

# **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020**

PRESENT: Cathy Adkin, Shirley Aerts, Rena Beacom, Kaeleigh Berdan, Brenda Bourdeau, Darlene Bourne, Cam Brown, Marie Campbell, Joan Childs, Paul Childs, Dianne Dixon, Tina Dokter, Donna Garrod, Millie Goddard, Diane Goodhand, Doug Goodhand, Marjorie Harris, Alice Jolliffe, Ken Jolliffe, Bonnie Joynt, Dan Joynt, Patti Krista, Don Langford, John Larocque, Nancy Larocque, Barb MacKinnon, Murla McMahan, Karen McMillan, Tim McMillan, Alice Milligan, Rev. Brad Morrison, Sarah Morrison, David Morton, Gail Morton, Dawn Moyer, Jean Nisbet, Marie Robinson, Francis Smail, George Thompson, Joan Thompson, Ida Traxler, Susan Wilcox, Wayne Wilcox, Dorothy Wilton, Keith Wilton, Tina Zimmermann. **46 Present.**

1. Constitution of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Opening Prayer                      Rev. Brad Morrison  
Meeting called to order 11:30am.
  
2. Appointment of Chairperson and Secretary  
Motion by Patti Krista / Tina Zimmermann that Barb MacKinnon be appointed Chairperson for this 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting.                      **CARRIED**  
Motion by Ken Jolliffe / Campbell Brown that Patti Baratta be appointed Secretary for this 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting.                      **CARRIED**
  
3. Motion to Allow Adherents to Vote  
Motion by Patti Krista / Diane Goodhand allowing adherents to vote on financial and administrative matters.                      **CARRIED**  
Motion by Dianne Dixon / Brenda Bourdeau allowing adherents to vote on mission and ministry matters.                      **CARRIED**  
Motion by Cathy Adkin / Nancy Larocque allowing adherents to vote on pastoral relationship matters.                      **CARRIED**
  
4. Approval of the Agenda  
Motion by Patti Krista / Diane Goodhand to approve the agenda as printed or as amended.                      **CARRIED**
  
5. Approval of Minutes of All 2019 Congregational Meetings  
Motion by Tina Zimmermann / Brenda Bourdeau that the Minutes of the March 3, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting be accepted as printed or as amended.                      **CARRIED**  
Motion by Ken Jolliffe / Cathy Adkin that the Minutes of the March 20, 2019 Congregational Meeting be accepted as printed or as amended.                      **CARRIED**  
Motion by Marjorie Harris / Bonnie Joynt that the Minutes of the July 28, 2019 Congregational Meeting be accepted as printed or as amended.                      **CARRIED**
  
6. In Memoriam                      Rev. Brad Morrison  
Rev. Brad read the names of the deceased while Marjorie Harris lit the candles.

7. Approval of the 2019 Annual Reports of Council, Teams, and Groups, excluding Finance and Nominating Teams.

Motion by Joan Childs / Dianne Dixon to receive the 2019 reports.

**CARRIED**

Motion by Patti Krista / Cathy Adkin to approve the 2019 reports, excluding Finance and Nominating Teams.

**CARRIED**

8. Review and Approval of the 2019 Financial Report

Tim McMillan

Tim McMillan took the opportunity to thank the members of the Finance Team as well as David Morton for the financial review. He enjoys being Treasurer and looks forward to the coming year.

**Highlights:**

- Two corrections were brought to Tim's attention by David. One, the reference to note 7 on page 26 should be a reference to note 6. Second, any references to Fiera Investments should be Frontier Investments.
- Chequing account was higher at the end of the year due to bequest received from the Estate of Margaret Goldthorp. This bequest will be invested.
- Investments performed well. Seventy-five percent of investments are in GICs with 25% in Frontier. Unrealized gains increased over the year by \$43,000.
- Envelope donations were down, however, there was an income of \$133,000. This is slightly better than last year because of investment income.
- Overall expenditures are approximately the same as last year. Teams did well keeping within their budget.
- General operating deficit was expected to be \$71,498 as envelope donations do not cover the cost of the General Fund. As bequest from the Estate of Margaret Goldthorp is unrestricted, 20% of bequest was moved to General Fund. With \$12,560 interest also from the unrestricted bequest funds, the deficit was covered with a gain of \$5,553.
- Total raised for Mission & Service was \$16,299. This covers the \$15,000 pledge. Amount raised by Soup & Roll in 2019 was \$1,830. This has been sent to Mission & Service.
- There has been a big demand for grocery cards. At the end of 2019, there was \$1,034 remaining in the Compassionate Fund. At then end of 2018, it was \$2,427. Tim asked that members donate to the Compassionate Fund if possible.
- The solar panels generated \$7,117 this year, reducing the outstanding amount owed to \$19,130. If this rate continues, the solar panels should be paid back within 3 years, after which the revenue will go to the General Fund.
- A Youth Ministry grant of \$8,000 was received to cover the youth programs. There is approximately \$7,000 remaining in the youth ministry budget by the end of 2019. This grant assisted in covering programs for the upcoming year.
- Fundraising events continue to be important with the 2019 Pancake Supper raising \$1,253, the Roast Beef Dinner raising \$4,649, and the Fall Bake Sale raising \$2,257. These are just a few of our fundraisers. For the full list, please refer to page 42.

**Question:** What is the Mission & Service target for 2020?

**Answer:** The Mission & Service pledge for 2020 will again be \$15,000. Previously, the pledge was set at \$20,000, but we were unable to raise that amount, with the difference having to come out of the unrestricted bequest fund. Note that all monies raised, even if over pledge amount, is directed to Mission & Service.

Motion by George Thompson / Campbell Brown to approve the 2019 Financial Report found on pages 31 to 42. **CARRIED**

9. Financial Review Report

David Morton

David Morton noted that a financial review is not an audit. Following the United Church of Canada manual on financial reviews, David ensured that the accounting and books were current and complete, and that what is reflected in the financial statements is accurate. He also noted that Tim McMillan and the Finance Team do an excellent job in keeping things complete and accurate.

Motion by Doug Goodhand / Patti Krista to accept and approve the 2019 Financial Review Report found on page 43. **CARRIED**

10. Presentation and Approval of the 2020 Budget Proposal

Patti Krista

Patti Krista thanked Tim McMillan for his years of service as Treasurer, as well as the members of the Finance Team. She also thanked Joan Childs who will be stepping down from the Finance Team to be the financial reviewer for 2020, as well as David Morton for doing the financial review for 2019.

In 2019, \$350,000 was received from the Goldthorp Estate as well as \$60,000 from the Dunlop Estate. Of these bequests, \$340,000 will be invested after the investment statements from the end of February are reviewed.

**Highlights:**

- Envelope donations are expected to continue to decline, though it is hoped that we may see an increase this year.
- Fundraising is a very important element to our finances, however, it is difficult to predict the fundraising amounts due to change in format of events, events performing better or worse than expected, dropping some events while adding new ones, etc.
- Investment income is also very much an estimate.
- Overall, revenue will remain flat according to the 2019 financial statements.
- Expenses may increase from 2019 as maintenance and repairs that weren't done in 2019 will be done in 2020. Church Council will explore the idea of using other funds besides the General Fund for repairs and maintenance. This will depend on the cost.
- Teams have submitted their budget and continue to hold the line. Ministry & Personnel expenses have increased due to the United Church of Canada recommendations and the retirement of Rev. Abiel Khalema (benefits for retired ministers are paid by the United Church of Canada).
- Overall, we are expecting a \$90,000 deficit. This is the worst-case scenario.

**Question:** Why has the amount for the Presbytery Assessment been reduced?

**Answer:** This amount is provided by the Presbytery and may be lower than usual due to the new formula being used.

**Question:** Where are the expenses for the Roast Beef Dinner listed?

**Answer:** Roast Beef Dinner expenses are listed under the Community Life Team expenses.

**Question:** Do envelope donations include PAR?

**Answer:** Yes.

Motion by Diane Goodhand / Marjorie Harris to approve the 2020 Budget found on pages 44 to 46. **CARRIED**

## 11. 2020 Mission & Service Objective

Barb MacKinnon

Church Council is proposing that \$15,000 be set as the Mission & Service objective for 2020.

**Question:** Why doesn't the Mission & Service objective increase because of the bequest received through the Goldthorp Estate?

**Answer:** If the Mission & Service objective is set higher and the congregation is unable to raise that amount, the difference will have to come from other funds.

**Question:** Why isn't the Mission & Service objective set to \$16,000 based on what was raised this year?

**Answer:** If we are unable to raise \$16,000, the difference will have to come from other funds. Note that all monies that are raised for Mission & Service are directed to Mission & Service even if the pledge is fulfilled.

It was commented that while Strathroy United received a grant to pay for Youth Ministry, that amount is not being repaid through Mission & Service. It was also commented that if a specific disaster occurs that Mission & Service are assisting with, the congregation usually steps up for disaster relief. Strathroy United also does a lot for the community, even though this affects the General Fund (Mission & Service rarely has local projects).

Motion by Marjorie Harris / Brenda Bourdeau that we accept and approve Council's recommendation to set the 2020 Mission & Service objective at \$15,000.

**CARRIED**

## 12. Nomination Report

The following names need to be added to the Nomination Report:

- Sandra Linton (Congregational Life)
- Millie Goddard (Lay Visitation)
- Elgin Austen (Property)

It was noted that a Property Team Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Presbytery Representative are still needed. Thank you to everyone who currently sits on a Team.

Motion by Dianne Dixon / Bonnie Joynt to approve the slate of candidates amended.

**CARRIED**

Motion by Patti Krista / Tina Zimmermann that the Congregation empowers the Council to appoint members to vacancies as required.

**CARRIED**

### a) Appointment of the Financial Reviewer for 2020

Motion by Alice Milligan / Ida Traxler that Joan Childs be appointed as the 2020 Financial Reviewer.

**CARRIED**

## 13. New Business

a) Special Project for 2020

**None**

b) Other

**None**

## 14. Appreciations

Barb MacKinnon thanked everyone for coming today to assist with or attend the Annual Congregational Meeting. It is noticed and appreciated.

Diane Goodhand also took this opportunity to bring courtesies to staff on behalf of the Ministry & Personnel Team. This past year saw changes to Church staff as Rev. Brad Morrison was welcomed after Rev. Abiel Khalema fulfilled his placement. Rev. Abiel's time

with Strathroy United was special and he is remembered with much gratitude and thanks. Patti Baratta was hired as Office Administrator, taking over for Dianne Dixon. Dianne deservingly retired after more than 19 years and was thanked for her time with Strathroy United. While she is no longer in the church office, she is a part of the church choir.

Rev. Brad and his wife, Sarah, joined our Church family last July. Brad continually provides leadership and guidance with a focus on growing membership inclusive of our youth, is involved in building community relationships, and provides ongoing pastoral care while ensuring a welcoming environment and sharing a meaningful message during Sunday services. Brad brings with him new ideas, some of which he has already implemented, as well as suggestions for the congregation to be visible to the community. Thank you to Brad for all he has done to date.

Patti Baratta stepped into the Office Administrator position very willing and eager to learn, demonstrating excellent organizational skills. Patti was quick to learn all aspects of the job, while being willing to help others as needed. Thank you to Patti for the support provided to Brad and other staff, as well as to all the teams and congregation members.

Thanks also go out to both Brad and Patti for working together as a team and establishing a relationship that ensured a seamless transition.

Kaeleigh Berdan does a fantastic job working with the youth of our congregation and community. Youth Night now meets every week with special events throughout the year, such as a recent trip to Boler Mountain. Kaleigh also organizes NERF Nights as well as a Kids Club for younger children. Kaleigh continues looking for new and exciting ideas. Her dedication to our youth is appreciated.

We always enjoy the Ministry of Music that Andy Cloutier provides during Sunday services. Andy works with the regular choir as well as children of our congregation to provide special music. He has also arranged for guest musicians at different times throughout the year.

John Larocque looks after the maintenance of the church building and ensures it is a safe environment for staff, congregation, tenants, and guests. Due to vacancies on the Property Team, John has taken on some additional duties. His extra work is appreciated. Thank you to John for his dedication.

Tim McMillan continually demonstrates his excellent knowledge of bookkeeping and looks after the financial aspects of the church. Tim regularly records all financial transactions and provides detailed reports on a monthly basis. These reports are prepared with great attention to detail making them easy to understand. Tim is always willing to assist and has been very helpful during the transition of our new Office Administrator. Tim was thanked for his support.

The Search Team was also thanked for their dedicated work in hiring Brad. Patti Krista and Marjorie Harris were also thanked for assisting in hiring Patti Baratta. The teams and congregation were also thanked for their patience and understanding during the period of transition last year.

15. Close Meeting

**12:31 PM**

16. Closing Prayer

Rev. Brad Morrison

Brad thanked Barb MacKinnon for her three years as Council Chair, providing leadership during challenging times in a calm manner that kept everyone focused on what was important.