

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD  
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH  
On Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

Present: Sharon Davidson, Norma Janzen, Rev. Bill MacKinnon, Gail Merritt, Larry Pickard, Darrell Picketts, Jacquie Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Ron Stinson, Anne Walker, Yvonne Wright

Absent: Sue Cross, Bella Leighton, Shelley Grisdale

Regrets: Lois White, Lorne White

Sharon opened the meeting.

Sharon offered the Land Acknowledgement

Darrell offered the devotion, the reading was from “The Heart of Christianity” by Marcus Borg.

**Congregational Health**

- The Black Lives Matter protests and calls for addressing and correcting systemic racism
- Devotion spoke to this issue
- How do we move forward as a congregation
- We need to understand and challenge our assumptions

**Next step**

- Darrell, Paul and Sharon will meet to begin the planning
- Paul will facilitate some conversations about racism as the Mindfulness Seminars are wrapping up

**Motion to approve the Agenda moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Darrell Picketts. Carried.**

**Motion to accept the minutes of May 6, 2020 meeting was moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.**

**Motion to accept the minutes of May 13, 2020 meeting was moved by Darrell Picketts and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

- E transfer is now available, link will be placed on the website with instructions
- Sue Cross’s role as Spiritual Coordinator will be brought forward to a meeting where she is present

**Church Re-opening**

- Announcement this week by province that places of worship may open providing 30% capacity
- Discussion needed to be revisited from last week with greater urgency given this announcement
- Discussion

**Decision**

- Sydenham-Heritage will not reopen at this time
- There are many decisions to be made and processes to be created before we feel able to open safely
- Online services will continue for the summer

**Board Meeting June 10, 2020**  
**2020-142**

- Committee will be struck to begin the planning to carefully reopen inclusive of representatives from Property, Worship, Outreach, M&P, Stewardship (preferably not board members from those committees to ensure greater inclusivity)
- Each committee is asked to bring the request for a representative to their next meeting and bring back the name of the willing representative to our July meeting

**Motion that Sydenham-Heritage United Church will continue with online services for our church until September 2020 moved by Darrell Picketts and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.**

**Remarks & Updates**

***Rev. Paul***

- Mindfulness Groups went well
- Conducted graveside service this week
- Participated in Advisory Committee with hospital chaplains
- Streaming of services should be able to begin when the sanctuary is able to be utilized for worship again
- Beginning some informal conversations about racism with completion of the Mindfulness Group – not the congregational training/teaching as spoken of earlier in the meeting but an opportunity to begin the conversation
- COVID has presented unique challenges this summer for services
- With the church building closed, the need for online remains meaning Sydenham-Heritage can't have lay leaders provide worship as we do other years...and the technical expertise to produce an online service is not widely available in each church
- Paul and Jennifer Canning (Fairview) have proposed to each church (Worship, M&P and Board) that they coordinate their holiday time over the summer which would ensure both congregations continue to have online services available for the eight weeks of July and August
- Both churches would maintain their own coffee hour, each minister would prerecord their sermons for the Sundays they are away and the other minister will lead the service on the Sundays the other preached
- Worship endorsed the plan
- The plan is coming to M&P tomorrow for review and endorsement

***Rev. Bill***

- Pastoral Care met this afternoon and will continue to meet throughout the summer
- Phone tree seems to be working well – loneliness and boredom are the recurring themes
- Doing backyard visits
- On personal basis will be going to New Brunswick for 3 weeks to visit father...two weeks are to self-isolate and then one week to visit...the travel restrictions have just been lifted
- Will coordinate the dates with M&P once I have travel dates and will then return to complete work with Sydenham-Heritage

**Correspondence - none**

**Interim Music Director**

- Charlie Henderson tendered his resignation effective June 12, 2020
- Search committee had suspended the process of hiring a new Music Director due to COVID 19
- There were two remaining candidates when the process was suspended

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- The two candidates were contacted by Terry Matheson to determine their interest in supplying for the next few months while we continue with online services
- Both are interested in this opportunity
- Both understand the church is not in a position to offer the permanent position until COVID restrictions are lifted and the Search Committee is able to complete their work
- They will share the summer weeks....and when not providing music for worship (given the proposed sharing with Fairview) the expectation is they engage the choir and others who may be able to contribute to the music ministry in a safe manner
- The rate of pay is determined based on RCCO Guidelines and their experience and educational levels
- They will be offered \$25.00/hour x 8 hours x 52 weeks = \$10,400 annually (\$200 weekly)
- No mileage or travel time compensation
- Not responsible for scheduling guest musicians

**Motion that two musicians provide supply Music Directors Services, for two months, financial compensation of \$25/hour x 8 hours per week equaling \$200.00 a week moved by Darrell Picketts and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.**

**Committee Reports:**

*Spiritual* – no report

**Worship**

- Podcast license has been purchased
- Not aware the motion had been passed at last meeting

*Youth* – no report

*Outreach/Social* – no report

- Third month Shelley has not been in attendance, Sharon will follow up

*Stewardship/Fundraising* – no report

- Gail shared that she has received positive messaging about the services, about Bill's pastoral care

**Communication**

- Have not been receiving the draft minutes to post
- Discussion
- Will be posted in draft format
- Darrell and Sharon will let Aileen know when draft minutes can be forwarded by her to Communication Committee for posting
- Will work this month

*M&P* – no report

**Property**

- 2 quotes for Calder Hall flooring received to date
- Quote for sanctuary floor and pews is on hold
- Sound system – second quote is being sought and will then be presented to Alan Cook Foundation
- Neighbourhood signs discussed – board has asked Property to price out the cost of replacing
- Digital sign at front of church discussed – Property asked to seek quote by board

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*Trustees* – no report

*Finance* – no report

- 75% of wage enhancement is extended to end of August 2020
- Glitch in registration encountered
- Discussion about Supply Music Director salaries and qualifying for assistance
- Norma will inquire
- E transfer now available

*Horseshoe Falls Region*

- Provided report that will be circulated to Board about options for reopening sanctuary and church

**New Business**

- Meeting of Board throughout the summer
- Discussion

**Decision**

- Board will meet throughout the summer of 2020 given the unusual times

**Bill closed the meeting with prayer**

**Next Board Meetings:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 and August 12, 2020

**Sharon Davidson** will bring devotions at July meeting.

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Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

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Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

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Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary