

## Elgin United Church Council Meeting Minutes

14 November 2023, 7:00 pm

**APPROVED December 13, 2023**

In Attendance: Clint Halladay, JoAnne Fletcher, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Pat Greenhorn, Cathy Ryan, Cindy Carbino, Morgan Wright, Ted Brett

Regrets: Andrea Thompson, Roberta McKinney, Jim Earl, Joanne McLean, Adrian Overdulse, Michelle Knapp, Sandra Smith

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chairperson, Clint Halladay, there being a quorum present.
2. Territorial Acknowledgement: Read by Pat Greenhorn - 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, we come to you today asking for wisdom and support as we begin this meeting. May all we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help. We ask for guidance throughout this meeting that all of our thoughts and actions would reflect your Holy will. Amen.
4. Agenda: Additions to the agenda:  
Item 10d – Advent and Christmas decorations  
Item 10e – Sharing the Light of Christ  
Item 10f – Advent readers  
Ted Brett motioned that the agenda be accepted. Cindy Carbino seconded. **APPROVED**
5. Minutes of the Council Meeting held 7 Sep 23 Pat Greenhorn made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Maureen Bee. **APPROVED**
6. Council Update of 3 Oct 23 Ted Brett motioned and Maureen Bee seconded the motion to accept the update (attached). **APPROVED**
7. Business Arising from the 7 Sep 23 Meeting
  - a. Trillium Fund application – Our application was denied. We didn't go back far enough with comparative financial data. We will apply again in February 2024. **Action – Adrian Overdulse**
  - b. Dementia Education Session – The hall is booked and advertising is up. So far, 20 people have registered.
  - c. Flourishing-Bold Ideas-Daring Connections Seminar - Cathy, Pat, and Clint attended the seminar at Crossroads United. The event

was led by the UCC Moderator. Our attendees spoke very glowingly of the positivity of the forward-looking session.

- d. Official Board (OB) Meeting – The next OB meeting will take place at EUC on 28 November 2023.

8. Business Arising from the 10 Oct 23 Update

Caring for People with Dementia education session on 11 October 2023 - The session was cancelled.

9. Reports

- a. Treasurer: Clint will send the treasurer's report to us. **Action: Clint Halliday**

- b. Trustees & Property: Jim Earl's report was sent in ahead of time:

Currently furnace maintenance is the only task that I am managing. Annual Servicing has in the past been performed in the fall. A change of service provider to W.C. Gas, Portland, has resulted in the annual service being scheduled to January/February. Both furnaces have exceeded their ten year life expectancy.

Further to the report (by Clint): The condensation pump on the first furnace gave out October 26<sup>th</sup>. The cooling drain line from the filter system was going into it causing it to run almost non-stop. W.C. Gasworks replaced the pump and ran new lines to the kitchen sink discharge as both had a lot of sludge. W.C. suggested it be cleaned this fall. Scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The float switch on the kitchen pump burned out. Had Thompson's replace it on October 30<sup>th</sup> and diverted the water filter drain to a condensation drain bypassing the condensation pump.

Cleaned the septic filter and checked the tank. Schedule a pumping in the spring.

Furnace room cleaned October 31<sup>st</sup> by Ted, John, and Clint. One load to the dump and dishes taken to Second Time Around in Brockville.

- c. Children and Youth Ministry: Pat Greenhorn announced that six children are enrolled in Sunday School, so far, and that curriculum has been purchased.

Cathy Ryan reported that South Crosby youth have written their own land acknowledgement. This has mushroomed beyond our own region. Worshiplude Retreat is scheduled for February in Ottawa.

Pat stressed that a budget line for next year is a necessity. The budget is for both Sunday School and supporting youth activities. Clint Halliday proposed an amount of \$1,000.

- d. Caring Group: Pat reported that a planning meeting took place recently to firm up the details for the Dementia Education session to be held next week. We are sending lots of cards from EUC, sometimes 10 per week. A future Sunday worship service will focus on pastoral care. A bookshelf/library, just inside the sanctuary main door, is planned. It will contain books and references for both children and adults.

Cathy mentioned that we are now an officially affirming region. She will do a writeup for Clint to add to the e-news. **Action – Cathy Ryan**

- e. Music: Morgan Wright mentioned that we need to be able to lock the Choir Room doors. That room still needs to be cleaned up too. Clint wondered if we might want to purchase a good storage shed.

**Action: Clint Halliday**

Morgan, Michelle, and the choir are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas services and music.

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a joint service at 10:00am at EUC, 4:00pm at PUC, and 7:00pm at EUC.

The second Canadian Women in Song takes place on December 9<sup>th</sup>. 64 tickets have been sold already. Half of the proceeds will go to our Building Our Future Together fund and the other half to St Lukes Coalition of Angels fund.

- f. Community Partnership: Cindy Carbino didn't have the numbers with her, for the Crafters sale. She did report that we raised approximately \$285 from the barbecued food sales. Some of the vendors donated items for our upcoming auction. In all, we have over 50 donations for the auction already. Proceeds will go to ARCH, Mumma's Here Now Neo-natal Rescue, and Building Our Future United.

The Small Halls concert did not sell out. There were 70 persons in attendance. We received 10% of the gate.

The Canadian Women in Song concert was an overwhelming success. So many people wanted to attend but couldn't get tickets to the sold-out show. Morgan is arranging a second show for December.

Morgan talked about Rory Gardiner, a comedian/musician, was wondering if we'd be interested in hosting a spring Small Halls concert. Morgan will look into it. **Action: Morgan Wright**

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

8. Acceptance of Reports Morgan Wright motioned that we accept all of the reports as presented. Ted Brett was the seconder. APPROVED
9. Pastoral Charge Supervisor JoAnne Fletcher animatedly expressed, “You are flourishing, go for it, but don’t discount what you’re already doing. You do a lot!”.
10. New Business
  - a. The Children’s Christmas party will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:30pm. Clint has reached out to RLELC to see if they want to share in this. Alex Price and Clint are the organizers. Cathy Ryan is helping.
  - b. Clint will be attending the Palliative Care Education Day, in Smiths Falls, on November 16<sup>th</sup>..
  - c. Clint spoke on the three C’s of our view of Council: Content, Context, Chairperson. He suggested we not focus on how we fix decline. Think creatively about the future without the negatives. So many possibilities.
  - d. Sandra Smith can supervise Christmas decorating. A date needs to be picked.
  - e. Sharing the Light of Christ takes place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We start at Bethel Church at 6:30pm, followed by EUC at 7:00, and the Red Brick School House (St Lukes) at 7:30. The event will finish at the Elgin Municipal Complex with hot chocolate, treats, and fellowship.
  - f. Clint is looking for Advent readers. The first Sunday will be the last Sunday in November.
11. Next Meeting The next council meeting is proposed to take place, at the Elgin Community Complex on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Morgan will confirm the hall availability and if the Elgin Swans will cater Christmas dinner for council members and their guests to be held prior to the council meeting.
12. Comments of the Chair Clint told us that we’re moving ahead together. Events are going well and providing support to the community, as is our Caring ministry. Word is getting out there about us. He complimented all of us.
13. Closing Prayer JoAnne shared a closing prayer.
14. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.