

PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Friendship Room (In person)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

(Second Draft)

Approved May 16, 2022

Call to order: Katy Gibson, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Attendees: Blaine Tackaberry, Anita Cox, Norma Cummings, Connie Cochran, Duncan Pickard, Will French, Pauline French, Bruce Haskin, Jan Haskin, Liz Church, JoAnne Fletcher, Patti Evans, Secretary, Katy Gibson, Acting Chair

Guests:

Regrets: Larry Cochran, Joan Kelly

Opening Prayer: JoAnne Fletcher offered the opening prayer

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Connie Cochran Second: Liz Church **Carried**

Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2022, PUC Council Meeting Moved: Norma Cummings Second: Bruce Haskin **Carried**

Correspondence: None

Business arising from last meeting:

1. Live feed grant update – equipment ordered and on the way from Alberta. No specific date yet.
2. Update on suggestions how to increase church membership– Will French, Liz Church, Larry Cochran – no written update
3. Church membership roll update – Liz Church, Joan Kelly, Jan Haskin. No Update
4. Status of highspeed internet service - password has been updated.

Committee Reports

Finance – Anita Cox - reviewed the books for 2021 and found that everything is in order. Anita will prepare a letter to be submitted to the council. Anita reported on the budget figures to date and responded to questions.

Sharing and Caring – Liz Church – no written report. Looking forward to covid being over and being able to meet face to face with people.

Food Bank Update – Norma Cummings – looking at specials when buying food to try to save money.

Cemetery – Blaine Tackaberry – snow is beginning to diminish. Columbarium is on order.

Envelope Steward – Norma Cummings – a lot of envelopes still not picked up.

Fundraising – no report

Memorials – Will French – asked who keeps track of the statistics for the roll of the church in the absence of a minister. Norma Cummings said these statistics for Elgin and Portland are kept in books in the Portland United Church office. Will also questioned who would take care of marriages in the case of no minister? How is it recorded...is it recorded? It is imperative we keep our records up to date.

Regional – Liz Church – attended regular regional meetings. We are now being kept informed, by regional, of the status of grants.

Property:

Inside – Connie Cochran for Larry Cochran. Closures coming for the elevator doors that will make the operation of the elevator doors 'fool proof'. This will be a lot less expensive than automatic door option. Problems with the heat settings, i.e., heating up but not staying heated longer than a certain period. Now covid is passing, and the church is being used more, the thermostat schedules should be redone. Connie will speak with Annette about having a schedule that shows all church bookings to keep the thermostat on schedule.

Outside – Bruce Haskin – very quiet now until the end of April when the snow is gone. Bruce has been doing most of the clearing of the sidewalk and doorways all winter. Arrangements have been made with our snowplow person to shovel the walk when needed when he comes to plow.

UCW – Connie Cochran – first meeting of 2022 on March 15, 2022. Looking for new members. Need to replace Sheila's position.

Worship – Norma Cummings – Supply people are hard to find now. Three lay people (who are most local) are quite booked. Liz Church will be doing a lot of the upcoming services. Kathy Walton will be back this month to take up her twice monthly services. Please email Norma Cummings if you have any suggestions for services. This request will be placed in the next Enews as well.

Music – Jan Haskin asked that the handbells be not forgotten when speaking of music being provided for services. Working on music for services.

Benevolent – Katy Gibson – meeting next Saturday. Have helped another family.

Trustees – Will French – met week ago. Nothing more to report

Motion to accept committee reports: Moved: Blaine Tackaberry Second: Will French **Carried**

New Business

Connie Cochran reported that Portland Chit Chat and the Girl Guide group will need to relocate during the construction period at the Community Hall. Would it be acceptable to move these two groups to the United Church? Chit Chat is every Thursday morning, all year round, and Girl Guides every Monday night. Norma Cummings said there is a fee schedule, but it needs to be revised. The council agreed this activity would be welcomed. Connie Cochran, Bruce Haskin, and Katy Gibson will meet to revise the fee schedule.

Discussion was led by JoAnne Fletcher: currently, where are we at and for future, where can we go?

Council will hold a visioning meeting on March 17, 2022, 6:30 pm. There will be no documentation.

Closing prayer: Katy Gibson

ACM scheduled for April 3, 2022, after church service

Next Regular Council Meeting: will be set at the ACM

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm