

## PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday October 7, 2021

The Gathering Place in the PUC

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

Attendees: Connie Cochran, Katy Gibson, Duncan Pickard, Jan Haskin, Bruce Haskin, Blaine Tackaberry, Liz Church, Will French, Joan Kelly, Hansen Downer, chair, Patti Evans, secretary, Arlyce Schiebout, pastoral charge supervisor

Guest: none

Regrets: Larry Cochran

Opening Prayer: Rev Schiebout offered the opening prayer

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Liz Church Second: Joan Kelly **Carried**

Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2021, PUC Council Meeting Moved: Liz Church Second: Duncan Pickard **Carried**

Correspondence: None

### **Business arising from last meeting.**

United Church of Canada and PUC Abuse Policy – Anita Cox. Anita began by quoting a portion of the policy of the UCofC. There are many varieties of harassment, not just sexual. There is a team within the UCofC who are the ‘handlers’ of this policy. (Violence and Harassment policy. The link for the on-line document will be provided by Anita to me to include in these minutes.

Trustees in coordination with Rev Arlyce will update the manual. Moved: Will French  
Second: Liz Church **Carried**

How to increase church membership – presentation for UC people who are responsible for grants. In the process of requesting funds to upgrade Wi-Fi services within the church so we can reach out to people via YouTube, Facebook, live services, etc. Connie suggested a welcome wagon type of information handout to new families. This package would contain a schedule and list of all activities that happen at the church. Liz Church will put together a small package for visitors attending this weekend.

Updating the church roll – has not been undertaken yet but will be taken care of. Will be reported next meeting. No actions will be taken until the council approves the decision.

Actions required for the plaque on Doug Bond monument, i.e., it is deteriorating. Connie Cochran asked if a Doug Good memorial plaque could be placed on the grounds of the Portland United Church. Trustees discussed but haven’t formalized a solution. One suggestion is a memorial garden be established for all families who have contributed greatly to the church. Perhaps Connie could join the discussions with the trustees for a memorial garden then bring the ideas back to the church. Moved: Connie Cochran Second: Liz Church **Carried**

Communication regarding communion on the first Sunday of each month. Communion will generally be held at the first Sunday. There will be exceptions of course for special service Sundays. Motion amended from last meeting.

Election polling station went well except for dirty carpets.

October 19 is next meeting of OB when they will review of profile committee recommendations.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** – Duncan Pickard – report filed. Givings down 28% however still moving in the right direction. Expenses continue to be below last year and budget. Duncan discussed the general fund of the budget. It is the only item we budget, we do not budget for buildings, etc. Increase

of \$15k in giving. Looking for some fundraising. Duncan has asked that everyone look at their area of responsibility and contact Duncan with figures. Need to ensure everything is covered before budget is finalized. There are furnace instructions in the church office. Bangs Fuels have been asked to look at a new thermostat for the electrical heat.

As of December 31, 2021, Duncan Pickard will be stepping down as finance chair. Will asks that we think about looking for his replacement so they can work with Duncan for the remaining of his tenure. Will is very concerned about this situation. Hansen said he has been advertising for a few months.

**Sharing and Caring** – Liz Church. Report discussed.

Food bank update – Norma Cummings – no big changes.

**Cemetery** – Blaine Tackaberry – thanked everyone who assisted with fence sanding and painting. Discussed a columbarium for the cemetery. Shared photos of what we would be looking at initially. Offered ideas for various scenarios. Cos to customer: \$750 per plot includes the corner markers. Couple \$1200. Costs add up with additional features. Initial set up would be ~\$20k. Moved by: Will French to organize the purchase and placement of a columbarium.

Second Connie Cochran **Carried**

**Envelope Steward** – Norma Cummings a couple of congregants going to par next month.

**Fundraising** – no update

**Memorials** - Will French no report

**Regional** – Liz – no update

**Property: Inside** – carpets cleaned by Servicemasters.

**Outside** – Bruce Haskin – exterior painting started. Doing a good job

**UCW** – Connie Cochran – apple pie sale went well. People already anticipating tourtiere.

**Worship** – Norma Cummings – organizing for advent and Christmas. Rev Kathy Walton will do November 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, all advent in December plus Christmas eve service. We will ask Elgin if they are ok with us having 4:00 on Christmas eve. After Christmas she will not be available until the first Sunday in March. Duncan is concerned that March, weather-wise, is the worst month to drive. Do we want a service on Sunday, December 26? Decision is to provide a joint service and those who want to attend are able.

**M&P** – no update

**Benevolent** – Katy Gibson no update

**Trustees** – no update

**Motion to accept committee reports:** Moved: Katy Gibson Second: Bruce Haskin **Carried**

**New Business:** Resignation has not been officially submitted by Ted Brett. Date needs to be set for redirection of funds from DIG to community flex fund. Notice should be issued to community how the fund will be used. PAR donations currently to DIG will need to be redirected by donor. Christmas newsletter – will it be discussed next meeting? Jan explained it is an OB function. This year our parish will send out a Christmas card to all the congregation with a Christmas reflection included in card. Elgin will be advised of this and welcome to use the information.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Arlyce Schiebout

Adjournment: 9:00 pm

Next meeting: November 17, 2021, at 7:00 pm

## Attachment 1

Application for Grant for Portland United Church, Portland, Ontario

### 1. Contact persons

Will French – phone: 1-613-272-0231 email: [william.french@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:william.french@ucdsb.on.ca)

Morgan Wright – phone: 1-613-359-5085 email: [mtwright.mw@gmail.com](mailto:mtwright.mw@gmail.com)

### 2. Description of the community of faith:

Recent events in the life of the church (COVID) have brought to light the inadequacies we have for outreach through technical means. Before COVID, it was not so apparent that we would have to move into a more advanced communication system. People were attending church and there was really no foresight of the necessity of connecting in more advanced ways.

3. In most recent months we have been exploring ways to reach into the community. Any studies looked at talk about having communication. There are so many frontiers to explore so that the Word of God reaches into our immediate church community and then out into the community at large.

At the present times we have the basic A/V system that allows for a PowerPoint presentation on Sunday and microphones for the piano and speaker.

4. To fulfill present day requirements for outreach, we will be looking into being able to transmit through Facebook, YouTube, etc. live services. This would mean having to purchase the equipment, hiring professionals to do the set-up, training volunteers, etc. to continue the ministry. Cameras, speakers, monitors, receivers, microphones.

The faith community desires to have outdoor services in our parking lot as well as family movie nights. A large screen and projector would be needed as well as an outdoor sound system.

One of the other projects coming from this is being able to carry on new programs such as:

Spiritual studies teaching kids how to minister peer to peer

- a) Bible Studies
- b) Mics, etc. for music groups
- c) Instruments

5. Amount requested: \$5,000

### 6. Required equipment for start-up:

- a) Canon Vixia HFG50 Camera - \$1,200.00 CDN
- b) Yamaha MG 20XU 20 Channel Mixer - \$949.99 CDN
- c) Shure Beta 87AVocalist Mic - \$319.00 CDN
- d) Seinnheiser MK8 Choral/Vocal/Front of Hose Mic - \$799.00 CDN
- e) Lap Top Computer - \$1,500.00 CDN

7. Revitalizing the church takes many different forms. By reaching out, and showing that we are a viable church community, proper equipment will be a necessary step to move forward. As a church we are called to tell the Gospel story. Excitement builds as others hear and are drawn in by viable ministries that meet the needs around us – fellowship and caring be the utmost. When we can broadcast in such a positive way, Christians, young and old are drawn into the community, to be a part of it all.

8. Evaluation will take place over a period of 1 year. During that time, new programming will be commenced using the internet, YouTube, etc. If we can fund music groups, music, equipment, outside venues with a seating capacity for performance, I believe we will enhance the ministry of Portland United Church and draw in support from the surrounding rural communities associated with PUC.

9. Having talked with numerous members of the community of faith, this is an exciting venture that will grow enthusiasm. I believe the congregants recognize that growth is necessary to survive. And reaching out to families who have recently moved into our community will do this.

Numerous members of our faith community have expertise in setting up audio/ visual. We have others who will help with music and programs as they are initialized.

We will be meeting the needs of an older population through social media streaming, and we will be getting young families and kids excited by providing a service of reaching out. God requires us to plant the seed. He/ She will bring the harvest.

Portland Visionary Group:

Will & Pauline French  
Morgan Wright  
Larry & Connie Cochran  
Liz Church