

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

Present: Sharon Davidson, Norma Janzen, Rev. Bill MacKinnon, Larry Pickard, Darrell Picketts, Jacque Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Ron Stinson, Anne Walker, Lois White, Lorne White

Regrets: Sue Cross, Shelley Grisdale, Bella Leighton, Gail Merritt,

Darrell welcomed all to our Virtual Board Meeting.

Paul offered the Land Acknowledgement Statement

Anne provided the devotion “Bird Dog” written by Stuart McLean and published in the Vinyl Café.

Darrell lit the Christ Candle

Congregational Health

- Health relates to our entire community during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- We are finding our way to reach out and connect with the congregation, services can now be accessed on line and through land line phones
- The worship services have been done very well and are very meaningful
- Christianity 101 Series were offered virtually and went well on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons

Motion to approve the Agenda moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Sharon Davidson. Carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of March 11, 2020 meeting was moved by Lois White and seconded by Larry Pickard. Carried.

- Correction: add Ron Stinson to those present at that meeting

Business Arising from the Minutes

Darrell has brought items forward within the agenda this evening

Remarks & Updates

Rev. Paul

- Posting of draft and approved minutes
- Reviewed the United Church Manual
- Minutes should be posted in draft and approved formats for greatest transparency – board and all committees

Discussion

Discussion and Process for Board Minutes

- Draft minutes will be forwarded to the Co-Chairs and Church Secretary within a week of each board meeting by the Board Secretary
 - The Co-Chairs will forward to the Communication Team to post the draft minutes on the website
 - Following approval at the next Board Meeting the draft minutes will be replaced by the Communication Team with the approved minutes.
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- One funeral and one internment this past month
 - Delighted with Christianity 101 series and response
 - Have developed an online calendar....many thanks to Terry and Anne for their assistance

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- Utilizing Zoom for meetings, worship is being streamed
- Intention is to continue to stream when we are able to return to the Sanctuary
- Bell Lane has been broadcasting our services since beginning of the social distancing process

Future Plans

- Planning for a stress reduction program
- When pandemic is resolved Paul believes we need to engage in a conversation about becoming an Affirming Congregation
- People are excited about the New Creed

Rev. Bill

- Pastoral Care has worked hard to create a phone tree for those in our congregation not on the email list
- Outreach calls have been made to those with complex life situations to ensure there are extra contacts during this time
- There was an opportunity to potentially reach out to those marginalized individuals in our community who ordinarily access the weekly suppers throughout the city, the outcome was not as hoped by Bill, he will follow up.

Correspondence - none

Committee Reports:

Spiritual

Worship

- Minutes circulated
- Stewardship Sunday speaker will be Lori Reesor April 26th
- UCW service being postponed

Spiritual Lead

- The challenge remains for the Coordinator not being able to represent the four committees
- Meeting with Sue, Darrell, Sharon and Paul was postponed
- Issue to come back to next board meeting

Youth – no report

Outreach/Social – no report

Stewardship/Fundraising – no report

Tia McGrath concert postponed until fall

Communication

- Working hard to keep website and calendars up to date
- Working closely with Paul
- Board expressed thanks to communication for their efforts over this time
- A positive from COVID will be our enhanced capacity

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M&P

- Committee meeting April 2nd did not happen
- There has been email contact with committee members
- The committee have checked in with the church staff over this time to ensure well being
- Positive responses to online services, music and messages
- **Choir is cancelled at this time**, Charlie is able to meet the requests of Paul for inclusion of music into the services
- As with all workplaces there is a change to the regular tasks of the church staff during the pandemic and the call for social distancing

Discussion

- **Decision: Church staff will be maintained at the present levels at this time**

Motion to accept this report moved by Lois White and seconded by Norma Janzen. Carried.

Property

- Wheelchair lift quotes have been received and committee will review
- Sound system updates ongoing
- Verbal appeal will be made with respect to proximity of banister to lift

Motion to accept this report moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

Trustees

- Significant loss to investments since the end of December (\$50,000)
- A reduction of approximately 10%
- There is cash available in High Interest Savings Account to meet regular expenses over April and May

Finance

- No meeting
- Financial statements being prepared
- There is a drop in offerings
- Receiving 10 envelopes a week vs 50 in regular week
- No one has signed up for PAR during this time
- 3 donations through Canada Helps

Discussion

Decision

- Will promote PAR from pulpit from a congregant
- Letter to be drafted to congregation to continue to give (not more) during pandemic as needs of the church continue
- Darrell and Paul will draft a letter
- Etransfer options – Ron Stinson will inquire at the bank about this option

Motion to accept this report moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by Lorne White. Carried.

Horseshoe Falls Region – no report

Edge Committee

- Sharon has had contact with Jeff over the past two weeks
- Active work on recommendations will be on hold until pandemic resolves
- Sanctuary plan is ongoing – floor quotes are being sought
- Our planning/direction could change post COVID
- Committee will resume our visioning and planning at that time

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Darrell adjourned the meeting

Paul offered a closing prayer

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7pm.

Jacque Scatcherd will bring devotions at next meeting.

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacque Scatcherd, Secretary