First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday April 14, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche

Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Rev. Aurora Coulthard, Hanna First United Church

Rev. Jan Richardson, Stettler United Church

Laura Creasy Jean Lypka

Linda Quaschnick Gwen Snell

Lynette Barker

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the meeting in the fellowship room which allows everyone to be a safe distance apart in respect of COVID-19 regulations, but still be together.

Rev. Aurora Coulthard opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion No.** **76** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Agenda for April 14, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Gwen Snell. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **77** Moved by Gwen Snell that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held March 10, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

Secretary Rhonda Lund thanked Gwen Snell for looking after meeting minutes while she was away in February and March.

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Church Sign – Rhonda Lund confirmed that she and Alan picked up the sign from Tumbleweeds Printing, but we will need to get someone to install it.

**Motion No.** **78** Moved by Laura Creasy that Jensen’s Handiman Service be hired to install the new “Welcome to Hanna First United Church” sign on the west side of the church, in the same location as the old sign.

Motion seconded by Gwen Snell. **Carried.**

Piano Plaque - Chair Winona Gutsche reported that the plaque acknowledging the donation of the piano has been installed on the piano.

1. CORRESPONDENCE
   1. Registration for Online Regional Gathering – May 7-9, 2021

Rev. Coulthard confirmed that she will be registering for the Regional Gathering. She commented that she would like to have a member of the congregation volunteer and be appointed as a representative, at least for this meeting. This gathering meeting will include a livestream service and will most likely be full day meetings as there is a General Council Meeting soon.

Chair Winona Gutsche asked that members review the Regional Gathering registration information to see if they would like to volunteer as representative.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the financial reports.

* Cash accounts and operating revenues have increased by $7,800 from last month.
* Investments were reduced by $10,000 as the Mohl funds were received for 2021
* Expenses are up from the budget, but one third of that is utility costs with the remainder being general expenses.
* Overall, the finances are in good shape.

Laura Creasy advised that the 2021 proposed budget can be approved by Council as it has been circulated in the Annual Report. She confirmed that no one has approached her with questions or concerns.

**Motion No. 79** Moved by Laura Creasy that the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget for Hanna First United Church be approved as presented in the 2020 Annual Report.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

* 1. Board of Trustees – No Report
  2. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka reported that the committee has not met recently. She mentioned that a new roster for helping with services has been sent out for May and June.

Jean also expressed appreciation for the job that Rev. Coulthard is doing for our church.

* 1. Christian Education – No Report
  2. Pastoral Care – Verbal report

Linda Quaschnick reported that the committee has continued to send out cards for those who are hospitalized or unwell. They have also asked Trish to look up birth dates so the committee can send a card to senior members of the church to wish them Happy Birthday. The church has blank cards that can be used with an appropriate verse.

* 1. Memorial Park – Written Report

Lynette Barker reported the following:

* In response to the letter from Winona Gutsche, Kevin Bossert advised that he did not need an income tax receipt for snow removal. He also agreed to pile the snow on the north side of the church, rather than in the park.
* The Town recreation crew was hired to use their equipment to brush the gravel from the park this year rather than ask members to volunteer for this heavy work.
* Ira & Lana are unable to cut the grass this summer, so Reid Heilman will be contacted to see if he will do it for us.
* The Park and Property Committees will work together to pick a date to clean up the park and manse yard. The date will be announced soon.
* Flowers for the planters will be purchased from local businesses when they become available.
  1. Ministry & Personnel – No Report
  2. Property – Verbal Report

Gwen Snell reported on the following:

* The manse yard needs to be cleaned up when we get the work bee organized to do the church and park.
* Town recreation crew was hired to brush the park to remove gravel, twigs, etc. The church will be billed for the service (three hours with equipment).
* Sewer smell in the basement was fixed by putting water in the basement drain.
* Jensen’s Handiman Service have been contacted and are willing to install the Welcome sign on the church.
  1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the Thrift Store report, confirming the following:

* March statistics - $8,145.45 in sales, 544 customers and 325 volunteer hours.
* Donations have increased and storage shed is filling up. If people are travelling out of town and can deliver donations to a larger center it would be appreciated.
* Although Jean Pattinson has resigned from the board, she will be involved as a volunteer.
* Looking to have Gary Burgemeister build a donation box that will be easier to remove donations.
* Capacity limits were increased for a while to 25%, but are now reduced to 15% (6 customers / 4 volunteers) due to covid restrictions.
* Next winter will be looking for someone to shovel snow that can be at the church early in the day to clear snow for thrift store hours.

Moved by Gwen Snell that the motions from the Thrift Store Board meeting be ratified as follows:

1. That Jean Pattinson be removed as a member of the thrift store committee per her resignation letter dated March 21, 2021.
2. That Jean Pattinson be removed as signing authority to the Centre Street Thrift Store bank accounts and replaced by Gloria Hutton.
3. To donate $250 from the thrift store to the charity of Jean Pattinson’s choice to recognize the eight years she has sat on the Thrift Store Committee and for all she has contributed to the Thrift Store.
4. That in the event a volunteer suffers the loss of a family member that being a parent, a child, grand or great grandchild, a brother or sister, a niece or nephew, grandparent including in laws the Thrift Store makes a $50 donation to a local charity of their choice in their name.
5. To advertise in the ECA Review tourism guidebook for 2021 at a cost of $97.98 plus GST.
6. To match the $30 raised at the silent auction for the handmade lap quilt and donate $60 to the charity of the winner’s choice.

Motion seconded by Lynette Barker. **Carried.**

Discussion was held regarding concerns that snow was not shoveled in a timely manner during the winter, but the property committee was not notified until the season was over. The issue was handled, but not communicated to the right people.

**Motion No. 80** Moved by Gwen Snell that Church Council join the Thrift Store Board in recognizing Jean Pattinson for the eight years of service and dedication she has given to the Thrift Store by donating $250.00 to an organization of her choice.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

**Motion No. 81** Moved by Gwen Snell that as April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week, Church Council provide a $10.00 gift card from Tim Horton’s for each Thrift Store volunteer and member of executive to show appreciation for their commitment in volunteering at the Thrift Store.

Motion seconded by Lynette Barker. **Carried.**

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Verbal Report

Rev. Richardson reported that there continues to be many opportunities for Zoom meetings and online training.

* As with most meetings or gatherings, she will be attending the Chinook Winds Regional Gathering meetings online.
* There is a Clergy Retreat next week – 4 online segments over 3 days.
* As discussed at the Clergy gathering recently, Covid has affected all our lives we need to continue to let ourselves get accustomed to the new normal. Take to lament some of the changes in our lives.
* Churches that qualified for government loans to operate during covid are now looking at ways to repay the funds.
* New clergy couple coming to St. Andrew’s United Church in Lacombe.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – Verbal Report

Rev. Coulthard gave a verbal report, including the following items:

* Online services continue to be well received. Pleased that we did not open and have to shut down again as covid restrictions change. Rev. Coulthard suggested that Council should review the situation at each meeting and decide whether to open or not. Members agreed and online services will continue to mid-May.
* Website – She feels that people have to do a lot of digging to find out who we are and what we are about when they look at our website. She asked if the Worship committee would work with her to develop a mission statement for our church that is the first thing you see on the website. Jean Lypka agreed.
* Vacation – Rev. Coulthard advised that she will be taking July 1 – 29 for vacations. She has been with First United Church for 8 months and used only 1 week of vacation. She has taken time in lieu or education time, but not vacation. Her contract provides 7 weeks vacation during the 20 months of the contract.

It was the consensus of Council to close the church for the month of July rather than get pulpit supply during Rev. Coulthard’s vacation. Arrangements will be made for contact people for funerals and if Covid rules change, Council can reconsider opening for services with pulpit supply.

**Motion No. 82** Moved by Gwen Snell that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick. **Carried.**

1. NEW BUSINESS
2. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winona Gutsche thanked everyone for attending and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary