

Minutes of the November 16, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Westminster United Church

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

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
Boyd Rausch	Regional Council

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Reflection/Opening: Carol Latter

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: (B. Johnston/T. Barnett) That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried

Approval of the September 22, 2020 Meeting:

Motion: (L. Basiuk/H.LaRue) That the minutes of the September 22, 2020 board meeting be accepted as circulated with apologies to Pat Miles for omission of her name in the list of those present. Carried

Bell Tower Café: Meaghan Pauls

- Meaghan reported on two successful Bell Tower gatherings. Numbers at present are low (20-25) but the food aid has a huge impact.
- contact with Winnipeg Harvest and the streamlining of scheduling are ongoing
- a question re: the safety of drivers was raised; hamper delivery by someone from the client's home is preferred. Drop-off points are pre-arranged.

Correspondence:

- Carol will acknowledge the letter received from Sandra Bender

Remarks from the Chair:

- thanks to Nathan Poole & Rev. Sherri McConnell (as well as to other contributors) for the excellent quality of the video services. Many hours go into the making of these videos.
- thanks to Brandon Johnston for keeping on top of everything COVID-19 related
- WUC calendars for 2021 are available

Staff Time: Rev. Sherri McConnell

- Advent and Christmas Eve is a busy time, especially this year with recording worship on top of regular planning. A "private" Christmas Eve service for our Sunday School families will be offered (sent to them but not posted publicly on YouTube); also, weekly mid-week Advent Moments, and a Blue Christmas service, are planned.
- Sherri has been connecting with the congregation through email and phone calls. She appreciates the Pastoral Hub phone callers who have phoned everyone on the congregational list. Sherri is sending a card/writing a note to everyone on the congregational list.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Update from John Meyers:

- Ted is unable to contact John presently but will continue his efforts; a decision will be required from the board re: financial compensation from Blue Sky.

AGM:

- scheduled for December 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- conditions/requirements of church and government will be followed
- Carol and Sherri will contact congregation members to ensure a quorum (20 required)
- Committee chairs are asked to notify their committee members.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Cheryl Drachuk

- Cheryl answered questions re: the proposed budget to the end of Oct. 2020
- question re: funding of the capital reserve and in what manner it is being recorded
- discussion of the Harrison fund; on a one-time basis it was moved into the budget.
- Carol and Ted will initiate a discussion with the Foundation re: the status of Foundation loans and payments made
- Cheryl requested information from committees in preparation for next year's budget

Motion (C. Drachuk/T.Barnett) That the board accept for information purposes the financial information from January – October 2020. Carried

Stewardship:

- Stewardship was commended for the letter sent to congregation members

Inner and Outer Committee:

- Katelyn McIntyre reported that there are seven children (and five more at times) on the hour long virtual Sunday School
- a 3-part series on loving God, our neighbour and ourselves, was agreed upon, to be developed and facilitated for Zoom by Rev Sherri McConnell, with written material mailed as required. Proposed date: Jan. or Feb. 2021. Ideas for other adult educational events will be brought to fruition next year as well.

Property:

- an essential project, cleaning the ducts, has been completed
- ensuring that the church is clean and safe is a priority at this time
- upgrading the alarm system is on the list of future projects
- the church is employing two caretakers at this time
- upgrading/improving the basement area will be put on the list as a potential future project

Trustees:

- Brandon reported on a denied insurance claim on damaged roof shingles (potentially, a \$10K expense). He has contacted our broker.

Congregational Care:

- eight volunteers are making phone calls to congregation members. Some members have requested email or mail by post. Congregational Care is pleased to connect with the congregation during this difficult time.

Ministry and Personnel:

- Marnie reported on the termination notices sent out at the end of Oct.
- discussion of board approval, avenues for posting positions, remuneration and methods used by other churches

Worship:

- plans are in progress to provide live-streaming of services to replace video pre-recording

starting in January

- a pre-recorded Christmas Eve service will start at 7:00 p.m., beginning with a 15 min. organ recital.
- discussion of decorating for the service during the week of Nov. 30.

Nominating Committee:

- Property is losing two members; request made for names of potential replacements.

New Business:

Christmas advertising:

- decision to advertise on the church website, the outdoor electronic sign, Facebook and YouTube

Motion: (H.LaRue/B.Johnston) That WUC will not advertise in the *Winnipeg Free Press* this year.

Carried

- Carol described a proposal from singer Emmett Cahill involving the platform Stageit. A written proposal is forthcoming. There was agreement in principle to the proposal.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sherri McConnell

Adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2021.