

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

Present: Sharon Davidson, Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Norma Janzen, BJ Leighton, Terry Matheson, Larry Pickard, Jacquie Scatcherd, Rev. Paul Shepherd, Verna Timpener, Lorne White, Yvonne Wright

Absent: Andrew Advincula

Maureen called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement offered Paul

Devotion offered by Sharon, reading and poem “The Golden Sun” authored by a Canadian /British poet PK Page

Congregational Health

- No items

Motion to accept the agenda moved by Verna Timpener and seconded by Lorne White. Carried with the following addition

1. Building security

Motion to accept the minutes of October 12, 2022 moved by Norma Janzen and seconded by BJ Leighton. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1) Cleaning Service/Custodian Position

- BJ consulted with Nicole Catro – it is difficult when a member of the congregation is custodian as they often go above and beyond job description which makes replacing them challenging
- She suggested this is a task for Property rather than M&P
- Ron, Lois and Larry have volunteered to take on the task of finding a replacement person/service when Linda retires
- Larry will write up an invitation for interested persons to be placed in the bulletin
- Larry and Ron will meet with Linda to review and update the job description
- Paul has received five expressions of interest which he will forward to the hiring committee
- Interviews will occur, police checks will be required
- We will need to articulate/prioritize in updated job description the tasks we need a new person/service to complete and set aside other tasks not deemed as necessary – we will have to give up some things that Linda has been quietly and competently doing on our behalf
- We need to respect Linda’s new status as a retired person within our congregation and not request she do tasks that will no longer be her responsibility

2) Bill MacKinnon’s celebration needs to be postponed

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New Business – Church Security

- Earlier this week a rental group and congregational members were using the church. After the rental group left, an individual known to Paul but without a specific purpose or an appointment came downstairs, he had accessed the building via a propped door earlier. The individual was seeking assistance and when Paul couldn't be located, Rev. Myhre engaged with the individual and arranged accommodation for him
- Previously it has been identified that rental groups have wandered through the building
- Discussion
- This issue will be redirected to the Rental Committee
- Need to place expectation about not propping doors, checking areas before leaving in rental agreements, remaining in rented space only
- Consider if an individual should be in building when renters are in building
- With Linda's retirement pending, we need to consider how to manage securing the building after worship, this is a task she has been faithfully attending to for a long time

Ministerial Report

1. Rita Mustard being received into membership on November 13th
2. Norm Greenfield and Paul have been accepted as members of the Brant Homeless Committee for two year terms
3. Looking forward to Turkey Dinner, first SHUC meal
4. Video group meeting this week
5. Paul reports not having any response from Seasons/Bell Lane to his messages
 - There has been interest in providing Advent Services to Bell Lane/Seasons from congregants
 - Paul is interested in providing a Carols and Lessons Service followed by tea prior to Christmas at Seasons/Bell Lane
6. Sharing Group/United Church Working Together Group – Paul reported he is attending meetings with Darrell Picketts
 - There is suggestion of two shared services – January 29 and April 30, in addition common Facebook Page for posting events
 - The shared services was brought to Worship Committee this week and will be spoken to in the Spiritual update
 - Sharon expressed concern that she was not advised of meetings, particularly given discussion of Shared Services at last Board Meeting and her involvement in this initiative over the past 18 months
 - Paul stated he shared the direction of the Board as offered at last meeting at the Sharing Group Meeting, that the congregation wished to focus on reactivating SHUC; he suggested the confusion was related to the changing name of the group
 - Sharon requested that these meetings be placed on the calendar
7. Christmas Day Service
 - Paul expects Christmas Eve will be large service
 - Has raised possibility of joint service on Christmas Day in Victoria Park with other United Churches, timing to be determined in consultation with community group that shares food each Sunday morning in the park, Paul wants the congregation to be open to sharing and expressing faith in different ways
 - St. Andrew's and Harmony are interested in participating, each minister is bringing this suggestion back for approval/endorsement by congregation/board

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- Anyone wanting to attend a more traditional service will be offered listing of local services
 - To be addressed in Spiritual report
8. Concern raised by Yvonne with consent of congregant member
- Concerned about the contact with congregants who are not attending worship or involved in church activities
 - Paul stated he does not target that group ‘I don’t know who those people are’
 - Yvonne shared a member has been supporting the church financially over the past two years, she has been attending services online, no contact from church, not on Pastoral Care Committee list and not necessarily a person who would be on that list, was contacted recently by someone who asked if she wanted her name removed from the church membership roll
 - Concern expressed that there are people potentially ‘falling through the cracks’ those not attending worship in person and not being involved with Pastoral Care or committees where they would be visible
 - This concern has occurred previously at Worship and Profile Committee, concern that there may be congregants who may not have had contact
 - Discussion
 - Outcome/Action
 - Seems the telephone conversation about membership was intended to be to participate in the photo directory and was not handled well, Verna will follow up with this individual directly to clarify message and offer apology for messaging on behalf of the Outreach phone committee
 - Pastoral Care will add this woman to Telephone Tree

Correspondence - none

Strategic Planning

- Affirmation
- We need to provide affirmations if we wish to reactivate the congregation
- Sharon offered affirmation for Remembrance Day Service – Paul’s message, Trevor and choir’s music, and Bob’s solo
- In a leadership role Board needs to model affirmation
- Affirmations need to be practiced to become healthy habits
- Our church is not always welcoming, Sharon shared a conversation she was part of recently, a small group of congregants were discussing how nice it is to see a couple new people at worship, a comment made about one new attendee by a SHUC member was ‘she is just looking for freebies’ – while not said in front of new attendee the remark was completely inappropriate, Sharon spoke to the group about the value of each person
- If we don’t affirm people and genuinely welcome them we should not be calling ourselves a Christian community
- This has occurred at Board Meetings as well when criticism was made about choir and music director – remarks like this are hurtful
- THINK – is a good way to filter our words
- Is what I am about to say
 - True
 - Helpful

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Inspiring
Necessary
Kind

- Paul shared his impression people are not excited to be together, that congregants don't like each other
- Sharon concluded the discussion by urging Board Members to review the notes from the June Retreat to refocus on need for affirmation
- We have no chance of growing the congregation without the positive energy that comes from affirmations, appreciating our individual gifts

New Business

Updating Membership List

- Governance Model directs to have a Membership Committee
- Treasurer to screen list for 'silent givers'
- Conversations need to be sensitive
- Need to plan for this review

Options Committee

- Purpose of the committee is to explore options for future direction of our church, continuing the work initiated by the Edge Committee
- Will have a limited time line
- One meeting to date, next meeting November 14th
- Membership – Larry Pickard, Larry Timpener, Sharon Davidson, BJ Leighton, Tom Hunt, Darrell Picketts, Paul Shepherd, Jacquie Scatcherd
- There needs to be Board discussion before any recommendations are brought to the congregation

Motion that the Options Committee be an ad hoc committee of the Board moved by Sharon Davidson and seconded by Norma Janzen. Carried.

Committee Reports

Outreach

- Photo directory in progress
- 100 tickets sold for turkey dinner – will have time to welcome guests back and share what is happening at SHUC
- Spring fundraising on next agenda

Communication

- Nov 20th is deadline for submissions for winter newsletter

Spiritual

- 1) Bringing back hymn sing every other week before worship
- 2) Next communion November 20th
- 3) Christmas Day service – service of scripture, music, word and prayer in Victoria Park with other interested United Churches, for those who wish to attend a traditional Christmas Day service a list of options will be placed in the bulletin

Motion to conduct our Christmas Day Service as carols and spoken word in Victoria Park with the possibility of providing food to those in need with the hope of other congregations joining and participating moved by Darrell Picketts and seconded by Jacquie Scatcherd. Carried.

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This motion from the Worship Committee accepted by the Board

- 4) United Church Sharing Group/Working Together Group
- Suggestion to participate in shared services on January 29th and April 30th, 2023 brought forward by Paul to the Worship Committee
 - Would involve Fairview, St. Andrew's, Harmony and SHUC
 - Criteria is this would happen in months with five Sundays only
 - Separate process from summer services
 - Would involve all clergy and choirs
 - Locations would be in an accessible space
 - Discussion

Motion that we explore the opportunity to come together with the Working Together Group (United Church Sharing Group) to link services on January 29th and April 30th, 2023 moved by Trevor Dalton and seconded by Darrell Picketts. Carried.

Board will accept this motion from the Worship Committee

No vote

Will be brought back to December meeting for an update

- 5) Children's Time in Service
- Was discussed in worship meeting as follow up to last Board Meeting
 - Paul committed to think about the suggestion to incorporate a children's time into weekly worship
 - Sharon shared a Broadview Article on the place of Children's Time in worship and that it is important to acknowledge children present in church and online
 - Paul stated he would acknowledge the children when they leave to go to Sunday School, he stated he was taught in seminary not to centre the children out
 - Sharon continuing to coordinate having some Sunday School lessons ready should there be children in attendance
 - No resolution to this repeated request to have Children's time in worship

Treasurer

1. Requested confirmation of approval for \$1,500.00 invoice from Edge Committee
Discussion – did we receive what was contracted for with Edge? Should we be asking for remaining time/consultation be completed? Sharon to follow up
Recall of board if this expenditure was approved, Norma will check back in minutes and noted to confirm
2. Donation received from Steven Smith and Dorothy Woltz foundation of \$2,500
Do we want to apply it to 'Future Projects fund?' Will bring back to December meeting for decision on where to direct the donation

Next Meeting: December 14th, 2022

Devotion: Terry

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Closing Prayer offered by Paul

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Co-Chairperson

Jacquie Scatcherd, Secretary