

**MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD
OF SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH
On Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

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

Regrets: Jacquie Scatcherd,

Absent: Andrew Advincula

Maureen called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Land Acknowledgement given by Rev. Paul

Behavioural Covenant shared by Maureen

Devotions by Terry Matheson was a Lenten reading from “Longing for Home” reflection entitled: Shout it Out, by Donna Sinclair

Congregational Health

- Discussion around the issue of ‘those who always do’, and how do we make room to include everyone who would like to assist in events and fundraising. We need to make an effort to invite others to share in event planning and organizing. Beef dinner coming up next month would be a good place to start – meeting for anyone interested in working on this will be announced from the pulpit by Sharon
- News shared with the members that Dorothy Wagner is in palliative care at Brantford General Hospital and also Megan Cousins in palliative care at home. Barb Kernaghan is still recovering from surgery at Willett

Motion to accept the agenda moved by Yvonne Wright and seconded by Verna Timpener. Carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of January 18, 2023 moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by B.J. Leighton. Carried.

Correspondence - none

Business Arising from the Minutes

Restricted Funds from sale of Heritage United Church and Sydenham United Church Manse was once again discussed and determined that we have some documentation, but nothing conclusive to prove any of those funds could not be considered restricted.

Lorne asked for clarification from Yvonne on the need for an up-to-date deed when there were no immediate plans to re-mortgage or sell the church building. Legal advice might be required to resolve this.

‘Counters’ required to count offering contributions, but Board advised Finance Committee should not be the counters as this is a conflict of interest. Finance will oversee the volunteers and a request for volunteers made from the pulpit and in the announcements. We may need to approach people for this.

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Ministerial Report

- Next United Churches' shared service will be April 30th with St. Andrew's United Church as host
- There is a request from the Brantford Mosque for an interfaith vigil on Friday, February 10th in Harmony Square (downtown) at 7:00pm for Turkey and Syria. Donations can be made on-line through United Church of Canada website – links will be posted in Snippets.
- Ash Wednesday service will be held at Fairview United Church at 7:00pm

Strategic Planning

Sharon shared plans for a poster showing a picture of the artwork she made from our discussions at the Board Retreat showing how SHUC is building a culture of sustainability through Affirmation, Engagement, Growth, Relevancy and Fiscal Responsibility. Terry will put the verbiage and picture together in a poster to be shared in and outside the church in the hope of sharing 'what is our identity'.

New Business: Discussion around planning for Annual General Meeting, Sunday, February 19th, points covered were as follows:

- Norma advised financials were given to Aileen with changes / \$3,030 added to Paul's salary due to regional COLA increases / Future Projects Fund shows a balance of \$2,500 which is the donation from Stephen Smith & Dorothy Woltz Foundation and will be used for ceiling repairs / Shortfall on electrical work (\$1,455.00 was transferred to Property budget) – changes meant Deficit is now \$87,450.00
- The timeline for the Annual Meeting will be lunch directly after the service in Calder Hall and then returning to the Sanctuary for the meeting to allow use of screens for videos.
- Agenda change was proposed to allow time for Sharon to speak on committee recruitment and an explanation of the Strategic planning poster being compiled by Terry
- Discussion around focusing on increased giving and fundraising, deficit issues and sustainability, while finding new ways to utilize our church building to its full potential. What do we have to offer the community? Rental spaces?
- We need to be highlighting growth and development, past, present and future and hold up the Alan Cook Foundation
- Capital costs and grant programs were discussed and agreed they should be mentioned
- We need to stress how important attendance is for this meeting

Committee Reports

Spiritual

- Yvonne lifted up the work of Pastoral Care, they are so good at keeping our shut-ins connected to the church family.
- Trevor shared with Worship Committee that repairs are needed on the grand piano. There is a crack in one of the legs and the 'hammers' are in need of replacing at a cost of \$5,000.
- Choir has volunteered fundraising efforts and Worship recommends to the Board to have the repairs/replacement done to return the piano to its former glory.
- Meeting with Seasons Bell Lane (Megan) held to determine what their needs for ministry might look like. They are investigating the possibility of a Sunday afternoon service at Bell Lane

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Youth – no report

Stewardship

- Pancake supper is planned for Shrove Tuesday (February 21st), seatings to start at 5:00pm at a cost of \$8 per person to be paid at the door.
- Also investigating the possibility of a group trip to Stratford Festival Theatre to see a play.
- Church Directory discussions held around changes to listings. Some names were removed and after some discussion a motion was made by Sharon.

Moved to have the names that were omitted from the church directory be added back in before sending it to print. Moved by Sharon Davidson and seconded by Yvonne Wright. Carried.

M&P – B.J. Leighton

- Office Administrator, Aileen Johnston is going to be off for surgery starting February 23rd.
- Unsure how long recovery will be but could be as long as 6-8 weeks.
- BJ advised that SHUC would be paying Aileen for the first 2 weeks and then she would apply for benefits through EI
- Volunteers will be asked to answer phone and emails, but there was concern that there should be an ‘office presence’ and M&P will be asking Shelley Grisdale if she might be interested in filling in the office for 2-3 mornings a week while Aileen is away, and given a small honorarium.
- Paul will look after compiling the powerpoint presentation and it was suggested for at least 2-3 weeks that printed bulletins could be omitted with an explanation to the congregation

Finance – no report

Treasurers Monthly Report

- Norma covered all the budget changes in discussions around the Annual General Meeting plans

Trustees – Lorne White

- Discussion continued about deed changes. Yvonne shared a church in Stoney Creek was in the same situation and will contact them to get their lawyer’s contact information
- Lorne shared that Treasurer still has not asked for the transfer of the approved \$20,000

Communication – Terry Matheson

- Reminded members that contributions for the printed newsletter were due for February 20th
- Snippets and Facebook could be used much more for event advertising and volunteer help requests

Property – Larry Pickard

- Highlighted the repairs needed for the piano and acknowledged the choir’s offer of fundraising
- Financial request will be put in Snippets to let the congregation know the repairs are required.
- Alan Cook Foundation has approved \$20,000 towards SHUC projects

Moved by Larry Pickard and seconded by B.J. Leighton that Property begin the ceiling repairs and brick pointing as costs have all been covered by The Alan Cook Foundation. Carried.

Next Meeting: March 8th at 7pm

Devotion: Verna

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Maureen adjourned the meeting at 945pm

Closing Prayer offered by Paul

Sharon Davidson, Co-Chairperson

Maureen Hall-Gilmore, Co-Chairperson

Terry Matheson, Acting Secretary