

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

Present: Sharon Davidson, Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Norma Janzen, Bella Leighton, Rev. Bill MacKinnon, Gail Merritt, Larry Pickard, Darrell Picketts, Jacquie Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Ron Stinson, Anne Walker, Lois White, Lorne White

Absent: Shelley Grisdale

Regrets: Sue Cross

Darrell called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone virtually to our meeting.

Darrell lit the Christ Candle

Jacquie provided the devotion “Beautiful Unity” based on Ephesians 4:1-6 from Our Daily Bread December 2017.

Congregational Health

- No new items
- One question about phone tree – to be addressed in Bill’s report

Motion to approve the Agenda moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Lorne White. Carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of April 8, 2020 meeting was moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Lorne White. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Board meeting minutes – draft minutes are being posted according to discussion on website and replaced upon approval
- Spiritual lead – discussion will be carried forward to next meeting when Sue is able to attend
- Ron is continuing to follow up with the bank about etransfers....staffing at bank in light of COVID has slowed the process

Remarks & Updates

Rev. Paul

- Congregation is transitioning well to online activities
- Use of calendar to navigate activities/worship and meetings seems to be increasing
- Attended the first Pastoral Care Zoom meeting
- Will look to adding more coffee times, periodic meals, and programming to enhance connections as it appears the likely reality is we won’t be back in the sanctuary until 2021
- Have been attending UCC webinars addressing this new normal for ministry and congregations
- Only hearing good things to date about online worship
- Have asked to have the choir engaged in the online services in some way
- Baptism June 7th – sorting out how to conduct live and have it witnessed by the congregation with balance of physical distancing, given UCC stance that baptisms are not private events
- Hoping to train others to facilitate online meetings
- Working with Aileen to permit her to pick up more tasks related to the online service preparation

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Rev. Bill

- Pastoral Care Committee had first online meeting today
- Busy with phone, email and zoom connections/visits
- Phone tree appears to be working well
- Most of those contacted appear receptive to the contact and outreach
- If there are any concerns or anyone missed inadvertently please contact Bill
- There are four individuals who have more complex needs and there is a greater frequency of contacts to those folks
- Paul and Bill did a joint face to face Pastoral Care visit this week
- Good response to the “what does home mean” homework
- Webinar on funerals in this environment

Correspondence - none

Committee Reports:

Youth – no report

Stewardship/Fundraising – no report

Communication

- Focus has been keeping information and updates on line
- Snippets weekly
- We now have a You Tube presence
- A project is underway – we are looking for pictures/videos of congregational life and activities
- Feedback is positive about website

Property

- Wheelchair lift – solution is raising the banister to bring into compliance with Technical Standards
- Wheelchair lift and chair lift can be maintained by Hal Brant and in doing so saves the church \$1,000.00 annually rather than our current arrangement of two maintenance contractors
- Discussion

Motion Hal Brant will be the maintenance contractor for the Wheelchair Lift and the Chair Lift moved by Lorne White and seconded by Norma Janzen. Carried.

- Paul is paying for the current Zoom contract
- Discussion
- Decision – Paul will submit the invoices for the Zoom over the next few months for reimbursement and the board will consider need of this technology to become part of regular budget and planning over the next few months

Spiritual

Worship

- Sue brought forward in her report a request from the Worship Committee that the board authorize a purchase of license for Podcasting of our online services
- Discussion

Motion that the church purchase the One License podcast license at a cost of \$350/annually moved by Jacquie Scatcherd and seconded by Sharon Davidson. Carried.

- Search for organist is on hold until interviews and musical assessment can happen
- Hoping as restrictions are lifted the choir may be able to meet at church and record anthems.

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Faith Formation – no report

Pastoral Care – no report

Finance

- Report provided at May 6th meeting
- Wage subsidy application in process
- Advance from investments to cover expenses moving forward
- Discussion

Motion that the Trustees transfer \$20,000.00 to the General Account in next few weeks moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

Horseshoe Falls Region

- Maureen or Yvonne will ensure representation at each board meeting

Edge Committee

- Jeff Sketchy checking in every three weeks
- Will not use a coaching session while work is suspended

M&P

- Committee met this week
- Paul and Bill asked to leave the meeting for the discussion

In Camera

Out of Camera

Paul returned to the meeting

Motion: Rev. Bill MacKinnon's appointment will be extended until August 31, 2020, which will end his ministry with Sydenham-Heritage United Church. Bill will be invited back at his convenience and when physical distancing restrictions are lifted, to celebrate and thank him for his contribution to our congregation moved by Lois White and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

Darrell will contact Bill following the meeting to share the decision.

Paul closed the meeting with prayer

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

Darrell Picketts will bring devotions at next meeting.

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary