – Hansen has arranged concerts for spring and summer for continuing fund raising events. Work goes on to help the church be viable on into the future.

Clint (For Ed Speers) – E.U.C. – Elgin council has had no recent meeting due to weather interruptions. Elgin will hold their AGM Mar. 8. They have had a funding appeal. An anonymous giver gave in an amount enough to cover expenses to replace tech equipment that needed updating. The sale of grocery bags (reusable type) has been good. They had a fire evacuation plan updated, and defibrillator installed and training for this taken. At Christmas they had an annual (first) family & community Christmas pot luck. The Elgin Church Council is excited to be embarking on the journey toward becoming an affirming congregation.

9. New Business: Chair Cam asked us if Elgin and Portland want to get together in one building? Cam reminded us of the letter received from Rev. Takouhi, with the questions about possibility to join in a new way, possibly with other charges, and a new location for worship. A number of those present contributed to the discussion.

Point from notes:

- Possibly begin with the strategic plan that led into 2020? Re-evaluate what we have followed through with, and what we would want to continue to address.
- Be as open as possible to a variety of ideas and solutions
- Is it good timing to add this on as we consider becoming affirming? Maybe the two are linked? Is there enough leadership, enough energy ...left over for both initiatives at one time?
- What is attractive; what is not attractive about our worship customs?
- Who are the constituents in our rural community?
- Older buildings become more difficult to maintain
- The need to arrive at some new form gets more pressing the longer we wait. Some other pastoral charges have out waited their need, only to be unable to re-invent in a new form.
- Should we lead by asking our congregations, and approaching everyone for feedback?
- Should the seed idea of a new location together, with other local pastoral charges, be announced to other church leaders to see how they engage? To see if there is sustained interest and leadership?
- Grass roots, starting with our congregants may be a better starting point.

These point from notes are meant to be a starting point, in hopes that we can see a motion the next time that Official Board meets. A concrete motion might be the start of a positive action.

10. Motion to adjourn. Closing prayer: Margaret M.

Next Meeting of O.B : May 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Portland United Church

Minutes respectfully submitted by Margaret Martin

Treasurer's Report: Ted Brett

The budget at the moment is staying where it was last year at \$4300 per month per church. A couple of things contributed to lower expenses. Because of the expenses we had at the manse my HST rebate went from the usual \$300 for 6 months to almost \$1300 for the last half of the year. No bulletins were ordered with another savings. Once the loan for the manse work is paid off the higher rent for the manse will add to our income.

In our funds on hold you will note that we had \$1809.05 for "Peace Through Education, Lebanon", that money has been sent to Shamlan Tatigian School in Beirut through the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada to feed students. The cost is \$300 US per day to feed 285 students lunch.

I have tried to cut expenses when and where I can. I know our churches want it lower but at the moment that is where we are at. I am willing to step aside and let anyone who can do better take over. Please!!!

Ted

I was going to do a Region report but I couldn't add anything to what I had submitted in December.