

PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Friendship Room  
November 8, 2022 (Final version)

**Approved December 13, 2022**

**Call to order:** Duncan Pickard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Attendees:** Duncan Pickard, Katy Gibson, Jan Haskin, Bruce Haskin, Liz Church, Joan Kelly, Anita Cox, Norma Cummings, Connie Cochran, JoAnne Fletcher, Patti Evans, Secretary

**Guests:**

**Regrets:** Larry Cochran, Will French, Pauline French, Blaine Tackaberry

**Opening Prayer:** JoAnne Fletcher offered the opening prayer

**Approval of Minutes** of September 20, 2022, PUC Council Meeting, first draft. Moved: Connie Cochran  
Second: Joan Kelly Carried

**Correspondence:** None

**How are we doing – The road forward – a living faith story** Duncan Pickard summarized a loose order of events since the resignation of Rev. Takouhi to current. He then went around the table asking the council members for their comments on how we are doing.

In summary:

- Most saw the current situation without a minister as a positive
  - Having multiple leaders on Sunday was interesting
  - One stated that the services were very fulfilling
  - There was an appreciation of the pastoral care being offered through Liz Church
- Many expressed that a lack of certainty around music was very disturbing
  - In particular a choir
- A fear of not growing was expressed
  - We do live in a small community in which not all United Church members making the potential congregation growth limited.
  - we may be reaching more than we think
    - Foodbank
    - UCW involving community members
    - Pillowcases and quilting groups
    - Guides, Chit Chat
    - Etc
- Activity breeds activity
  - We should be talking about our missions in a time set aside during church
  - Hosting concerts
  - Movie nights
- This type of conversation should involve all members of the congregation
  - Probably in a dedicated meeting

At the next council meeting we will spend a bit more time discussing this and what we see in our future

**Business arising from last meeting:**

Church membership roll update – work has been done on the roll and it is reasonably up to date. It is in Annette's hands. It will be updated on an ongoing basis.

Use of basement for girl guides, chit chat – Connie Cochran Girl Guides most Monday evenings. Chit Chat averages 15 people each Thursday. Church Usage Agreement will be signed November 9, 2022, by Connie Cochran and Malcolm Norwood.

Exterior lighting – much better now that the leaves have fallen. Bruce has had the light on the egress to Colborne Street fixed.

Facility charges usage fee document is now available and will reside in the church office.

#### Operating Lists

- Exterior
- Emergency call list – Duncan distributed procedure
- Emergency cheques – Anita Cox will keep the cheques.
- Contact numbers for the building services should be accessible in the church office. Also, make it available in the friendship room because limited access to the church office (which is the Pastoral Charge office).

Music Director – Duncan Pickard/Katy Gibson – a n email was circulated to students at Queens Music school.

- John Wanless will play Nov 27 Dec 4 and Dec 11
- Liz Theobald will play Dec 18
- The French Family will be approached regarding music for Christmas Eve Service.

Budgeting Process – Anita reached out for budget items to be submitted. Will discuss at next meeting in December. **Regarding fund raising**, add \$1k in the budget.

Many ideas were discussed including

- Connie Cochran will contact Small Halls business office to try to get PUC established with the business. Must guarantee 100 attendees.
- Could we book a silent auction in the spring.
- Joan Kelly discussed follow up on True Earth products where a percentage of sales goes directly to the church. Joan will contact True Earth.

#### New Business

Connie will reach out to a local piano tuner to inquire about having the church grand tuned. Gibson family will water the piano on a schedule set as required by the piano.

Dates for year-end reports and AGM will be held March 26, 2023, for both Elgin and Portland. Consult with Annette for her deadline for reports to be submitted to the office.

Electrical cost savings. Bruce Haskin gave a presentation on solar energy cost savings if installed at PUC.

#### Committee Reports

**Finance** – Anita Cox - distributed the monthly financial report. Discussed with the council.

**Sharing and Caring** – Liz Church – report submitted – Liz joined the Christian Council for the area. Hoping to gather fresh ideas

**Regional** – Liz Church – attended the meetings. Been on committees and involved with other churches.

**Christian Education** – Pauline French – report submitted to Duncan

**Cemetery** – Blaine Tackaberry - no report

**Envelope Steward** – Norma Cummings – nothing to report

**Food Bank Update** – Norma Cummings – Build a Mountain of Food December 3, 2022, in front of the bank and LCBO.

**Clothing Co-op** – Joan Kelly –

**Worship** – Norma Cummings – White Gift Sunday is the second Sunday in advent - it follows the day after build a mountain. Should we move the date of White Gift Sunday? We will leave it as is.

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Keep the church open and see if the French Family would like to run an open house type of service. Singing carols, etc. Liz Church will speak with Will. New Year's Day will be a service.

**Property:**

Outside – Bruce Haskin – snowplowing contract set up.

Inside – Larry Cochran/Connie Cochran – report submitted

**UCW** – Connie Cochran – see report submitted for details. Christmas bake sale Saturday December 10. UCW will sponsor a food bank family for Christmas. There are two adults and four children.

**Memorials** – Will French – no update

**Trustees** – Will French – no update

**Benevolent** – Katy Gibson – nothing to report

**Music** – Joan Kelly (choir) – no report submitted

Jan Haskin (Bells) – playing in Seeleys Bay United Church on November 20, 2022. Thank you for the council for reimbursement for the parts that are cracking and breaking.

Sheila has retired from all church committees. Katy Gibson will prepare a thank you card for Sheila for her dedication. Norma will make a request on Sunday and ask for someone to take over the communion responsibilities – specifically for the upcoming communion and to consider taking the responsibility permanently.

**Motion to accept committee reports:** Moved: Katy Second: Liz Church **Carried**

**Closing prayer** offered by

**Next Regular Council Meeting:** December 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm