

Westminster United Church

**General Board Meeting
Minutes: March 20, 2018**

Attendance:
Carol Latter
Rita Menzies
Helen LaRue
Fred Aoki
Brandon Johnston
Pat Miles
Boyd Rausch
Wayne Arnould
Sherri McConnell
John Mort
Loretta Basiuk

Representing:
Chair, Presbytery Representative
Communications
Membership, Fellowship and Pastoral Care Committee
Ministry and Personnel Committee
Property
Inner and Outer Connections
Presbytery Representative
Trustees
Ministry Staff
Treasurer
Acting Secretary

Regrets:

Cheryl Drachuk
Rebecca McIntosh
Mary Scott
Ted Barnett

Budget and Management
Stewardship
Secretary
Past Chair, Presbytery Representative, Worship Committee

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

1. Carol Latter called the meeting to order.
2. Carol Latter offered the Opening Reflection.
3. Remarks from the Chair
 - The job descriptions for the choir soloists, Nathan and Don have been completed by Pam and are being used by M&P. Carol will work with Pam to prepare a template for future use with job applicant submissions prior to submitting to M&P for approval and the Board.
 - Sherri will be on study leave the week of April 17th; she has contacted Mary Best, Chair of Pastoral Relations to be the ordered minister at the Board meeting that week.
 - Ted and Shannon have gone through the old communion ware (silver plate) stored in the chapel for the past 10 – 15 years. Options for disposal: offering it to the church archives and/or interested members of the congregation, posting on the Winnipeg Presbytery website or, failing that, giving the items away.
Motion: B.Rausch/B.Johnston
That approval be given to access the Winnipeg Presbytery website in order to donate old communion ware.
4. Approval of the Agenda
Motion: F.Aoki/B.Rausch
That the agenda for the meeting of March 20, 2018 be approved as circulated.

Carried

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes
 - Board members requested that all objections and abstentions should be recorded in the minutes.

Motion: P. Miles/F.Aoki
That the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2018 be approved as corrected.
6. Correspondence
 - Thank you postcard and drawings received from Art City for donation of the Christmas Kids' Sale surplus funds.
7. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - MPS Process: Due to changing timelines related to UCC restructuring, Westminster's request to initiate the call process will be deferred to 2019.
8. Staff Time
 - Plans for Holy Week are being finalized.
 - Visits to families recently receiving baptisms and pastoral care visits have been ongoing.

Committee Reports

9. Budget and Management
 - Profit and Loss information for January through February 2018 was presented and discussed.
 - A question was raised concerning inadequate funding for the taxi service. Board members agreed that the congregation should be approached for contributions to the fund.

Motion: B.Rausch/H.LaRue
That the January/February financial results be accepted for information purposes.

Carried

10. Communications
 - Rita Menzies reported that the website has acquired a new host, Digital Ocean, a dedicated server which can better handle larger amounts of material like the upcoming e-book.
11. Inner and Outer Connections
 - Inquiries and discussion on the segregated Christmas Cheer Board fund. No new information reported.
12. Property
 - Repair of the sanctuary ceiling will begin in late summer. The potential of solar panels was explained with respect to the process and deadline (end of April) for grant application to Heritage Manitoba for the panels, costs involved and potential savings.

Motion: B.Johnston/W.Arnould

That the approval in principal be given to proceed with application to Manitoba Hydro grant for solar panels, pending approval by Heritage Manitoba and architectural and financing being met.

Carried

13. Stewardship - No report.

14. Presbytery

- Restructuring of Church: Beginning Jan 1, 2019 - Regions to replace Conference and Presbyteries; Congregations will be called Communities of Faith. The Executive Secretary position will be called the Executive Minister position, and each Executive Minister will be responsible for 3 regions.
- Presentation on medically assisted dying held on March 17 was informative.
- Westminster's May 2, 2018 Evening with Niigaan Sinclair was advertised.
- Interesting fact, of the 2800 United Church congregations across Canada, 167 are affirming.

15. Trustees - No report.

16. Membership, Fellowship and Pastoral Care

- The fall supper considered for October will be dependent on the availability of volunteers. A subcommittee and licensed food handler would be required if the event is to proceed. October 20 was set aside as a tentative date pending volunteer interest.

17. Ministry and Personnel

- The M&P committee will be asked to have members present at a training workshop offered by Presbytery for Ministry and Personnel Committee members on April 7.

18. Worship

Motion: B.Rausch/F.Aoki

That the Worship Committee recommends to the Board of Westminster United Church that on April 15, 2018, Nicole Dee Lynn Berry and Steven William Berry (parents) be confirmed and Lennon Dawn Berry be baptized (DOB July 27, 2017)

Carried

New Business

- Summary of re-wording of portion of Westminster Foundation Act: Received in a letter from Charles Huband (*recommended change in italics*):

Because the mechanisms for governing the United Church of Canada are to be revised, and since the Winnipeg Presbytery will cease to exist, the Act should be amended to provide for a transfer of assets, other than to Winnipeg Presbytery. The decision to transfer assets in the event of a winding up or liquidation of the Foundation, should be made by the Board of Westminster Church. Charles recommends the re-wording as:

- "... subject to any trust conditions attached thereto, the assets be transferred *to such charitable purposes and institutions as the Official Board of Westminster United Church may in its discretion determine.*"

Motion: B.Johnston/F.Aoki

That the portion of the Westminster Foundation Act described in the letter from Charles Huband re: transfer or liquidation of Foundation assets be re-worded as described above.

Carried

- Elevator/lift discussion: Discussion of this item was postponed as outstanding and prioritized projects (eg. solar panels, front steps, dual projection) take precedence. A 3-year plan for the elevator project was suggested.
- Strategic Direction Report: The Board considered numbers 4 and 5 of summarized recommendations. Specifics will be part of the final summary of discussions of the Strategic Directions Report.

21. Closing Prayer, Rev. Sherri McConnell.

Meeting adjourned: 8:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2018 (*Rev. Sherri will be on Continuing Education; Rev. Mary Best will be present*)

Subsequently: May 15; June 19.