

Council Meeting Minutes January 17th 2022

Present: Doreen Turner, Ken French, Rosemary Johnston, Rev Meg Jordan, Doug and Sheila Jackson, Bob Bruer, Jan Drinkill, Cheryl McGinnis, Fern Bianconi, Brenda Krohn, Marianne Tomlinson, Rick Muller, Beth Truax, Ross Langman, Allan Wright, Liz McKnight, Debbie Laycock, Sandy Coe, Pam Erskine

1) Welcome: Beth Truax

2) Opening Devotion: Jan

3) Approval of Agenda

a) Additions/Changes/Deletions

Moved by Sandy Seconded Debbie "That the Agenda be approved as circulated or changed" Carried.

4) Approval of the November 8th 2021, Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Liz Seconded by Allan "that the Minutes of the November 8th 2021 Council Meeting be approved as circulated or corrected" Carried

Approval of the December 16th 2021, Emergency Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Doreen Seconded by Cheryl "that the minutes of December 16th 2021 Council Meeting be approved as circulated or corrected" Carried

Approval of the December 30th 2021, Emergency Council Meeting Minutes

Moved by Rick Seconded by Marianne "that the minutes of December 30th 2021 Council Meeting be approved as circulated or corrected". Carried

5) Rev Meg's Report –

Minister's Report to Council January 17, 2022

There have been ten Sundays since November 8th including the special days of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and the Season after Epiphany as well as two Christmas Eve services on Friday Dec 24th. Two highlights for me were a service of Lessons and Carols with full socially distanced choir participation and a children's service full of delightful energy and music. May thanks to Melanie Giffen and Kari VanLaarhoven for their creative leadership. Sadly all my own family's Christmas plans had to be cancelled due to the emergence of Omicron which happily meant that my husband, Jamie was free to drive down with me to Elmvale and be the scripture reader of Luke's story of the birth of Jesus during our two Christmas Eve services.

Preparations for the Bethlehem Walk on Nov 27 from 2p.m. to 5 p.m. continued to evolve throughout November due to concern for COVID Safety. The Worship and Outreach Team leaders (in particular Cheryl McGinnins, Bob Bruer, Krista Haidner, Fern Bianconi and Pam Erskine) who led the planning and preparations for this new event—held fast to their vision despite the doubts and often obstructive concerns of many, including me. We were all ready to cancel if required by public health, but in the meantime the team worked hard to organize an event that was faithful to public health guidelines while giving our community a boost to their Christmas spirit. My particular joy was the presence of sheep from Mark and Julie Parnell's farm. In the end the event was considerably different from what was originally envisioned—but what did happen for 3 hours was very safe and very special. There was music everywhere. We welcomed many guests we had never met before including the wonderful young family with their new baby living in our former manse. We felt good enough about it all that we have decided to do it again next year—hopefully with less restrictions. In the meantime, I as your minister, underwent some significant changes to my theology and future practical approaches to Advent planning. More to come on that.

Discussions are ongoing about St. John's ministry with children and youth. While we have been online, children have been growing in leaps and bounds and several of our youth have become university students. The worship team is preparing for the time when children and their parents will be able to join us again. In the meantime we are beginning to adapt to our new circumstances and I will focus on planning for a more intergenerational congregation. I am in touch with parents and other SS teachers about our future ministry with children.

Zoom meetings are the way that a lot of communication is happening at St. John's these days. I continue to meet with Spirit Café participants through zoom which makes it possible for house-bound people like Don Kennedy and Carrie Nesbitt to participate. Regarding wider church and community connections I am involved on a monthly basis with the North Simcoe Rural Church Cluster. I continue to work with the Simcoe County Honduran Rights Monitor. Also, I continue to follow the efforts of the water defenders in Simcoe County and the developments in Tiny Township. I am in discussions with our Community Church neighbours about offering a joint CBT workshop series beginning in April/May.

My monthly spiritual direction sessions with Wendy Passmore are proceeding well as I deal with my own feelings about all that has happened over the last two years—especially the losses we have experienced in our faith community. I recommend talk therapy if you're feeling overwhelmed. I am also regularly in touch with my M&P representative Sheila Jackson.

Finally, I have to say I am disappointed with the response to the Fundscrip fundraising program being organized through the Outreach Team members Pam and Fern. What do we need to do to make this a success? I doesn't cost us anything and if every member participated regularly simply through monthly purchases such as groceries and gasoline—we could be raising several thousand dollars for our general fund every year.

6) Business Arising

a) Re-opening of the church/Covid Update

Too many outbreaks at this point. Will review starting in person services at the end of January.

b) Team Members update

c) Emergency Procedures Plan

Meeting place changed to the Funeral Home parking lot. Designated volunteers will be assigned at next meeting.

7) Team Group Reports:

8) Accessibility Team: No report

9) Board of Trustees: No report

10) Property and Finance: Pricing out windows \$18k+. Amy/nursery school may be able to look at a grant for the Rainbow room.

Budget: Ross presented the budget. After a short discussion a motion was made by Allan and seconded by Liz **“That the budget be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting”**. Passed unanimously.

11) Education

Sunday School.

I have resigned as a Sunday school teacher.

I have agreed to continue representing Sunday school at council meetings unless someone else would like the position.

Debbie Langman completed the Sunday school report and Ross added the financial end for the annual report.

Future Sunday school plans are undecided at the moment.

That's it unless Krista Belrose or Rev Meg have something more to add.

Debbie Laycock

Krista Belrose continues to send out emails each week.

Rev Meg looking at making services more intergenerational.

12) Memorial

Memorial fund stands at \$34,166.47 and the organ fund \$3,653.92.

13) Men's Fellowship Group No report

14) Ministry and Personnel No report

15) Mission and Service Made \$3325 in 2021

16) Outreach/Publicity: Will be donating \$500+ from Fundscrip to the general account.

17) Soul Sisters:

Christmas baskets were assembled for residents of Sara Vista and our church members who we visit. They enjoyed homemade cookies and other treats. With lock downs in place in facilities the monthly visiting team will be back at phone calling.

18) Worship

Rev Meg will be starting Confirmation classes. Will be using resource "Seeking Aliveness".

Preparing for Lent and Easter. Resource "Full to the Brim"?

Hosting Maundy Thursday meeting and talking to the Presbyterian church about a joint Sunrise service.

Christmas conversation: Walk to Bethlehem will be on November 26th from 2pm till 5pm. On Christmas Eve there will be 2 services again at 4pm and 7pm.

Planning Equinox meditation events for Spring. Quiet reflections on Sunday night.

Worshipping Word will continue on the 1st Sunday monthly. Calendar now included.

The new TV's and computer in the sanctuary are greatly appreciated. For those watching from home, they can activate close captioning and the words for hymns, prayers etc are being shown in the bottom left corner of the screen. We do need to update the sound system in the sanctuary.

Also a new sign in front of the church is needed.

19) *New Business: Spring Supper*

Will be the same idea as the in Fall. Menu to be decided at a later date. Will be held April 30th.

20) *Devotions for next meeting:* Allan

21) *Next Meeting Date:* February 14th 2022

22) *Closing Prayer* Rev Meg