

Elgin United Church Council Meeting Minutes

7 May 2024, 7:00 pm

APPROVED JUNE 18, 2024

In Attendance: Clint Halladay, JoAnne Fletcher, Maureen Bee, Mark Bee, Pat Greenhorn, Michelle Knapp, Morgan Wright, Ted Brett

Regrets: Andrea Thompson, Jim Earl, Roberta McKinney, Marg Ross, Adrian Overdulse, Joanne McLean, Cathy Ryan. Cindy Carbino

Guests: John Carley

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 all - We acknowledge that we are gathered here on the unceded land of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. We ask your guidance, Oh Lord, as we seek to acknowledge the truth and journey towards understanding of, and reconciliation for, the harm inflicted upon our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. Help us to see the world through the eyes of sharing and caring, rather than superiority and suppression. We pray for Christ's help. Amen

3. Opening Prayer: All together – Almighty God, we thank you for the privilege of serving You through this church council. We ask that You be with us as we meet today. Help us to focus on the task at hand and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Give us courage to speak the truth in love, and help us to always remember that Your will be done, not ours. In Jesus' name. Amen

4. Agenda: Add Items: 8E – Small Halls Festival, Elgin Days music
11D – Request from the RLELC
11E – Untied Church book

Pat Greenhorn made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Morgan Wright was the seconder. APPROVED

5. Presentation: John Carley presented a briefing on Alternatives to Foodbanks, Guaranteed Living Income, and the Inequity of Poverty. He passed on the idea that we don't need a new wheel but rather make a better wheel; a changing of mindset of both policy makers and society in general. It is all of our responsibility! Food banks help, but they're not the answer. Council will discuss, in upcoming council meetings, what we learned from John's presentation and what we can do. It was suggested that we could do more work with St Luke's. Pat Greenhorn said she could be our liaison.

6. Minutes of the Council Meeting held 5 Mar 24 Morgan Wright made a motion to accept the minutes of our council meeting held 5 March 2024. A second was offered by Michelle Knapp. APPROVED

7. Business Arising from 5 Mar 24 Council Meeting a. The planning of a special meeting, discussed at the last meeting, for a visioning session, will be tabled for the future for now. Explaining that our tempo hasn't given us the time to set a meeting up yet, Clint exclaimed, "We have been busy like bees"!

8. Reports a. Treasurer: Please see the attached report from Joanne McLean. John Carley relayed Joanne's apologies for not being here (thanks for Joanne's sense of humour; she is presently in hospital and our prayers for recovery continue).

Pat thanked Clint, on behalf of council, for his taking care of the offerings, deposits, and banking.

Pat proposed that we 1) set up an offering collection process with a roster of volunteer counters/depositors from the congregation; and 2) hire a certified bookkeeper to do expenses and accounting records. Maureen Bee seconded the motion. APPROVED
Clint Halladay and Pat Greenhorn will action.

Note that presently our financial signing authorities are Joanne McLean, Maureen Bee, and Jane Simpson.

- b. Trustees & Property: Clint reported that Accessible entry signs to the sanctuary and washroom have been installed.

A garbage bin has been installed, for placement of trash cans.

The church landline has been migrated from Bell to WTC.

Repairs have taken place to fix the vanity drain and corroded coupling joints in the downstairs washroom sinks, as well as the sink in the Fellowship Room have been replaced.

Thank you to Ted Brett, Michelle Knapp, and Morgan Wright for replacing the high beam light in the sanctuary.

The question of grass cutting, weed eating, etc came up. Clint informed council that we already have a roster of congregation members who perform this task. Clint will ensure that the list is available, at the Audio-Visual station, for people to sign up.

We were not chosen for this round of the OTF Grant. So far, we haven't received any reason for the decision.

- c. Children and Youth Ministry: Please see the attached report from Cathy Ryan and Pat Greenhorn.
- d. Caring Group: Please see Pat's report which is attached.
- e. Music: Morgan Wright told us of an opportunity to once again host a non-fundraising Small Halls concert on 5 October 2024. We

would need to sign a preliminary contract now to get the process moving. Morgan noted that we'd need an "on-call team" of volunteers.

Morgan motioned to host the event. Ted Brett seconded.

APPROVED Morgan Wright will action.

The drums will be used in our summer services with Rev Sean. They will also be used at Stoodley's by a community band. They have been used at the church already for recording sessions.

Morgan suggested that Council think about a compensation schedule (not just voluntary contributions) for use of the sanctuary. We are seeing expanded possibilities for use of our building.

An Elgin Days ecumenical service will be held on Sunday, July 14th. All Elgin churches will participate, including a joint choir.

- f. Community Partnership: Please see Cindy Carbino's attached report.
 - g. EOORC: Please see Ted Brett's attached report.
9. Acceptance of Reports Maureen Bee motioned that we accept all of the reports as presented. Sandra Smith was the seconder. APPROVED
10. Pastoral Charge Supervisor JoAnne Fletcher was pleased to report, "Things are going really well, you're in a good place. You're living your future right now! I see lots of energy and positivity – keep going!"
11. New Business
- a. Anniversary Sunday – 130th anniversary of this church building – Jane Campbell and Mary Lynn Alderdice are working on the presentation. Rev Sean will be officiating.
 - b. Congratulations to all volunteer award recipients: Karen Myers, Roberta McKinney, Sandra Smith, Michelle Knapp, Jim and Karen Earl.
 - c. A backup person is required for Audio-Visual support on Sunday mornings, in the event that Clint or Ted are not available. Mark Bee volunteered to join the team.
 - d. The Learning Centre recently received a grant and has asked the church if they could freshen up the Fellowship Room and replace the doors to the closet. Michelle Knapp motioned that we give our approval, with the provision that we are consulted on the paint colour first. Pat Greenhorn seconded. APPROVED
 - e. Untied Church book. That's not a typo. We are partnering with Portland United Church (PUC) to purchase these books. These books cost \$40 a piece, however only \$10 each if we order 25 or more between PUC and our congregation. Maureen Bee motioned to buy 8 copies (already reserved by EUC members) plus 12 more copies to sell/give as the occasion rises. Ted Brett seconded the motion. APPROVED

Clint Halladay will action.

12. Next Meeting The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18 June 2024.
13. Comments of the Chair Clint was delighted with tonight's energetic meeting. As well, we stayed on topic and were well prepared. Our small vibrant council is moving forward!
14. Closing Prayer and Adjournment JoAnne Fletcher closed in prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Youth Events connected to Elgin United Church and 4 Rivers Cluster

Over the past couple of months 4 Rivers Youth including Elgin's Youth attended two gatherings. One was organized by Rev heather McLurg Murphy at Inverary as we were invited to visit a Escape Room recently set up by one of the families from Inverary. There were 18 in total from the area that attended. This event was in March and in April we enjoyed bowling and we had young people from Landsdowne, Inverary/Battersea. Elgin, Portland and Newboro. Regional Council for EOORC covered the bowling and Newboro United paid for lunch. A great time was had by all.

We have also received our third draw on the Vision and Transformation with a grand total of \$15,000 -\$5000.00 x 3 which was transferred to North Leeds Youth Council to be used for young people in our community to support them even though they may not be attending Elgin United Church. The last draw has gone towards the Arts program - \$750 towards the "Little Mermaid" play at Rideau District High School for the license that increased this year by \$2000.00, \$ 750.00 to the Equity Program at Rideau – providing education and inclusiveness for all students and a special day planned in May, \$250 for supplies and snacks for the "Awakening" Club that was re-established by Allison Gibson for a safe place at Rideau for Bible Study, feeling safe, inclusiveness, funding towards the Reading program at the Elgin Public Library for the summer, \$100 towards popcorn supplies to be used for fundraising for their Grade 7-8 Year end trip, \$250 to go towards a bursary for a student studying Environmental Studies in Post Secondary to be presented at Graduation, and as we continue to meet every two months with many members of the community agencies, but most importantly the youth are educating us in what it really is to be the feet and hands of Jesus. Thanks for believing in the Call of the Spirit. We really are rising up disciples in many different ways.

There is discussion that is happening around attending Rondez Vous 2024 in St Catherine's, but at the moment possible interest by Ella and she will need a supervisor to travel with her and there

are a possible mom and daughter from Inverary that may decide to go as well. Cost for youth is \$450.00 and leaders \$150.00. Local youth previous to Covid travelled 2 x times to a similar event. Problem – have scheduled it in the first week of July and many of the youth will have started summer jobs.

Doris did visit and happy the congregation welcomed her and a debriefing happened following in the Sunday School. Doris received two books about Jesus, a book mark, a prayer shawl, a bottle of ginger ale, a coat, socks, water, puddings, but most of all from most a feeling of “LOVE: Thanks

Caring Connections Report

May 7, 2024

- Team members conduct pastoral visits in person and by phone, and cards are sent to those experiencing illness, loss or difficult times
- Clint continues to provide regular worship services and also Celebration of Life services at Lanark Lodge, as well as palliative care visits. His ministry makes an incredible difference, and we thank him for his dedication.
- Many prayer shawls have been distributed and we have received thank you notes and personal words of thanks from recipients. The shawls are much appreciated.
- All team members have been commissioned in a church service, and we thank Norma Wrightly for her support and graciousness and the meaningful services
- Our new library is open for business, so please feel free to borrow books for yourself or for those you are visiting
- We plan to put monthly caring updates and help hints for the congregation in the bulletin
- Our Earth Day event with St. Luke's and Country Roads Community Health Centre was a great success, and we will be meeting with them to plan more collaborations, including speakers and workshops.

Good Evening Everyone

I will be absent tonight for the meeting.



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Here is what I have for Fund-raising Efforts .

Elgin Days

- Bake Sale
- Raffle Table
- Smoked Meat Sandwiches

Moving forward I am not sure what to do about the Craft Market as many things are circling around Insurance Coverage for Vendors and such. We had talked about moving it to the Community Room and out front but all Vendors now need to provide Insurance for their set up which can be costly to them or us. Means increasing the fee which might discourage Vendors from participating in it. I have a friend who does this on a regular basis and she is not attending as many as usual. I also see that the Crosby Flea Market is now going until the end of October.

We will definitely be having our Auction.

If anyone has anything they want to spear head I willing to help. I am coming up blank for ideas.

Take Care have a good meeting

Cindy

EOORC. for May 2024

Church Extension committee had it's regular spring meeting May 1st. It was over 2 hours long but we had 8 requests for grants and we handed out \$107,024 in grants ranging from \$5000 to the limit of \$25000.

The property committee usually meets every month on zoom to discuss property matters.

The meetings for both of these committees are on zoom just because of the distance most of us have to travel.

EOORC's AGM is being held this year in Ottawa on the 31st of May and the 01st of June.

I will be attending by commuting. I have been told that most rooms are going for \$200 a night and that is too rich for my blood.

Ted