

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

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

Absent: Shelley Grisdale

Sharon called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement offered by Paul

Devotion offered by Yvonne – a reading from “Fresh Bread -Spiritual Nourishment” entitled ‘The Vulnerability of Autumn Leaves’

Congregational Health

Larry brought forward the question “Do we need to do the Land Acknowledgement every Sunday?”

- Discussion -the discussion revealed a divide on the Board about the significance of the Land Acknowledgement during each worship and at the beginning of each meeting and gatherings
- **Action**
 1. Paul was asked to offer education from the pulpit on the Land Acknowledgement
 2. As a congregation education and open dialogue is needed to understand Truth and Reconciliation and why Land Acknowledgments occur in all segments of society
 3. Paul will bring this back to the Worship Committee for further discussion

Motion to accept the agenda with the following additions: Governance; renal agreement; copy of audit moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Terry Matheson. Carried.

Motion to accept the Minutes of September 8, 2021with the following corrections moved by Yvonne Wright and seconded by Larry Pickard. Carried.

Corrections:

- **Under Congregational Health third bullet should read feeling not felling**
- **Under Rentals correct spelling of Markeeta**
- **Under Finance correct spelling to Tammie Crayne**

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Rental Agreement

- Ron, Terry and Larry met October 6th – a draft has been developed
- Seeking input from other churches
- Hope to bring forward to November meeting

2. Financial Review

- Copies of reviews were to have been circulated to the board before this meeting
- The letter Tammie Crayne provided needed to be amended as it did not apply to our situation and required a signature
- Ron and Norma have requested these from Tammie and have not received to date
- Norma will circulate when the amended letter is received

**Board Meeting October 13, 2021
2021-211**

3. Governance

- Will set a special meeting to complete the review of the Governance Model

Minister Report

- Four funerals this past month
- Interfaith Group is beginning to meet and hope the membership expands
- Weekly hospital visits are occurring again
- Wish to focus on providing people with a reason to come to the church during the week
- Will begin a cooking group and a video production group
- Hope others in congregation and on board will consider something similar
- Have initiated 'hybrid' meetings this month (participants both in church building and on line)
- Available to facilitate if board interested in hybrid model for future meetings

Correspondence - none

Community Fun Day October 23, 2021

- A way to bring people together safely both from the congregation and hopefully the surrounding community; rekindle and reconnect with each other
- Eight tables in the parking lot – hotdog table, bake table, what does in person worship look like, Markeeta will have a table to share her program, Trevor will have a table for choir recruitment, plant swap, environmental table (newspapers, water wise garden); music by Sonny Sinclair and Charlie and Jim Linington
- Flyers will be circulated this week in the neighbourhood
- Notices in Snippets, the website
- Rain date October 30th

Committee Reports

Spiritual

- **Pastoral Care** continue to care for our congregation
- **Worship: Music Ministry** poll determined half the choir is ready to return the other half are not ready; Trevor would like to move to in person practice and recording. Singing masks have been ordered
- **Coffee Time** after church: there is a hope this can resume, it will not be able to resume as pre-covid as not all committees are active and not sufficient representation to rotate coffee responsibilities weekly, the Board is asked to consider how this could be facilitated at this time
- Discussion: Larry will seek out volunteers to facilitate coffee after church, can begin this week. Paul will announce from the pulpit
- **Bell Lane Ministry:** Bell Lane has indicated they are ready for in person services to begin again
- This has been an Outreach Ministry of Sydenham-Heritage for several years
- Originally leadership provided by the minister, this shifted a couple of years ago
- Paul is not prepared to attend more often than once a month
- M&P support this position
- Setup and music are covered
- Only three people available at this time to provide the leadership at the services – Paul, Darrell and Evelyn, a fourth person is required to be able to ensure adequate and consistent leadership
- No ready solution identified, volunteers will continue to be sought

Youth – Andrew lost this internet connection and not able to provide a report

**Board Meeting October 13, 2021
2021-212**

Outreach/Social/Stewardship/Fundraising – no report

M&P

- **Truth and Reconciliation Day** is a Federal holiday
- Direction from United Church of Canada head office and Horseshoe Falls was to follow Provincial Guidelines
- **Trevor's contract** has been renewed clarifying work hours and rate of pay

On behalf of the M&P Committee it is moved that Trevor Dalton's Music Director Contract be renewed at 15 hours a week for one year from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 at \$2,000.00 per month or \$24,000.00 per year, moved by BJ Leighton and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

- Norma confirmed she will use new rate to pay Trevor for this pay period

Communication

- Reminders for December newsletter will be forthcoming
- M&P will be the featured committee in the next newsletter

Property

- The Alan Cook Foundation agreed to increase their donation to \$40,000 to assist with the Electric Panel, the Calder Hall floor and the Electric Stage Curtain projects
- Quotes are being gathered for panel and flooring
- Two roof leaks have been identified and will be repaired this week

Trustees -no report

Treasurers Report

- Offerings are down \$1,000 from this time last year
- Total revenues are down \$10,000 from last year – mostly due to the fundraising that occurred in the first months of 2020 that have not occurred this year
- Norma and Cindy continue to work together weekly
- Benevolent Fund has \$4,000 currently
- Sound and Video System outstanding debt has been reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,000

Finance

- Continuing to follow up with financial review

Horseshoe Falls

- Fall meeting this week
- 40 Day Dialogue on racism in the United Church – congregation, Board encouraged to participate, can be found on United Church of Canada website

Edge & Profile Committee

- Work continues on profile hope to have complete by New Year

Sharing Ministry

- Slow small steps
- Have created a shared calendar across congregations

**Board Meeting October 13, 2021
2021-213**

New Business

- Electronic Sign – tabled to next meeting

Next Meeting: November 10th at 7pm will be Hybrid Model

Devotions: Darrell

Closing Prayer: offered by Paul

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary