

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

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

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 Annual General Meeting
- Suggestions for inclusion specific to Sydenham-Heritage United Church for reflection on past two years
- Christmas Breakfast, kept church going, benevolent program, work of the Pastoral Care 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 and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

Motion to accept the Minutes of February 9, 2022 moved by Verna Timpener and 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-treasurer roles
 - Yvonne, Maureen and Paul will be Regional Representatives
 - 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 Annual General Meeting will offer context of the report if required
2. Annual General Meeting
 - Agenda prepared with input from the Board
 - Will be circulated by email, placed on website and available in hard copy
 - Annual General Meeting 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

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Minister Report

- Good conversation happening about online 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 the Wheelchair Lift and to have the doorbell at Dundas Street repaired

Correspondence - none

Committee Reports

Youth

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

Outreach/Stewardship

- Homecare 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 is June

M&P

- Safety concern for those changing sign outside in ice and snow
- Concern about 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

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- Committee is recommending Brooks Signs – they have done satisfactory work for us in the past and are local
- Alan 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 Utley (City Councilor) 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 and seconded by Ron Stinson. Carried.

- Ceiling plaster in one section of the 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 and 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 the congregation at Annual General Meeting
- 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 Annual General Meeting

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Shared Ministries

- On hold

Motion to accept all reports moved by Ron Stinson and 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

Motion to remove the requirement to pre-register for Worship effective immediately moved by Norma Janzen and 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 and seconded by Terry Matheson. Carried.

Motion to remove the requirement of proof of vaccination to enter the building effective immediately moved by Terry Matheson and 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) Homecare Hub

- Paul and Verna met with coordinator
- They are looking for space to host 15 people 3 or 5 days a week 9am-4pm
- Preference is the 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 Sydenham-Heritage United Church
- UCW would view this as a fundraiser
- This is the type of community engagement/program to move Sydenham-Heritage forward
- **Discussion**

Motion that the Board agrees to rent the Fellowship Room Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm to Homecare Hub at a rental fee to be determined by the Rental Committee moved by Verna Timpener and 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 Homecare Hub of Board decision

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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 to feel as welcome as possible
- We need to be as open and available in the moment as possible

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

Devotion: Terry Matheson

Paul closed the meeting with prayer

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Darrell Picketts, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary