

## Minutes of the March 16, 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: Meaghan Pauls, 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 ( <del>Membership, Fellowship, Pastoral Care</del> )
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/M.Bolland) That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried

Approval of the minutes of the January 18, 2021 meeting:

**Motion:** (L.Basiuk/H.LaRue) That the minutes of the January 18, 2021 board meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried

Bell Tower Café: Meaghan Pauls – No report.

Remarks from the Chair:

- a \$195 expense was authorized through the Worship budget for studio lights to be used by Nathan Poole for the purpose of colour grading in video production
- a note on responding to emails and use of the Reply to All feature

Staff Time:

- This part of the meeting was held in camera. Other remarks were covered under Worship

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a proposal for repayment has been offered by Blue Sky. Our lawyer has suggested alternatives; negotiations are ongoing.

### COMMITTEES:

Finance:

- Rebecca McIntosh has resigned as chair of the finance committee and Cheryl Drachuk has resigned as adjunct to the committee. Consideration is being given to alternative models for preparation of the monthly income and expense statement as well as to stewardship.
- discussion re: repayment of short-term government loans
- making connections with online viewers and requesting donations during the pandemic were discussed; suggestion of an Easter letter.

**Motion:** (R.McIntosh/H.LaRue) That the 2021 budget be approved as presented. Carried

Inner and Outer Connections:

- the March 10 First Centering Prayer Zoom session had 10 people in attendance. Three more

sessions are planned: March 31, April 21 and May 12.

Property:

- the Property Committee approved an assessment of the church building by Accutech Engineering. Also approved: roof repair, alarm system upgrade, office plumbing repair and rental rates revision.
- the United Property Resource Corporation has offered to assume the cost of reviewing the SvN property development and management proposal
- a contract with the daycare is pending

**Motion:** (B.Johnston/M.Bolland) That the board of Westminster United Church approves proceeding with applying for a stabilization grant from the Winnipeg Foundation. Carried

Trustees:

- the insurance claim for the roof has been denied. Brandon will continue in this effort through the Property committee

Congregational Care:

- an updating of the Special Care list is in progress and connections are being made with assigned visitors

Ministry and Personnel:

- Marnie Bolland was commended on the extensive and ongoing work and documentation being done by M&P on salaries, budgets and organizational charts, job descriptions, contracts and annual reviews, in addition to overseeing the hiring of the office administrator
- the committee recommends that the salary from two vacant soloist positions (during the pandemic) be redirected towards paying a technical person to assist Nathan Poole with recording and/or live streaming of worship services if a volunteer is unavailable
- Ted and Carol have trained a very capable Melissa Gillespie in the workings of the office; M&P is willing to assist her with the practicum required in courses she is currently taking to upgrade her skills

**Motion:** (M.Bolland/P.Miles) That the terms of employment be accepted as presented. Carried

Worship:

- the Worship Advisory Committee has not met since the Dec.1, 2020 AGM meeting but planning details are in progress between Sherri and Nathan as they work around the pandemic.

Nominating Committee:

- Ted Barnett reported several position vacancies in addition to those reported by Finance
- a nominating committee will be struck; Carol will contact two members who have previously served on the committee. Helen LaRue volunteered to represent the board.

Reopening Task Group:

- the committee did not recommend reopening while the Manitoba government continues to enforce code-red regulations. It will continue to meet following future provincial announcements before making changes.
- one-time requests (Elections Canada, MCO and CBC) for use of the church space outside our formal reopening plan were agreed to by the committee with the following conditions: submission of a complete plan, adherence to guidelines in place at the time and acceptance of the application of a surcharge to cover extra cleaning costs.

**Motion:** (M.Bolland/B.Johnston) That the pandemic plan, "StartUp Westminster," be approved as

presented.

Carried

- the Plan will be posted on the website, with the Appendix removed

**Motion:** (R.McIntosh/B.Johnston) That Westminster United Church continues with its current pandemic plan (including recording worship) until April 4, 2021.

Carried

New Business:

- a request was made for copies of, *Psalms for All Seasons*. There was general agreement that the books should not be donated.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Sherri McConnell

Adjournment at 8:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021, or at the Call of the Chair.