

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

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

Absent: Sue Cross, Shelley Grisdale, Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Gail Merritt, Yvonne Wright

Darrell opened the meeting with these remarks:

- Called this special board meeting in response to a call out from the United Church of Canada that congregations set a committee to begin planning how to reopen
- Two recent webinars attended by members of the board and Paul
- No specific direction from webinars as there are no answers, this is a learning for all – which some found discouraging
- While reopening likely won't occur for a significant time we do need to consider how Sydenham-Heritage will manage reopening when the time arrives
- There are many layers to consider – worship, meetings, office hours, rentals, washrooms, weddings, funerals, baptisms, fundraisers
- Congregation should know the board is beginning to think forward

Discussion Highlites

- Need to reactivate all committees/groups given this “new normal” will not be resolving any time soon
- Understand several took break hoping resumption of “normal” in September
- Sense of fatigue from isolation; sense of being overwhelmed with the Black Lives Matter movement and resulting protests felt by Board members which is quite likely reflected in the congregation
- Normally summer is time of gearing down and breaks for work of the church – given this is such an unusual time we need to consider this may not be best for this year
- Could Outreach turn its attention to Black Lives Matter, Migrant Workers, Anti Asian racism, Anti Indigenous racism, systemic racism....as some of the traditional outreach focus of community meals has been suspended due to COVID 19
- Could Pastoral Care/Worship consider a survey to all congregation...to determine if worship, mindfulness, coffee hours, are meeting their needs
- Given the differences in technical access the survey would need to incorporate on line as well as mail outs
- The Edge Committee is on hold at this time due to COVID....could Edge be the nucleus of a committee to plan for the reopening with additional persons drawn from committees with particular expertise (rentals, buildings, worship etc.) ensuring most inclusive planning possible
- Is now the time to form the committee and begin work? Is it too early?
- We will be guided by Public Health officials, the learning/experience of earlier openings
- We need to find the ability to be tolerant of each other....people will have different levels of comfort with reopening and we need to extend grace to those who have a different comfort than we do
- The government has extended the 75% wage subsidy until the end of August 2020

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Next Steps

1. Board will request that all committees reactivate regular meetings
2. Support will be provided for committees/groups who may need technical assistance and direction to meet virtually
3. Outreach will be asked to consider a Black Lives Matter; Indigenous Experience, Systemic racism focus
4. Worship and Pastoral Care will be asked to consider creating a survey to inform ongoing worship, programs, and support during this anticipated longer period of our new normal
5. Board will meet throughout the summer
6. Darrell will convey the forward planning to the congregation at worship
7. Board will bring forward the discussion about the timing of striking the reopening committee to next meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7pm.

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacque Scatcherd, Secretary