

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD  
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH  
On Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

Present: Jane Baxter, Sharon Davidson, Norma Janzen, Terry Matheson, Gail Merritt, Larry Pickard, Darrell Picketts, Jacquie Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Ron Stinson, Lois White, Lorne White, Yvonne Wright

Absent: Sue Cross, Shelley Grisdale; Bella Leighton,

Darrell called the meeting to order.

Paul offered the Land Acknowledgement

**Devotions** Terry shared a reading from “Chicken Soup for the Grandmas Soul” entitled “Through the Eyes of a Child, Grandmas are just antique little girls”

**Congregational Health** – no items

**Motion to accept the agenda moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Terry Matheson. Carried.**

**Motion to accept the Minutes of February 10, 2021 with the following corrections moved by Yvonne Wright and seconded by Larry Pickard. Carried.**

1. No mover or seconder to approval of agenda of February 10, 2021
2. Under Profile/Visioning Committee, third bullet point word “conformed” should read “confirmed”

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**1. Update on Profile/Visioning Committee**

- First committee meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>
- Mandate is to develop the Faith Story of Sydenham-Heritage United – who are we, where are we going
- Administration and financial will be part of the final document but major focus will be our Faith Journey – Worship, Faith Formation, Leadership, Pastoral Care, Self Care
- Input will be sought from the congregation, continuation of the early work initiated before the pandemic, wish to have broad base of input, input being sought in form of response to questions to be posed over next few months...first set of questions is enroute via mail to congregation with ability to respond electronically, by written response or via telephone conversation
- Pastoral Care telephone committee will encourage participation during their monthly contacts
- Committee Members confirmed: Darrell & Evelyn Picketts, Ngozi Nwokoro, Terry Matheson, Andrew Advincula, Sharon Davidson, Cindy Aniol, Yvonne Wright, Jacquie Scatcherd

**2. Sharing Ministry Committee**

- Four local churches are participating: St. Andrew’s, Fairview, Harmony and Sydenham-Heritage
- Focus is to identify ways to work together as well as sharing resources
- Some initial steps can be establishing a Facebook Page for United Churches in Brantford; sharing events with each other (through electronic means at this time and eventually both electronically and in person)
- Conversation moved to concern about “sharing vs. pirating” and to underlying question “do the congregations trust each other to bring this vision to fruition?”
- Discussion
- **Action**

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- Sydenham-Heritage supports this initiative, while this is initially intended to share resources, the Board is aware this may result in other ways to consider moving forward; consensus is that as Christians we should embrace our common vision and if trust interferes, we need to consider our motivations and be willing to engage in difficult conversations
- Regular updates will be brought back to the Board for information

**3. Donations Acknowledgement and Receipts**

- Letter and receipt for non members has been prepared
- **Action**
- Aileen will be asked to arrange electronic signature for Secretary of the Board to have affixed to letters
- Aileen and Norma have arranged for the process to issue receipts with letters
- List of donors will continue to be maintained by Aileen
- Process of forwarding a list of donors to family will be determined by Aileen and Lois and confirmed back to the Board
- **Next step**
- Letter for members who make memorial/other donation will be drafted by Aileen; this letter will indicate that receipt for donation will be included in their annual income tax receipt

**Ministerial Reports**

**Rev. Paul**

- Lenten Discussion Group in process
- Paul attended Brant Anti Discrimination Table (from the Immigration Committee)
- Healing Circles – to commence after Easter
- Wedding set for April 24, 2021; couple inquired about hosting reception at church following service, Paul seeking input from Board
- Discussion
- **Decision**
- Board has no objections to the wedding ceremony in the building provided Provincial Health Unit restrictions are followed
- Board is not comfortable with the request for a reception in the building at this time

**Jane Baxter**

- Ending Life Well series average 33 links to each session
- Will be offered in years time
- World Day of Prayer was hosted by Sydenham-Heritage this year on March 5<sup>th</sup>, two services
- Introducing a different style of prayer on March 14<sup>th</sup> and welcome feedback from board and congregation

**Correspondence** - none

**Committee Reports**

*Youth* – no report

*Outreach/Social* – no report

*Stewardship/Fundraising* – no report

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***Communication***

- Spring Newsletter circulated

***M&P***

- Wished to confirm that decision to have Aileen and Linda return to working in the building met with the approval of board (given change in Provincial Health guidelines)
- Decision endorsed by Board

***Property***

- Quotes for elevator were placed on hold during lockdown, will resume moving forward with this task
- Request to have the Fix-it Club resume meeting in building
- Board endorsed this request given change in Provincial Health guidelines

***Trustees*** – no report

***Spiritual*** – no report

***Finance***

- Completing the year end report provided opportunity to analysis of the receipts of 2020
- There were 117 envelope contributors before March 2020
- 92/117 continued to contribute after March 2020
- A note of thanks for ongoing support was issued along with income tax receipts

***Worship***

- Will have slide at beginning of worship to be edited to only a reference to OneLicense
- **Action**
- Paul will ask Aileen to delete other unused license reference

***Horseshoe Falls***

- Request to hold front line workers up in prayers during worship

***Edge*** – no report

**New Business**

**1. Reopening of Church**

- Public Health guidelines permit us to consider reopening at this time
- Discussion
- **Action**

**Motion to open worship services within the guidelines of Public Health and following the Reopening Plan as approved by the Board, effective March 21, 2021 moved by Jacquie Scatcherd and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.**

- There will be 42 spaces in the sanctuary
- Greeters and ushers need to be identified
- Greeters and ushers need to be oriented to their role
- Ruth Pickard will be asked to seek greeters and ushers
- This decision till be messaged in announcements, Snippets
- Will Linda be asked to be in attendance on Sundays?

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- Discussion
- **Decision**
- Linda will be asked to be in attendance on Sundays, and to take her time back on Thursday afternoons
- M&P will advise Linda of this decision

**2. Annual Meeting**

- March 21 @ 1pm
- Paul to book Zoom meeting
- Darrell agreed to act as chair, Jacquie agreed to act as secretary
- Yvonne and Larry will make these motions

**Agenda items to include**

- Profile Committee
- Capital Projects
- Sharing Ministry Committee
- Invitation to committee membership
- Outreach and Stewardship request to merge

**3. Nominating Committee**

- Several questions about the report as found in the Annual Report
- M&P needs a chair
- Omission of Youth Committee from list
- Anne Walker named rather than Terry Matheson for Communications
- Concern about Spiritual and Stewardship lack of representation at board meetings over past year
- Discussion
- **Decision/action**
- Youth Committee will be placed back on Board as a committee
- Terry Matheson will stand for Communications Committee

**Next Meeting:** April 14, 2021

**Devotions:** Ron Stinson

Paul closed the meeting with prayer

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Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

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Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

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Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary