

Minutes of the Official Board of Sydenham Heritage United Church

Wednesday March 9, 2022

Present; Darrell Picketts, Larry Pickard, Paul Shepherd, Norma Janzen, Verna Timpener, Lorne White, Terry Matheson, Sharon Davidson, Ron Stinson, Yvonne Wright, Andrew Advincula

Darrell brought the meeting to order

Land Acknowledgement offered by Paul

Devotion offered by Larry Pickard . A reading entitled “You Are Not Alone”

Congregational Health

- Darrell shared with the board “ Our Church as the Body of Christ” which originated from General Council via email this month
- Would like to utilize it at the AGM
- Suggestions for inclusion specific to SHUC for reflection on past two years
- Christmas Breakfast, kept church going, benevolent program, work of the Pastoral Committee, care and connectedness we have maintained, the work so many people have continued to do, our many communication platforms
- If there are other items please forward to Darrell before Sunday for inclusion

Motion to accept the agenda moved by Lorne White, seconded by Ron Stinson, carried.

Motion to accept the Minutes of February 9, 2022 moved by Verna Timpener, seconded by Larry Pickard, carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Nominating committee comprised of Maureen Gilmore, Cynthia Advincula and Sonny Sinclair completed their work and submitted a report.
 - All current Board Members have agreed to remain in their positions with the exception of Darrell who has decided to step down from his position of Co-Chair.
 - Maureen Gilmore will step into the Co-Chair role vacancy.
 - Cindy Aniol and Norma Janzen will step into Co-treasurers role
 - Yvonne, Maureen and Paul will be Regional Reps
 - Paul noted the report was not dated and asked secretary to date the letter
 - Secretary declined to alter a Committee report and suggested that minutes of February and March Board Meetings and the 2022 AGM will offer context of the report if required
2. AGM Planning
 - Agenda prepared with input from Board
 - Will be circulated by email, placed on website and available in hard copy
 - AGM will be hybrid
 - Discussion about how to ensure those on Zoom and phone can participate actively
 - Decision : Paul will monitor the online and phone participants throughout the meeting

Ministers Report

- good conversation happening about on-line and in person experience of Worship
- singing, masking and vaccines – decisions need to be made in light of province dropping COVID restrictions
- have initiated a contact with the United Property Corporation who can evaluate church property and suggest alternative uses and vision how else to utilize building
- have initiated a podcast
- Immigration Partnership has created ‘window clings’ that say ‘proud member of Immigration partnership’
- What could we do with newcomers? Paul suggests the congregation has the skill set to assist newcomers to navigate the health care system
- Paul wonders if this is his project or the congregations project
- Drumming Circle has attracted four people not connected to the church
- Grand River Council on Aging is looking for Board Members
- Paul is excited to be part of an Environmental Climate Justice Event being developed by the Region
- Appreciate attendance of congregation members at recent funerals, family find it meaningful
- Paul asked for training on LIFT and to have doorbell at Dundas Street repaired

Correspondence – none

Committee Reports

Youth

- No responses to survey
- VBS being considered
- Norma reminded the Board that \$514.00 is available for VBS from previous years

Outreach & Stewardship

- Home Care Hub discussions continue
- Legacy Workshop being held April 23rd. Jessica Smith a Regional Representative is assisting with the planning
- Many thanks to the Pickards for their feature article ‘Why I Give’ in recent newsletter

Communication

- Next newsletter June

M&P

Safety concern for those changing sign outside in ice and snow

Concern about the lack of accessibility into the building.

Property

- Moving along with electronic sign project with four quotes received
- Zip Signs \$37,459.50
- Teksign \$40,787,38
- NuMedia \$31,188.00
- Brooks Signs \$ 29,237.62
- Committee is recommending Brooks Signs – they have done satisfactory work for us in the past and are local,
- Allan Cook Foundation has committed \$30,000.00 to the project without the expectation the church contribute in recognition of the challenges of the past two years
- Brooks Signs is working with John Uttley (City Councillor) and City of Brantford to ensure the sign is in keeping with bylaws

Motion that Brooks Signs be contracted with to install an electronic sign for the cost of \$29,237.62 moved by Larry Pickard, seconded by Ron Stinson, carried.

- Ceiling plaster in one section of sanctuary has cracked and fallen
- A plasterer will come in to examine the plaster and make recommendation of how to repair

Spiritual

- PIE day video will challenge congregations to consider how to be more inclusive
- Conversation regarding content of services to be mindful of Prayers of the People, Passing the Peace, recognizing birthdays and anniversaries
- Clarified there was no intent by Worship Committee to remove any aspect of service only to enhance ,vary content

Trustees

- The approval to utilize \$20,000.00 from September 2021 was acted on by treasurer in February
- **MOTION that the board approve another \$20,000.00 be advanced to the Operating Budget as needed, moved by Lorne White, seconded by Ron Stinson, carried.**
- All Trustees will remain in positions for next year
- Exploring how to change the Title on the church. The 1891 deed names 'Sydenham Congregation of the Methodist Church'
- The parking lot which was purchased in 1978 is in name of Sydenham United Church'

Finance

- The 2021 review was completed by Tammie Crayne in February
- The report she submitted is clearer and acceptable to the committee
- The January deficit was \$8,867.00

Horseshoe Falls

- Profile Report will be uploaded to website once approved by congregation at AGM
- financial and administrative details will be uploaded by Treasurer and Church Secretary

Edge

- Interested in hearing response to Paul's outreach to United Property Commission and hope to be involved in the discussion
- Profile Report will be presented at AGM

Sharing Ministries

- On hold

Motion to accept all reports moved by Ron Stinson, seconded by Verna Timpener, carried.

New Business

1. COVID Restrictions

- In light of government lifting restrictions we need to consider masks, vaccines, singing, choir, sign in at doors, registration for worship
- Discussion
- Decisions articulated in following motions
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Motion to remove the requirement to pre-register for Worship effective immediately, moved by Norma Janzen, seconded by Yvonne Wright, carried.

Motion to remove requirement to sign in upon attendance in church building as no longer contact tracing, moved by Sharon Davidson, seconded by Terry Matheson, carried.

Motion to remove the requirement of proof of vaccination to enter the building, effective immediately, moved by Terry Matheson, seconded by Yvonne Wright, carried

- Board is not prepared to make a decision on masks at this time. **The current mask requirement remains the same at this time.**

2. Home Care Hub

- Paul and Verna met with coordinator
- They are looking for space to host 15 people 3 or 5 days a week 9-4
- Preference is Fellowship Room
- This is a business not a charity
- They offer activities for seniors
- They would be interested in UCW providing some meals (that they will pay for) and will provide meals themselves other days by bringing them in
- This will be a steady source of income for SHUC
- UCW would view this as a fundraiser
- This is the type of community engagement /program to move SHUC forward

Discussion

Motion that the Board agrees to rent the Fellowship Room Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm to Home Care Hub at a rental fee to be determined by the Rental Committee, moved by Verna Timpener, seconded by Sharon Davidson, carried.

Cleaning needs to be determined and included in rental agreement.

Rental fee to be determined by Rental Committee

Paul will advise Home Care Hub of Board decision

3. Addendum to Congregational Health

- Sharon shared a moment from a prior Sunday where she encountered someone in the parking lot considering coming into the building
- The encounter brought the need to ensure we all make anyone who comes into the building feel as welcome as possible
- We need to be as open and available in the moment as possible

Next Meeting

April 20th, 2022

Devotions Terry Matheson

Closing Prayer offered by Paul