

STRATHROY UNITED CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Marjorie Harris (Chair), Elgin Austen, Patti Baratta (Recording Secretary), Colleen Fletcher, Tim McMillan (Treasurer), Rev. Brad Morrison, David Morton
REGRETS: Tabitha Carey, Denise Johnson, Patti Krista, Barb MacKinnon

1. Welcome & Call to Order
Opening Prayer Marjorie Harris
Rev. Brad Morrison
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Diane Goodhand / David Morton to approve the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**
3. Approval of January 12, 2022 and March 28, 2022 Minutes
Motion by David Morton / Elgin Austen to approve the January 12 and March 28 minutes with corrections. (add Denise Johnson to Attendance) **CARRIED**
4. Correspondence Patti Baratta
 - Thank You letter from 37 Frank Youth Centre.
5. Business Arising from January 12, 2022 and March 28, 2022 Minutes
6. New Business
 - a) Strathroy Constitution Approval Rev. Brad Morrison
 - Approved by Region.
 - b) Microsoft Teams Patti Baratta
 - Overall goal is to move email traffic to Microsoft Teams.
 - Church Council meeting minutes will be posted in Microsoft Teams for review.
 - c) Team Policies Patti Baratta
 - The Privacy Policy has been reviewed and approved. It should be posted to the website.
7. Reports/Decisions in Progress
 - a) Update from Minister Rev. Brad Morrison
 - See Minister's Report attached.
 - **Canada Summer Jobs Grant:** Rev. Brad is looking to have Congregational Life Team members assist in interviewing the summer student.
 - b) Congregational Life Team David Morton
 - **Wedding Policy:** On April 14, the Congregational Life Team met to discuss the wedding policy and brochure. Changes include discouraging the use of the church building for weddings with their own officiant, detailing that any marriage approved by

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the Province of Ontario can be conducted within the church (i.e., same-sex marriages), and ensuring the Music Director is involved in the wedding planning.

Motion by David Morton / Diane Goodhand that the revised wedding policy be approved.

CARRIED

- **Upcoming Weddings:** Rev. Brad has been asked to officiate at the marriage of Paula Anna Medeiros and Marlena Diane Nunes. The wedding is to take place offsite on September 9, 2023.
- **Summer Student Application:** Applications were made to the Canada Summer Jobs Grant for two positions. One was approved. Interested members should let Rev. Brad know if they wish to participate in the interview. The job will be posted soon.
- **Offering:** During COVID, worship service attendees have deposited their offering in the collection plates upon arrival or departure from the service. It was agreed that this practice should be continued as it allows for better flow within the service.
- **Children's Worship:** It is hoped that there will be adult volunteers to lead Children's Worship starting in September.
- **Name Tags:** While the new constitution encourages the use of name tags, it has generally not been successful in the past. Congregational Life is advising that this practice should be discontinued, and the name tags and frame removed from the Sanctuary. This will be approached gradually, and congregation members will be encouraged to collect their name tag if they wish to keep it.

c) Community Life Team

Rev. Brad Morrison

- **Small Group Ministry:** The Community Life Team is looking for ways to start small group ministries such as WidowCare, Men's Breakfast, and the Women Study & Support Group.
- **Meal Ministry:** The Meal Ministry is related to all ministry activities that involve making meals. The Team will work with Finance to align the budget categories.

d) Treasurer Report

Tim McMillan

- **Balance Sheet:** The Chequing Account requires a transfer of funds to avoid a bank fee (minimum amount required is \$25,000). Patti Krista has arranged for a transfer of \$50,000 from the BMO High Interest Savings Account. Note that Frontier Capital amount has increased more than \$114,000 from year end due to funds being transferred from bank.
- **General Fund:** Revenue has increased since this time last year (refer to Envelope Donations), but Expenditures have also increased. Note that we will not be receiving CEWS or any other government subsidies this year.
- **Team Expenses:** Note that Utilities and Repairs and Maintenance are higher than this time last year due to snow removal and repairs made to the range hood.
- **Mission & Service Fund:** Envelope Donations for Mission & Service are higher than this time last year.
- **Bequest Fund:** Flooring renovation costs are coming out of Property Improvement Restricted Bequest Fund.

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- **Solar Panels:** The solar panels did well in January, February, and March. Tim will prepare the cheque, after which there should be just one more cheque.

e) Finance Team Patti Krista

- **Transfer of Funds:** Transfer of \$50,000 from BMO has been made to the Libro chequing account.

f) Property Team Elgin Austen

- **Floor Renovations:** The invoices have been received from Great Floors. This project will come under budget.
- **Lighting & Fans:** The next project will involve the lighting and fans within the Sanctuary. LED bulbs will be installed to save on electricity and the fans will be cleaned.

g) Board of Trustees Rev. Brad Morrison

- **Notice from Municipality:** Notice was received from Strathroy-Caradoc regarding the change of use for a property along Garden Lane. Upon review, it was decided it was not necessary to attend.

h) Ministry & Personnel Diane Goodhand

- No report.

i) Antler River Watershed Region Rev. Brad Morrison

- The upcoming AGM will be June 10 & 11 at Ridgetown College.

Motion by David Morton / Elgin Austen that we receive all reports for information. **CARRIED**

8. Next Meeting

a) Date: Wednesday, September 14 7:00pm

9. Closing Prayer

Rev. Brad Morrison

Action Items:

Recording Secretary (Patti Baratta)

- Update and post the Privacy Policy to the website.