

First United Church – Hanna, Alberta
Council Meeting, Church Lounge
Wednesday, September 20, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche
Rev. Leila Currie
Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Laura Creasy
Jennifer Laux
Kyle Toporchak

Tyler Creasy
Linda Quaschnick

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1.0 WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the meeting and Rev. Currie opened the meeting with a prayer.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion No. 90 Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Agenda for September 20, 2017 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Kyle Toporchak.

Carried.

3.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion No. 91 Moved by Kyle Toporchak that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held June 14, 2017 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick.

Carried.

Rhonda Lund advised that the minutes of the meeting held July 6, 2017 would be presented at the next regular meeting.

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Laura Creasy noted that the approved for purchase has been ordered, but needs to be picked up from The Brick. Discussion followed and it was the consensus of the council that The Brick be requested to deliver the fridge and the church would pay the delivery fee.

Laura Creasy advised the Jill Orum has stepped down as the M & S enthusiast, so the signing authority at the bank was not changed as per the motion at the June meeting. Signing authority does need to change so Dorothy Cornforth and Suzanne Burnham are removed as they are no longer on the committee.

Motion No. 92 Moved by Laura Creasy that signing authority for the Mission and Service account be changed by removing Dorothy Cornforth and Suzanne Burnham and adding Winona Gutsche and Linda Quaschnick.

Motion seconded by Tyler Creasy.

Carried.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Rev. Currie presented the following correspondence, noting that there are a number of newsletters included:

- 5.1 E-ssentials e-newsletter from United Church of Canada
Includes and articles regarding a special meeting of the commissioners for General Council 42, and
Confirming that the Remits came in as positive by the majority and will be implemented after General Council 42
- 5.2 Embracing the Spirit – Learning network and innovation fund. Monthly articles with ideas to enliven churches.
- 5.3 Sean McCormick from Radio Hanna sent a letter to Hanna Ministerial Association, offering the opportunity for churches to do their own radio shows or broadcast services. They also offer advertising opportunities.
- 5.4 Rostad Tours – information regarding a tour of England and Wales in June 2018
- 5.5 Alberta & Northwest Conference – information on Workshops and Webinars in October 2017
- 5.6 Naramata Center Newsletter
- 5.7 Edge Online Magazine
- 5.8 United Church of Canada Journal – Information on churches across the country. Four newsletters per year.
- 5.9 Food Handling Permit was renewed.
- 5.10 Community Action Against Abuse – Binder has been provided to the church with resources, information, posters, etc.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed Notes to the Financial Statements for August 2017 which noted that the church received \$5,000 from the Thrift Store in July to meet the monthly expenses. In August \$10,000 was transferred from the United Church Investment account to meet expenses.

Offerings were very low in July and August (\$2,970 over two months)
Attendance numbers were very low over the summer as well

The Finance Committee met over the summer. They would like approval from the Council for the fall visit letter and approval to switch from Direct Energy to ATCO Energy (combining power and gas bills).

The Manse roof was re- shingled and paid for through the Memorial Account (\$7,021.00)

Linda reviewed the Proposed Budget and Income Comparison reports with Council. Expenses are close to the budget amounts, but revenues are not.

Laura Creasy advised that the motion to change from Direct Energy to ATCO would be brought to the next Council Meeting.

The Town invoice for water was discussed as it was higher than expected (\$1,159.42). Winona Gutsche noted that with the dry summer, the irrigation was working more than usual.

6.2 Board of Trustees – Verbal Report

Tyler Creasy reported the following

- The funds requested from the investment fund (\$10,000) were transferred to the general fund.
- A quote was received from United Church of Canada for insurance. Our current company, Rogers Insurance in Calgary, are currently reviewing our plan to see if they can possibly reduce their rate.

6.3 Worship & Mission & Service – Written Report

Jennifer Laux reported that the Worship Committee held a meeting on August 30 where a number of items were discussed, including:

- Ecumenical Service & SunDrops Concert (Hanna Ministerial Association) on July 2nd was very well received. Great feedback and well attended, with over 200 people being served lunch.
- Summer services were discussed – very low attendance.
- Coffee House scheduled for October 4

- Worship Leadership during Rev. Currie's time away – thank you to Betty Warrington.
- Lodge & Nursing Home service will be held September 3rd.
- Mission & Service
 - Jillian Orum has decided not to be the M & S enthusiast at this time. Will remain on the Worship Committee.
 - M & S Awareness Sunday – October 22nd - Soup and Song Sunday.
 - Potential Mission & Service Fundraiser – discussion regarding a perogi supper in February 2018.
 - M & S Gift giving catalogue – discussed idea to have children make ornaments that relate to the Catalogue for a special tree. .
- Discussed fall programming ideas.
- Consideration for using our audio visual equipment for hosting webinars or other things to get people in the church.
- Started decorating for Thanksgiving season.
- New Church Library in the Lounge – resources for people to browse through or borrow. Honor based system.
- Sunday school - concerned that we don't have many children for a Sunday school.
- Pulpit use – it was discussed that some parts of the service can be done from the pulpit and some from the floor.
- Committee confirmed that they feel Rev. Currie is doing an exceptional job and want to ensure she is supported.
- Communion – September 3rd.
- Next meeting October 19th.

Chair Winona Gutsche advised that she was approached by Dr. George Wilkins about possibly reducing services in the summer months as the attendance is not high. Council discussed whether some options should be presented at the congregational meeting so people can think about it.

Jennifer Laux left the meeting at 8:12 pm

6.4 Christian Education

Rev. Currie advised that she spoke with Doreen Fitchett and Sherri Warnock and they are going to have lessons ready so if children come to church there is something prepared.

6.5 Pastoral Care – No Report

6.6 Memorial Park – Written Report

Winona Gutsche reported that

- Carrot Cake sale is September 28th and it is organized and ready to go.
- Thanks to the committee members for watering flowers and trimming the trees. The park looked great this year. Thanks to Lana and Ira for mowing the park and church grounds.
- Two trees were planted in memory of Yvonne Tolton and new plaques are ready to place by them. They were purchased by the Medical Clinic.
- A couple of shrubs were replaced as well.
- Flowers will be taken out soon as it is starting to freeze at night.

6.7 Ministry & Personnel – No Report

6.8 Property – Verbal Report

Kyle Toporchak advised that a special meeting was held to approve the contractor for the manse roof repair. Other than that, general repairs are being done.

Kyle provided a letter of resignation as Chairman of the Property Committee effective October 15, 2017 as he will be working out of the country for a while. He will remain as a member of the Committee.

6.9 Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the written report for the Centre Street Thrift Store, noting the following:

- June sales were \$5,385.55; volunteer hours were 238.75 and customers numbered 458.
- July sales were \$5,625.20; volunteer hours were 242.25 and customers numbered 508.
- August sales were \$5,871.45; volunteer hours were 262.75 and customers numbered 520.

Laura reviewed the activities in the Thrift store over the summer months.

Laura noted that the Thrift Store will have its 5th Anniversary this November. Council discussed doing a special recognition evening. All the people involved in the Thrift store will be invited. Tentative date for the evening is November 30, 2017.

Motion No. 93 Moved by Tyler Creasy that Council ratify the following motions made at the July 19th and September 6th Thrift Store meetings to authorize the Thrift Store to:

- 1 Put ad in East Central Alberta Review for Canada Day issue at cost of \$28
- 2 Authorize Laura Creasy and Barb Burgemeister to pick out a style of lamp post and purchase anchor, lamp post, cement and plaque for a maximum of \$700.
- 3 Have a customer appreciation BBQ on August 11th 11-1 serving hot dogs, smokies, pop and water with donations taken for school lunch programs.
- 4 Advertise in the East Central Alberta Review - Rodeo Edition for \$108.
- 5 Order a sign from Richard Crowle for \$720 plus GST.
- 6 Donate \$1,000 to the Community Youth Fund, \$1000 to the JC Charyk Concession Buck Program, \$1000 to the Primary School Hot Lunch Program.

Motion seconded by Kyle Toporchak.

Carried.

7.0 PRESBYTERY REPORT – No Report

Rev. Currie advised that the meeting is next week.

8.0 MINISTER'S REPORT – Written Report

Rev. Currie reviewed her report, noting the following:

- Committee meetings – Thrift Store on September 6th, Worship Committee on August 30th, Ministry & Personnel – June 26th. First United Executive – July 6th to discuss quotes for manse roof repair, Funeral Lunch committee – Call to discuss the purchase of the fridge for downstairs.
- Hanna Ministerial Association – Met September 12th –
 - Pleased with the feedback from the ecumenical service and lunch and concert on July 2nd. Pleased to have welcomed over 200 people.
 - Discussed the need to make the Ministerial Emergency Benevolent Fund more well known, as community needs seem to be on the rise.
- Centre Street Thrift Store – spend time when possible. Attended the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ.
- Pastoral Care – There are a lot of pastoral needs. Visit as time allows.
- Other Events – First United Church Picnic – June 18, Organized an interdenominational choir for the July 2 service, Attended the ordination service for Pastor Colin Millang on July 15th
- Wider Community – Hanna Food Bank Review Board meeting – July 6th
- Wider Church – Women in Ministry meetings; Consort Joint Search Committee – serve as the presbytery rep for Consort.
- Weddings – August 26th Meghan Ruedger & Todd Lindstrom in Speers SK.
- Funerals – Viola Allsopp – July 4th & Sylvia Chidley – August 24th

- Continuing Education & Vacation time
- Upcoming –
 - Funeral – Melvin Metzgar – September 22nd
 - Coronation Presbytery – September 27th
 - Carrot Cake Sale – September 28th
 - Coffee House – October 4th
 - Workshop – Awkward Conversations – October 5 & 6
 - Thanksgiving – October 8th

Discussion was held regarding outside maintenance of the church – people do as they can, but there is no one caretaker.

Motion No. 94 Moved by Laura Creasy that Committee Reports 6.1 to 6.9, Presbytery Report 7.0 and Minister's Report 8.0 be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick.

Carried.

9.0 NEW & OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Turkey Supper.

Chair Winona Gutsche will contact Gloria Hutton to see if she will convene the supper for November 17th. If not, we will do it by committee as we did last year.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winona Gutsche stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Chair

Secretary