

Minutes of the January 18, 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, Meaghan Pauls; Regrets: John Mort

Carol Latter	Chair, Nominating Committee
Ted Barnett	Past Chair, Worship Committee, Nominating Committee
Loretta Basiuk	Secretary
Marnie Bolland	Ministry and Personnel
Brandon Johnston	Property, Trustee
Helen LaRue	Congregational Care (Membership, Fellowship, Pastoral 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: (P.Miles/H.LaRue) That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried

Approval of the November 16, 2020 Meeting:

Motion: (T.Barnett/M.Bolland) That the minutes of the November 16, 2020 board meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried

Bell Tower Café: Meaghan Pauls

- Meaghan reported that Bell Tower (on Fridays) is going well. Many clients are availing themselves of delivery service and there are enough volunteers, some of which are “new.”
- hamper wait time has been less than 15 minutes; colder weather should not present challenges due to good flow and shorter lines.

Remarks from the Chair:

- Carol stated that the AGM went smoothly

Staff Time: Rev. Sherri McConnell

- 2020 has been a full and challenging year; sadly, we have lost a number of elderly members of the congregation in '20/'21; Westminster/the office admin staff has sent condolence cards to family members.
- participation in interviews for the office administrator position, planning for Lent and Easter services and for a 3-week Fundamentals of Faith study planned for Wednesday evenings in Feb. were among the priorities for staff

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- the hearing re: Blue Sky has been rescheduled from Jan. 13 to Feb. 3; the board will need to consider options, depending on the judgment, re: the outstanding amount awarded.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- a motion re: the proposed budget was deferred in consideration of the death of the Treasurer's family member; condolences to John Mort on the loss of his mother.

- the assessment from the United Church of Canada has doubled this year; Ted is making enquiries re: a possible reduction in the assessment.
- Brandon will do a full review re: caretaking hours/salaries. He will also prepare a report on the alarm system.
- discussion of general income: difficulty in predicting income due to the pandemic, challenges in making requests for donations via videos, loss of rental income and donations at special services (Christmas and Easter).
- we are receiving requests for wedding services
- fundraising planning is on hold until pandemic restrictions are lifted

Stewardship: There was nothing to report.

Inner and Outer Committee:

- the committee has met to discuss future plans. It is hoped that the Christmas sale can be held.
- Kaitlyn's McIntyre's Zoom classes have been well received

Property:

- Brandon reported on a plumbing leak which is being monitored

Trustees:

- Brandon has contacted our broker to give additional details in the hopes of a reversal on the decision re: our insurance claim on damaged roof shingles

Congregational Care:

- a phone-out to congregation members was done in early Dec.
- membership information has been updated. Six congregation members have died in '20/'21 and one is in hospital.

Ministry and Personnel:

- Marnie reported that the committee met on Dec. 31 with Marilyn Thiessen and Michael McKay to bid them farewell and to thank them with gift cards for their contribution to Westminster.
- M & P has completed the search for an office administrator (with 200 applications) and looks forward to welcoming to the position Melissa Gillespie, who comes to us highly recommended. She is to commence work on Feb. 15, depending on COVID regulations.
- thank you to M & P, the interviewers and Carol and Brandon for their time and diligence with the hiring process.

Worship:

- plans are in progress to provide live-streaming of services to replace video pre-recording starting on Feb. 21.

Nominating Committee: No report at this time.

New Business:

Zoom account for Westminster:

Motion: (T.Barnett/P.Miles) That Westminster purchase a Zoom account on a month-by-month or annual basis. Carried

- Sherri will work with Carol and Ted to get Zoom up and running and to address payment details
- Pat Miles expressed an interest in leading another Centering Prayer group

AGM: There was agreement that the AGM should be held in the sanctuary one month following the resumption of in-person services.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sherri McConnell

Adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2021 or at the call of the chair