

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

Present: Sharon Davidson, Norma Janzen, BJ Leighton, Terry Matheson, Larry Pickard, Jacquie Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Ron Stinson, Lorne White, Yvonne Wright

Regrets: Andrew Advincula, Darrell Picketts

Absent: Shelley Grisdale

Sharon called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement offered by Paul

Devotion offered by Terry a reading entitled “Gutsy Grandma” from Chicken Soup for a Grandmas Soul

Congregational Health – no items

Motion to accept the agenda moved by Lorne White and seconded by Larry Pikcard. Carried.

Motion to accept the Minutes of June 9, 2021 moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by Lorne White with addition under Sharing Ministry, second bullet, add “issue focused forums”. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Financial Update

- Ron and Norma have been unsuccessful in reaching Tammy Crayne to schedule the financial review
- Cindy Aniol has agreed to and has begun to work alongside Norma in completing the tasks of the treasurer, until the end of Norma’s current term
- There is a financial report for this meeting
- **Discussion**
- There was concern expressed at the extensive delay of the financial review
- It was noted that a budget should not be coming forward to any annual meeting without assurance of financial oversight
- We have a duty to the congregation and the Region to be in compliance with this requirement
- **Action: Norma and Ron to confirm a date for the financial review no later than July 30, 2021 and a completion date no later than August 31, 2021 with Tammy Crayne**
- **If these timelines cannot be met by Ron and Norma, an alternative financial reviewer to be engaged and the completion date remains August 31, 2021**

Governance Review

- A continuation of the review initiated at the June Board Meeting
- Some areas for further attention identified
- Input to be requested from stewardship/outreach/social to clarify experience with the model and how to move forward
- More than one person needed to be trained for kitchen certification
- Property – need to obtain input on how maintenance of assets and rental management merges with their role
- Sharon will continue to update document from these discussions

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Minister Report

- Rainbow stickers on website and outdoor sign
- Healing circles have begun
- Paul has engaged with Grand River Council for Aging – info on website and in Snippets
- Memorial service for Norma MacKinnon – September 18th
- Participated in vigil at mosque and BRISC Unity Walk for Residential Schools

Discussion about the video offering welcome to SHUC and rainbow stickers

- Video very well done and appreciated by the Board – particularly the inclusion of Bella and Dakota
- Concern only related to comments at end with visual x over of “not affirming” “not a pride flag”
- The intent of the message about affirming congregation and flag was intended to assure congregants of the intended message as there is specific process to utilize the term “affirming”
- The potential impact identified was that this could offer confusing messages to anyone outside of the congregation
- This followed the discussion at the last board meeting where there was agreement that we wish to be welcoming and open, but we need to ensure anyone responding to this invitation is only met with welcome and experiences the safety the symbol represent...and it was uncertain if the full congregation was in agreement with this position
- Open and frank conversation occurred – how to balance our desire to be welcoming and open to all in the community and at the same time permit open conversation with those in our congregation who have concerns about this position – we need to continue this conversation at board level and within the congregation

Correspondence - none

Committee Reports

Spiritual

- Coverage for all services during Paul’s absences in place
- Aileen has stepped down as Sunday School Superintendent – Yvonne is seeking someone to step into the role
- Pastoral Care remains active during the summer
- Youth – VBS package is not occurring due to reopening of province and subsequent reopening of summer camps – looking at how to pivot to a Back to School package

M&P

- Concern expressed about missed pay days for Trevor
- Norma confirmed he has been paid to July 31st and apologized to Trevor for the delays
- Norma did check about ADP – Trevor chose not to use ADP
- Next meeting set for September

Communication

- Have updated the email list – 159 subscribers
- August 20th is deadline for submissions for fall newsletter

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Property

- Committee has been advised that the electrical panel in the boiler room should be replaced given its age
- Discussion

Motion that the electrical panel in the boiler room be added to the Project List maintained by the Property Committee, moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Terry Matheson. Carried.

- As the elevator project will not happen this year, committee proposed requesting a different project be brought forward to the Alan Cook Foundation for 2021
- **Discussion**

Moved to approach the Alan Cook Foundation to consider funding the electrical panel in the boiler room; refinishing the Calder Hall floor; replace the electric curtain rod on the stage; moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

- **Action** – response from Alan Cook Foundation will be brought back to next board meeting.

Trustees

- Portfolio balance on July 19th was \$689,749.20
- Insurance has been renewed – the coverage did not automatically renew this year, at no time was the church uninsured, the delay in requesting updated information rested with the HUB and Cowan was delayed in responding to this request

Finance

- Donations for January to June 2021 are \$60,610.00 on target with our budget
- Donation from Margaret Bowden estate received twice by SHUC – second donation sent in error by lawyer has been returned to the estate
- The AV and Sound system project is complete but shortfall of \$9,000.00 remains
- Message will be placed on website and in newsletter that donations to this purpose are welcome

Horseshoe Falls

- Anti-racism series ongoing

Faith Profile

- Introduction draft circulated to board

New Business - none

Paul closed the meeting with prayer

Next Meeting: September 8th at 7pm

Devotions: Larry Pickard

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacque Scatcherd, Secretary