

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

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

Absent: Andrew Advincula, Shelley Grisdale

Darrell called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement offered by Paul

Devotion offered by Larry – a reading from an article entitled “What Forgiveness Really Is?”

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item “Appeal for Haiti”, moved by Yvonne Wright and seconded by Lorne White. Carried.

Congregational Health

- This has been a difficult time, the congregation has been separated for so long
- We have backed off all our activities – Sunday Suppers, Turkey Dinners, other annual events and fundraisers
- People are feeling isolated, lonely and bored
- The health guidelines of small groups may be a gift and provide new opportunities
- Can we consider how to use our passion/talents to bring small groups together?
- The Windmill Bike outing is one example
- The Friday Fun Night has gathered already back in August – an outside potluck for ten people at one members home and some games inside for those comfortable in that setting
- The events can be advertised from the pulpit, on social media and on the church sign
- **Action**
- The board members are encouraged to consider this opportunity
- Groups could use space in the church following church procedures and provincial guidelines
- The Friday Fun Night is now aware they can utilize church space for their gatherings

Motion to accept the Minutes of July 21, 2021 moved by Ron Stinson and seconded by Norma Janzen. Carried.

Correspondence - none

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Will be spoken to in committee reports

Minister Report

- Time away in August
- Have loaned AC in my office to Grand River Bookstore, it has been clearly stated it is a loan and plan to return it end of the year
- Memorial for Norma MacKinnon – family had hoped gathering numbers would be larger permitting an in person event and followed by luncheon
- Currently 44 people could be in sanctuary and 25 at reception
- Family does not want to invite people to sanctuary and then exclude them from the luncheon

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- The family met with Paul today and they will determine how they wish to move forward...in turn this will be shared with the congregation
- Paul is aware the Board will be discussing Vaccine Passports this evening, his role will be continue to provide a pastoral response to those who choose not to comply with the church's position on this matter
- Paul is visiting Seasons Bell Lane tomorrow to determine how to move forward with in person worship when guidelines of the residence and the province permit

Committee Reports

Youth – no report

Outreach/Social/Stewardship/Fundraising – no report

Communication

- Fall newsletter has been distributed

M&P

- No report, next meeting is tomorrow

Property

Solar Panels

- Three new solar panel invertors were installed in July
- It was discovered that four more need replacing as they are not working – are enroute from Enphase (no cost)
- The installation will cost approximately \$3,000 (which is in line with cost in July)
- A payment from Hartmann in the amount of \$1,500 is expected and will be applied to this cost
- The Board provided approval for the committee to cover the remaining cost of the installation
- 50/52 panels are operational
- The Property Committee has learned that replacement panels were sent in error to the original service provider who is out of business, Enphase has to date refused to replace the undelivered panels. The committee will continue to resolve this issue
- The Board asked that the Property Committee inquire what the cost would be to purchase two new panels if their efforts to resolve the situation are not successful

Other items

- Still seeking quotes for electrical panel
- The Alan Cook Foundation has agreed to the projects – the electrical panel, Calder Hall floor, and the electric stage curtain – and committed \$35,000 depending upon the final quotes

Rentals

- **Whimsical Youth Drama Company** – will not be renting from Sydenham-Heritage, they are currently looking for another location and have committed to removing their items from the church building by October 1st
- **TOPS** -has been using space on Mondays for no charge for a number of years
- **Brant County Singers** -are seeking a new rehearsal space, preference would be Mondays for 2 hours, can pay \$1,000 annually – the group will use the space for four weeks as a trial period for church and group
- **Markita Thompson – music therapist and music teacher** – contacted the church regarding renting space – to teach music lessons – the Fellowship Room and the Kindergarten space

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would be her choice for teaching and her preference for days would be Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings; she is also looking for a space to provide a 6 to 8 week Culture Centered Music Therapy Program that she would make available to those in the congregation who might be interested – cost would be \$10/session

- **Discussion**
- **Action**
- A rental agreement needs to be developed and rental prices need to be set for outside nonprofit and for profit groups – a commercial rate, a charity rate and free from charge
- Need to ensure groups carry general liability insurance
- A committee to complete these tasks is to be comprised of Ron, Larry, Terry, and Paul and bring back draft material for review and endorsement of the Board

Spiritual

- Summer worship services went well
- Pastoral Care working on their profile
- Still seeking a Sunday School Co-ordinator

Trustees

- An additional \$20,000 requested by the Treasurer
- \$702,000 in investment fund

Motion to approve the Trustees transferring \$20,000 to General Account if requested by treasurer moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

Finance

- Offering tracking to this time last year
- Deficit is equal to this time last year
- Financial review/report for 2019 and 2020 completed by Tammy Crane, needs signature which has been requested
- The report was positive “opinion that finances are accounted for properly” while clearly stating it is not an audit
- **Action**
- Copies will be circulated to the Board for review prior to next meeting
- Thank you letter will be sent by Jacquie on behalf of the Board

Horseshoe Falls

- September 30th Orange Shirt Day

Edge

- Profile work continues

Faith Profile

- Still awaiting some profiles

Sharing Ministry – no report

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Reopening Committee

- Board needs to consider position with respect to vaccinations and access to the church building
- Discussion
- **Decision and action**

Effective September 13, 2021 admission to the church building is restricted to those who are fully vaccinated for COVID 19 motion moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by Terry Matheson. Carried.

This decision will be announced from the pulpit on Sunday, September 12th.

The message will be included on website and all communications.

The board is aware that all members of the congregation will be impacted by this decision and that reactions will be varied.

Pastoral care, online worship, support and outreach remain available to those who are not fully vaccinated. The board feels this is the best decision at this time to ensure the health and safety of all who utilize this building.

Haiti Appeal

- Message will be placed on website – article was placed in Snippets last week
- Can contribute through regular givings
- Will share video/messages from Horseshoe Falls

Next Meeting: October 13th at 7pm
Darrell will be away

Devotions: Yvonne

Paul closed the meeting with prayer

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary