

Elgin United Church Council Meeting Minutes
5 September 2023, 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Clint Halladay, JoAnne Fletcher, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Pat Greenhorn, Cathy Ryan, Cindy Carbino, Sandra Smith, Ted Brett, Adrian Overdulse, Michelle Knapp, Morgan Wright

Guests: Anne and Jim Barton

Regrets: Andrea Thompson, Roberta McKinney, Jim Earl, Joanne McLean

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by the Chairperson, Clint Halladay, there being a quorum present.
2. Territorial Acknowledgement: Read by all - We acknowledge that we are gathered here on the unceded land of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. We acknowledge the harm that was done, is being done, to our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters by the Settler Community. And so, we now pledge to do better, and we humbly commit ourselves to the just pursuit of Truth and Reconciliation. For Christ's help with this promise to the First Peoples, we pray. Amen (Excerpt from writing by Frayne McCarthy)
3. Opening Prayer: All together – Heavenly Father, as we gather this evening help us to understand Your wisdom that we may make sound and wise decisions as we do Your work in and around our community. Amen.
4. Agenda: Pat Greenhorn motioned that the agenda be accepted. Adrian Overdulse seconded. **APPROVED**
5. Minutes of the Council Meeting held 30 May 23: Adrian Overdulse made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pat Greenhorn. **APPROVED**
6. Business Arising from the 30 May 23 Meeting:
 - a. Michelle Knapp needs experienced EUC members' guidance on what should stay/be archived. Mary Lynne Alderdice could archive from home. Pat Greenhorn offered her assistance. **Action – Michelle Knapp**
 - b. Pat Greenhorn has purchased Thank You note cards. The cards have a lovely sketch of the EUC building, by Julia Scotland. They'll be sent to donors, including events such as the annual auction fundraiser. **Action – Pat Greenhorn**
 - c. The change in bank signing procedures has been completed.
 - d. A pastoral charge worship committee has been formed. See Ted's report (attached)
 - e. An Advanced Care Planning education session is being prepared for end October. **Action – Andrea Thompson**
 - f. The Zoe Zudinsky recital was successful and appreciated.

- g. Our Trillium Fund application, to replace the basement flooring and the carpet in the Fellowship Room and entrance has been submitted by Adrian Overdule. A response to the application may take until November. Cindy Carbino mentioned that we might qualify for a Rideau Lakes Township CIP grant. **Action – Clint and/or Adrian will investigate.**
- h. The RLELC banner has been installed.

7. Reports

- a. Treasurer: The bank statement for the month has not been received yet. Joanne McLean reported to our Chair that we're financially healthy. A \$2,500 overpayment for propane was re-deposited into our account. Bits of contributions continue to be received.
- b. Trustees: Adrian explained that a shortage of metal roof materials, making the order overdue, has slowed progress. Taps have been replaced in the accessible washroom. The toilet handle was replaced. The downstairs washroom lights will be dealt with by an electrician within the month.
- c. Children and Youth Ministry: Pat Greenhorn told us that Sunday School will resume the week after Thanksgiving. The Spark House curriculum will be purchased and used. Cathy Ryan reported that a 4 Rivers apple orchard visit event in Crosby, for youth, is in the works. They hope to get into a monthly event throughout all the various 4 Rivers communities, for 10 to 18 year olds.
- d. Caring Group: Please see Pat Greenhorn's report (attached).
- e. Music: Michelle Knapp and Morgan Wright reported that Choir will start up after the October 21st concert. We'll still be treated to some special music, during worship, prior to that.

Music: Maureen Bee reported that Choir will finish on June 25th for the summer.
- f. Community Partnership: Cindy Carbino informed us that EUC, during Elgin Days, raised \$447 from the bake sale, \$958.75 from the raffle, and \$512 from the barbecue. The Vendor's Craft Fair will take place on October 14th. There will be no rain date. Twelve vendors are already confirmed. Our annual fall auction will run from 22 to 29 November. The vendors at the craft fair will be asked by Cindy if they might contribute some their crafts for the fundraising auction. Cindy asked for volunteers to organize any events outside of the Vendors' Market and the Auction. Mikhail Laxton will perform at the Small Halls concert, at EUC, on October 13th. Clint mentioned that Darlene and Lynne will provide refreshments. Your emcee will be Morgan Wright.

Local women (with some male musicians) will perform a Canadian Women in Song concert on October 21st. Proceeds will go to an Indigenous Women and Girls fund.

- g. EOORC: See Ted's report (attached).

8. Acceptance of Reports

Morgan Wright motioned that we accept all of the reports as presented. Michelle Knapp was the seconder. APPROVED

9. Pastoral Charge Supervisor

JoAnne Fletcher gushed, "You people are doing great!". She believes that we're still happy with the path we're on with PUC. Carry on!

10. New Business

- a. Chair of the Official Board (OB) has requested a leave of absence. The two Council Chairs plus a past OB Chair are still available to meet. Ted Brett will call the next OB meeting.
- b. A Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) in Dementia Care education session will be hosted by EUC on Sunday, November 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Elgin Municipal Complex. Robyn Hoy will facilitate this session. The afternoon is open to the public. Items to consider at the next business meeting is what local groups should we send official invites to and if we should serve light refreshments.
- c. Pat Greenhorn spoke on a Flourishing-Bold Ideas-Daring Connections seminar. Bold Ideas" is part of a two-day event with the UCC Moderator, Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, in Kingston. Clint and Pat are both registered for the Nov. 10 day, which is free for church leadership/council members to examine how our church can flourish and make help our community flourish as well. She invites us to connect to one another in hope, convicted by a belief that, despite all the challenges of church life in this day and age, we can move from despair to transformation – from languishing to flourishing.
- d. For our info, OB will be voting on Remit 1 – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. EOOR enthusiastically supports this remit.

11. Next Meeting

The next council meeting will take place, in person, on 3 October 2023, at 7:00 pm.

12. Comments of the Chair

Clint commented that things are happening! Lots took place over the summer and plans for this autumn are in effect. He also asked that we consider volunteering for the Chair position for next year.+

13. Closing Prayer

JoAnne shared a closing prayer.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Caring Group Report- September 5/2023

The Caring Group met on August 15th to discuss goals, vision and mandate for our team. The following is a summary our discussion and planned activities:

- **Visitation-** The central core of our work involves visiting, telephoning or e-mailing members who are experiencing a life transition, illness, grief, or family or personal crisis. Visits take place in hospital, at home or in a long- term care setting. Currently Clint and Cathy are the main providers of in person visits, and we thank them for their dedication and the difference they make. We agreed that other team members will provide care as able in a variety of ways, as their life circumstances and work schedules permit.
- **Card Ministry-** Pat has taken on this position and sends out cards to acknowledge births, deaths illnesses and significant family events.
- **Resource bookshelf-** We have acquired several books already to share with and hopefully comfort people as they journey through illness, grief and caregiving. We hope to expand our resources to include devotionals and a directory of local resources and community groups. Our plan is to create bookshelves for these resources, as well as children's material, at the back of the sanctuary.
- **Pastoral Care service-** Our team plans to collaborate with our weekly worship leader to present a service explaining to the congregation pastoral care and our mandate. We would also like to include regular updates in the bulletin or service (Minute for Pastoral Care) with ideas on how we can all care for those in our church and community. Pat has contacted Bells Corner United Church, who offered to share resources with us.
- **Community Connections-** We all agreed that our church vision of "Community Committed, Community Strong" is central to our work, and have several ideas:
 - Several team members attended an evening hosted by the Swans, with staff from Country Roads Community Health Centre (CRCHC) explaining the client navigator role and the programs that CRCHC offers.
 - We hope to invite community groups to a joint evening event to share information on services they offer and to investigate how we can work collaboratively.
 - Gentle Persuasive Approach course (GPA) will be offered in November
 - We plan to have a series of speakers and workshops on topics that would be helpful to our members and many in the community (such as parenting courses, etc.) Pat has approached CRCHC to discuss partnering with them, and our own Andrea Thompson has agreed to lead the first evening on 'Advanced Directives'

Yours in faith-
Pat Greenhorn

Ted's reports

EOORC. I am still active on the property committee which means I am also still a member of the Church Extension Committee.

There is some exciting things going on with property. The United Church has a group called kindred Works. They get church properties that are in some cases not active and use them to convert to affordable housing and unlike our local MPP don't use the Greenbelt to get there.

They were just operating in the big cities but have found there is a need in rural areas so they are looking into those as well.

The next General meeting of EOORC is in Ottawa and sometime in November before the snow flies.

Worship Committee: the committee has expanded from just Norma and I.

We had a meeting on August the 7th. From Portland along with Norma was Will and Pauline French and Liz Church. We consider Liz to be the Clergy lead to keep us in line. From Elgin along with me is Morgan Wright and Roberta McKinney, for this meeting Roberta was away so Anne Overdulse her back up filled in for her.

With the approval of the councils the discussion around advent were discussed. We decided we should move first day of Advent to the 26th of November. It was also decided at my request to use Liz Church for all the advent services so that she would be local and possibly we could overcome anything that came up. We still haven't had a Christmas Eve service since 2019 and last year we really tried but when Rev Kathy's hydro went out that even cancelled a zoom service.

Also Christmas Eve was discussed. Some thought a morning Christmas Eve service could be bypassed. Others thought we should have a service mainly of music done at 10 am in Elgin. Possibly a lay leader to do that but that would be up to Liz. Regular Christmas Eve services at 4 in Portland and 8 in Elgin that became our normal the last few years we had a minister, with communion.

Other communion dates would Oct 1 Shaun, Nov 26 and Dec 24th Liz, Feb 18 Liz etc.

Our next meeting in January.

Ted