

Minutes of the May 11, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Westminster United Church

Present (Zoom meeting): Ted Barnett, Loretta Basiuk, Marnie Bolland, Brandon Johnston, Helen LaRue, Carol Latter, Sherri McConnell, Rebecca McIntosh, Pat Miles
Regrets: John Mort

Carol Latter	Chair, Nominating Committee
Ted Barnett	Past Chair, Nominating Committee
Loretta Basiuk	Secretary
Marnie Bolland	Ministry and Personnel
Brandon Johnston	Property, Trustee
Helen LaRue	Congregational Care
Sherri McConnell	Ministry Staff
Pat Miles	Inner and Outer Connections
Rebecca McIntosh	Finance
John Mort	Treasurer
Ted Barnett, Carol Latter	Regional Council

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Reflection/Opening: Carol Latter

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: (B. Johnston/H.LaRue) That the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried**

Approval of the March 16, 2021 Meeting:

Motion: (L.Basiuk/Bolland) That the minutes of the March 16, 2021 board meeting be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

Correspondence:

- letter of appreciation from Valerie Matthews

Remarks from the Chair:

- letter of employment sent by the chair on behalf of Meaghan Pauls and Arij Al-Khafagi
- Brenda Gibson contacted the church re: the possibility of Formal Association/Member status
- the annual reports have been completed

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- discussion of the status of Blue Sky's proposal for payment to Westminster and possible steps to be taken going forward
- no further interest has been expressed in the acquisition of copies of *Psalms for All Seasons*

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Brandon will make inquiries about the cost of monthly payments on our insurance

Motion: (T.Barnett/M. Bolland) That the March 2021 financial report be accepted as presented. **Carried**

Inner and Outer Committee:

- discussion of replacement of Sunday School leader, Katelyn MacIntyre in light of her plans to leave Winnipeg: contract terms, employment period (the uncertainty of a reopening date), preparation of resources and remuneration. Pat Miles to contact Katherine Abra for information on program details.

Property:

- the alarm system has been installed
- United Church Property Resource Corporation found SvN's proposal to their liking; they will now offer us a more formal proposal. The present focus is on 120 Maryland. A question was raised re: the status of the corporation's involvement in the property, i.e management or ownership.
- Property is concentrating on structural repairs during the pandemic

Congregational Care:

- Chair Helen LaRue and her committee plan another pastoral phone-out

Ministry and Personnel:

- M & P met via Zoom in April and May; work continues on the completion of contracts and staff evaluations
- the committee discussed the need for future planning re: the music program given the church's current financial situation and the difficulty in recruiting soloists and new choir members
- M & P agrees to having the minister's position covered by pulpit supply during Rev. Sherri's sabbatical/leave

Motion: (M.Bolland/H.LaRue) That Melissa Gillespie's rate of pay be increased to \$19 per hour as of May 15th. **Carried**

Worship:

- Sherri outlined plans for shared digital worship services among a possible four churches during the summer months.

Motion: (T.Barnett/B. Johnston) That Westminster United Church participate in shared digital worship. **Carried**

- staffing details to be managed by M & P. Rev. Sherri will be our representative in the summer planning group.

Nominating Committee:

- Ted Barnett reported that someone has agreed to fill the Vice Chair position
- he urged board members to suggest names of persons able to fill other vacant positions

Reopening Committee:

- Rev. Sherri sent a congregational email stating that there are no current changes re: church reopening, reminding that it is imperative that no one attempt to enter the church without an appointment
- We will limit the number of persons involved in creating the virtual worship service, with readings done from home if possible

New Business:

- discussion re: freezing or cancelling monthly church credit card service during the pandemic. The board agreed to a temporary freeze. Carol Latter will contact John Mort on the matter.
- the **AGM is scheduled for the evening of Monday, June 14, 2021.**

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sherri McConnell

Next Board Meeting: June 15, 2021