

**Mark St. United Church
COUNCIL MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 25, 2015
Friendship Hall
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Recorded by: Coralee Vass

Chair: Pat Cole

Council Members: Maggie Allin, Murray Batten, Sylvia Cashmore, Pat Cole, Eilert Frerichs, Carolyn Holmes, Rosemary Hughes, Mitchell Parker, Ian Sine, Coralee Vass, Peter Mitchell, Christine Baayen, Gail Corbett, Sarah Gilmore, Karrie Whitaker, Jewell Bennett (UCW Representative)

Regrets: Mitchell Parker, Karrie Whitaker, Sarah Dorsett, Gail Corbett, Peter Mitchell

Motion: Peter Ferguson, Chair of Transition Committee be made a corresponding member to present information regarding the Transition Committee. Moved: Maggie Allin. Second: Christine Baayen. Approved by all.

- 1) Opening Devotions Eilert Frerichs 10 min
 - 2) Changes to the Agenda – add 5b) Joint Search Committee.
 - 3) Adoption of the Agenda – approved as amended Murray Batten, Seconded by Rosemary Hughes. Approved by all.
- 4) Approval of Minutes of meeting held October 28, 2015. Moved to accept: Christine Baayen. Second: Murray Batten. Approved by all.

Clarification of UCW report – David Kennedy is Bereavement Counsellor at Hospice. Moved to accept as corrected: Christine Baayen. Second – Carolyn Holmes. Approved by all.

5) Open Issues

- a) Transition Team Report Peter Ferguson, Chair of Transition Team – 45 min
Peter presented Joint Needs Assessment Report.

Motion: To accept the amended Joint Needs Assessment Report and forward it to the congregation for its approval at the meeting of November 29, 2015.

Moved: Murray Batten.
Seconded: Christine Baayen.

Ian expressed concern about having available members to take on roles in these new committees. Need to have commitment from congregation. Eilert discussed about sharing ministries with other United Churches in city. All in favour. No – Nays. Approved.

Motion: Recommended that Mark Street United Church request Shining Waters Presbytery declare a vacancy in this Pastoral Charge, for a full time Ordained Minister who substantially possesses the skills and attributes within this Report, and authorize the formation of a Joint Search Committee.

Motion: Murray Batten
Second: Christine Baayen. All in Favour. No-Nays. Approved.

b) Joint Search Committee

Bev Sumbler will chair Congregation Meeting on Sunday November 29th, 2015. Linda Hodgins in support. Agenda will be presented. Joint Search team will have 2 representatives from Presbytery, remainder of people from congregation. Joint Search members will go through training process.

- c) Finance Report: Carolyn Holmes – (5 min)
- d) Policies Eilert/Pat Cole (5 min)
 - i) Council Mandate – developed after Council Retreat. Ian brought to Council’s attention that Council Minutes on website are not current. Pat will follow-up with Heather. Coralee will ensure that Heather has most current minutes (i.e. October/November, 2015). Motion that Council Mandate be approved for 3 years and then re-evaluated. Moved: Christine Baayen. Second: Carolyn Holmes. Approved by all.
 - ii) Responsibilities of the Governing Body – taken from the United Church Manual.

6) Reports

- a) Finance Report Carolyn Holmes
- b) Presbytery Report Murray Batten
- c) Property Report (nothing to report) Melissa Hope
- d) UCW Report Gail Corbett/
- e) Stewardship Report Don McLaren
- f) Edge Report Tim Holland
- g) Worship Team Ann Keyes
- h) M&P Report Beth Steinmiller
- i) Health Committee Coralee Vass
- j) Outreach Sharon Simpkins
- k) Special Events Committee Greg Simpkins & Sarah Gilmore
- l) Peterborough Church Chairs and Clergy Pat Cole

Motion to receive reports as presented. Moved: Sylvia Cashmore. Second: Christine Baayen. Approved by all.

7) New Business

- a) **Mission & Service / Outreach (10 min)**
 - i) Does Council have any recommendations/direction for Outreach?
 - ii) Will Council expect Outreach to blend with Mission & Service in 2016? (Will occur if Joint Needs Assessment Report approved and this is part of the goals.)
 - iii) Guidance for the ‘cookie’ project for the shut-in/pastoral care, who orders etc.
- b) **Property** - Broken Piano in CEC – Melissa Hope wants to get rid of it (5 min). Approved.
- c) **Cookies for the Shut-ins** – do we want to continue / who will deliver the cookies? After discussion council decided we will not do the cookies to the shut-ins for 2015. (5 min)
Motion – That the pastoral care team lead the project to send Christmas cards to known shut-ins on behalf of the church.
Moved: Carolyn Holmes.
Second: Sylvia Cashmore.
Approved by all.
Secretary will communicate to Janice Ross/ Pastoral Care.
- d) **Special Events** – (10 min) deferred till next meeting.
- e) Karrie Whitaker has resigned from Church Council – Christine Baayen will take her place on Baptismal Committee. Pat Cole will send thank-you to Karrie for her service on Church Council.

8) Next Meeting -Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Stewardship Report Submitted by Don McLaren

Stewardship Program – Fall 2015

The response to discussing why we give was great. There were thoughtful and inspiring statements made about how our home affects us. There were some clear statements of concern and a need to cover our future. I want to say at the start that the response to specific numbers has been modest.

There are 224 families covering 350 adults in our list.

Of the 224, we got responses from about ¼ of the congregation – 63 response or 27%

In that, we have:

A small number, 5 response or 2% needing to reduce givings

32 responses or 14% unchanging

and 24 responses or 11% increasing givings.

Some people can't get out on Sunday and don't have email, Some really feel privacy is their concern, and some simply have not responded. We did select a fair number in the list that we felt could be called for reminders and made those calls.

The total expected increase in givings is 10,0380\$. Some good funds, but you need to know this may be modest when we consider what we would like to have available or would like to afford in the future.

I don't know how many of you noticed 2-3 weeks ago that there was a financial update in the calendar. The 10,000\$ increase we been told about here is a nice 10% of GF offerings up to September. The GF offering however is well behind the budget that was roughly achieved in the previous year, so we do need to keep this mind as we approach the financial plan that goes along with our November plan.

OUTREACH – Sharon Simpkins

Outreach will be donating this Sunday's Soup N Sandwich" money to the Mosque on Parkhill W.

St John's Anglican Church has a box for donations.

Outreach will combine their money with any other monies from Mark St.

Soup-n-Something Dates – Sharon Simpkins

- a) January-Anniversary
- b) February 14th Valentine Theme
- c) March 20th-Easter Theme
- d) April 17th Spring Theme
- e) May 15th
- f) June 19th Happy Summer Day When is the Church picnic
- g) September-Welcome Back
- h) October 30th-Halloween Theme
- i) November 20th-Winter Theme
- j) December 18th-Santa Potluck

PRESBYTERY

Presbytery Comments for Mark St. United Council Meeting Nov 25, 2015

Murray Batten

- Discussion has taken place regarding Half Time Ministry. Feelings on Presbytery are mixed. Questions such as how reasonable are it to find a Part Time Minister and how sustainable would

such a position be? It was agreed to find an evening where the full Presbytery could discuss this further.

- Motion Shining Waters Presbytery approve the JNAC submitted by Greenwood Pastoral
- Charge including the vacancy for half time ministry was carried

- “Motion was carried that Shining Waters Presbytery will not be asked to approve a Joint Search Committee for Greenwood Pastoral Charge until Bay of Quinte Conference and the Pastoral Relations Committee of Shining Waters can converse regarding shared ministry .Shining Waters Presbytery agrees to invite Greenwood Pastoral Charge and Bay of Quinte Conference to a discussion about possibilities concerning a shared ministry before a joint search committee is formed.”
- Zion is involved in the sale of church property and has run into extra expenses due to the Ontario Government imposed environmental assessment. The extra expenses involved are approx. \$5,000 plus \$650 HST. Closing has been extended to end of December. Trustees ask that costs be taken from the proceeds of the sale. Motion that upon the closure of the sale of the real property of Zion United Church that the amalgamated charge of Carmel-Zion be reimbursed for the cost of site environmental assessment was carried

- The EDGE scan is now ongoing. Doug Hagan indicates that there will be discussions with ESDG IN January 2016.

- Emily Ferguson from Habitat for Humanity spoke about the next project, a build in
 - Warsaw. Habitat is looking to partner with businesses as well as faith communities.

- The Presbytery Extension Council is for Pastoral Charge loan requests up to 25% of the proposed church improvement or extension. There has been no activity in the Extension Council for the past year and none being considered – all of which would need approval from Bay of Quinte Conference to implement. If Extension Council is disbanded – also requiring approval – then the money currently held would go to the National Church. Currently the Extension Council controls \$291,176.00.
- Last year all the church Extension Councils met and are looking at getting better interest rates. Rev. Nancy Wilson requested that the criteria for loans from the Extension Council be forwarded to all pastoral charges. Funds are available for up to 25% of project costs. Loan Criteria will be sent to the Presbytery office and will be distributed to all charges.

- There will be a meeting regarding the Northern Pastoral of the pastoral charges and work to support them. No other Pastoral Visits are proposed as of yet.

Submitted by Murray Batten

Health Committee submitted by Coralee Vass

Met on October 27th.

Welcomed Maggie Allin as a member of the Health Committee

- Blood Pressure Sessions were held in September and October
- Janice continues to meet with the Inter Christian Health Ministries (ICHM) support group. Members are primarily from Cobourg and Peterborough. The next ICHM meeting will be held at Mark Street United Church.
- Janice and the Pastoral Care Committee will be helping with the Pastoral Care Party on November 24th and the Blue Christmas Service December 1st.
- For January, 2016 will have Matt Farris (Peterborough County City Health Unit) provide an education session on Food Handling after Church service.

Financial Report to Council November 25, 2015

October Month End

General Account

General Revenue Year to Date \$ 180,528.01
(Including M&S)

(Offerings total \$104,551.48)

Expense Year to Date \$ 203,017.05
Includes Payroll, Worship,
Administration & Maintenance,
Mission & Service)

Year to Date Net Income (Deficit) - (\$ 22,489.04)

Mission & Service Year to Date
Income \$14,318.00

=====
=====

Memorial Fund
Account Balance October 31, 2015 **\$35,353.61**

Investment Savings Account (now named Tangerine)
Account Balance October 31, 2015 **\$142,948.96**

*Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Holmes
Chair, Finance Committee*

UCW Report submitted by Jewell Bennet

The Yuletide Tea and Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 14th. We fed 390 people and made \$6,472.65. We had many good comments. Special thanks to all who donated food, baked, made crafts and to the Men who set up and took down the tables.

We had a Remembrance Service at our November Meeting with 34 people attending. Our Guest Speaker was Lieutenant Commander John Carter.

Our December Meeting is a Pot Luck at 12:00 noon on December 8th. We would like to invite all the Men who have helped us all year to come for dinner. Mayor Daryl Bennett and Warden J. Murray Jones will be singing Gospel, Country and Christmas music. Collection of non-perishable food will go to the Christmas Hamper Fund and Women's articles for Cameron House. Everyone from our Congregation is welcome to join us.

Jewell

Worship Committee – submitted by Ann Keys

Update to Council - November

- The Terms of Reference for the proposed *Music and Worship Team* are nearing completion; when finalized, these will be brought forward to Council, along with the final draft of the Worship Policy, for approval. Once approved by Council, these will need to go to the Congregation for approval at the next Annual Meeting.

Ann Keys attended a meeting with M&P and the Music Director to discuss the draft *Music and Worship Team* mandate; support was expressed for this proposal.

- Pulpit Supply was finalized for Eilert's vacation January 17 and 24, 2016.
- In light of changes in 2014, congregational feedback was gathered about the nature and timing of Christmas Eve services. There was very good response (59) to a brief survey distributed in paper and by email. The results were (total is greater than 59 since respondents were asked to check all that apply):
 - Family-focused service at 4:30 27
 - Communion and candlelight at 7:30 24
 - Communion and candlelight at 9:00 14
 - Communion and candlelight at 10:00 9

Results support the need for two services: a family-focused service at 4:30, as well as an evening Communion and Candlelight service. The Worship Team discussed the importance of the 'early family service' being child-friendly and kept to 45 minutes; comments were also received on the survey to this effect. Eilert asked for assistance in planning this, and there have been volunteers.

- There was a request from a guest musician (who provided cello music for our summer service) to use our sanctuary for a concert in December. Given little advance time for promotion, members supported the appropriateness of renting the sanctuary for this purpose, rather than partnering in fundraising.

The evening time with the greatest number of responses was 7:30 p.m., though it's important to note that almost as many (23) opted for a later service (at 9:00 p.m. or 10p.m).

- There was a request from a guest musician (who provided cello music for our summer service) to use our sanctuary for a concert in December. Given little advance time for promotion, members supported the appropriateness of renting the sanctuary for this purpose, rather than partnering in fundraising.

VISIONING SESSION

Peterborough Church Chairs and Clergy

November 16, 2015

Submitted by Pat Cole, Chair of Council

Objective:

Develop a plan for a Peterborough-wide United Church vision (20 Years). We are here to determine how to get to a desired future – we need a path, a plan and we need it to be inclusive and respectful, yet determined and strong. The process assumes a change process is taking place, and that some of the United Church of Peterborough are going to engage in this change process to some degree. Reference United Churches of Peterborough – a proposal

Attendees: members of Chairs Committee, members of clergy for eight churches, and invited representatives from eight churches. (John McDonald, Ken Seim, Marilyn Tudhope, Margaret Maris, Leslie Gutsole- Floyd, Gary Lounsdury, Pat Cole, Brian James, Ted Harvey, Kevin Derry, Judith Tansley, Mir Kenniphaas, Eilert Frerichs, Phillip Hobbs, Don Uhryniw, Julie Van- Haaften, Ruth ?, Allan Reeve, We reviewed expectations: respectful discussion; realistic outcomes; all of had a commitment to an outcome. The product was to be some next steps in our path to a future vision.

General Comments:

- We need to make sure that all participants and congregations are knowledgeable and engaged in this conversation
- Are there statistics or demographics about Peterborough that might be helpful in looking to the future of the United Church in Peterborough (Social Planning Council?)

First task:

Take the temperature of the participants and Congregation for this work. Each person was asked to rank (1 to 10, 10 being highest) how they felt, first, personally about these conversation and their enthusiasm for this work; and secondly, how ready the congregation was that they represented to engage in a change process.

Personal rank: 2 ranked level 6; 7 level 7; 6 level 8, 0 level 9 and 1 level 10

Congregational rank: 2 ranked level 3; 2 level 4; 3 level 5; 3 level 6; 3 level 8; 0 level 9; 1 level 10

Our observations: congregational rank indicated that we need to be mindful, as we develop a future vision, that some congregations are less ready for change process. We need to make sure that we include discussion and conversation with congregations part of our development of the vision.

Second Task:

Ideal Scenario/Blue Sky Thinking: The group was to think ahead 20 years to the community of Peterborough, what do you see for the United Churches of Peterborough? Think about the presence - what kind of presence do we have, the people, what kind of service do we provide to the community and to the world?

Each person was asked to select their top 3 ideas/words/phrases and post them on notes on the wall.

During the break these were then loosely grouped into four areas

The Future presence of Peterborough United Churches Results:

- 1) Small group Ministries: Inter-faith partnerships; ecumenical activity; major moral compass of community; unrecognisable but amazing; love God, love self, love others; a 'model' community of faith; provide spiritual home, strong belief system; monthly worship experiences – music, interactive, participatory; cell group worship; fewer buildings; membership declines; connected to neighbours; leading eco-spirituality; people meeting in house/cell groups (10-12 persons); small group encounters
- 2) Our actions: community focused; community for worship/spiritual growth; community service oriented; purposeful outreach to vulnerable communities; hospice care; community minded relevant, necessary; community outreach, e.g. investment in hospice, anti-poverty; service to community; outreach, leaders in community for eradication of poverty;
Working for social justice; faith-based connection to current realities/what is in the news; advocates for peace; ministry eldercare specialise; advocate for justice; a strong voice for advocacy; relevant and engaged in broader community; a paradigm for social justice spirituality; passionate about good news for the poor; teach a person to fish; advocate for change; social justice
- 3) Structure (how will we be organized): 1 pastoral charge, 2 campuses; gathering centre for community youth; services designed to attract young members; common service like Shining Waters Festival on regular basis; serving a cross-section of Peterborough community; youth development, less tradition
- 4) Congregations: engaged in church community life; strong and vibrant; exists; joint staff; a welcome place that offers meaning and spiritual sustenance for the journey; faith education through social media (or current technology); faith driven

Task 3

Actions to Reach our Desired Future: The group was divided into three groups and each rotated through the major topics, and were asked to think of specific actions that would move us towards the desired future (what do we stop doing, start doing, do more of).

Youth

- Stop being possessive of members families - encourage them to go to churches with youth orientation
- Stop traditional Sunday school - church doesn't appeal to youth
- Share more volunteer resources (value our youth) - look for concrete justice projects

Small Group Work

- Start small group work
- More joint church activities
- Nourishing and nurturing worship development
- Learn from others about small group work (evangelical churches)

Outreach/Justice

- Stop overlapping, siloed approach
- Start organizing between ourselves
- Look for gaps (in existing services and activities)
- Start to focus on elder care
- Stop hogging our buildings and make them available to others
- Standing 'with' and not 'for' disadvantaged

Organisation/Churches

- Be radical/distinctly different, passionate, honest, full of Jesus
- All of our churches should create central funds (for clergy and other resource requirements)
- Mothball sanctuaries, rethink a place for worship

- Build a single multi-purpose church
- Centralize functions - administration, public relations advocacy
- Clergy- a team of consultants
- We are 'transforming' new life is 'forming'
- Smaller group faith in an informal setting
- Cell groups do visioning and faith exploration
- Stop defining our success by how many come to Sunday worship service. It does not define us.

Summary:

Assumptions

- Every church organisation is in a different place (with respect to their future)
- We need to change (we are not sustainable)
- We are in this for the long term
- Ministry is currently happening - we are doing ministry

A smaller group of Ted Harvey, Judith Tansley and Eilert Frerichs will take this material and develop some next steps when the full group reconvenes. Next meeting will be January 18, location TBA

M&P Report – Submitted by Beth Steinmiller

The committee has completed all interviews with church staff. The primary purpose was to review current position descriptions to ensure the descriptions are current and reflect the position and duties assigned to them. As a result we are updating current descriptions. The Parish Nurse contract has been signed and is in effect until December 2016. The committee will also be submitting a recommendation re compensation and recognition. Please note the committee is very aware of the church's finances.

As you are aware a cyber threat was apparently made on the church's Facebook site. The committee has discussed safety and security concerns with the office administrator as she is often alone in the building. M and P will be recommending to the Property Committee that a personal alarm system be installed to support the security of the office administrator. The committee has encouraged the office administrator to lock the doors when she is there alone and is feeling unsafe. There is a door bell or buzzer currently. Whether an intercom is necessary is part of pending discussions.

Beth Steinmiller
Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee
Mark Street United Church

EDGE Report – Submitted by Tim Holland

We are meeting with Michael Wright on Friday to discuss next steps with regard to phase 2 of the process. The way we left it last meeting, our committee was tasked with coming up with a list of building requirements based on our new mission and vision and in conjunction with other Peterborough United Churches. We may be able to expedite the process by providing the names of 2 potential developers, which is an important part of phase 2. We have one who has promised to present a proposal and another I hope to hear back from before Friday.