

Brechin United Church Council
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 16, 2021

Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: Kathy Torhjelm, Christine Robertson, Val Neilson, Tif McNaughton, Lynn Burrows, Blaine Wilkins, Linda Braid, Grace Skomorowski, Darlene Darby, Marilyn Huffman.

Regrets: Anne Manikel, Sue Ward, Tom Gray.

WELCOME by Kathy Torhjelm, Council Chair, who called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL – Val Neilson read a poem by Billy Collins “Forgetfulness”, followed by a prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Add under Correspondence received: Letter from Kris Jensen and an email from PMRC; delete from Old Business “Friends of Brechin Report”. **M/S:** Darlene Darby / Linda Braid. **Carried.**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

† June 17, 2021 **M/S:** Grace Skomorowski / Lynn Burrows. **Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- † Kathy Torhjelm sent a follow up email to Ian at Sands Funeral Chapel checking on the possibility of using the chapel. The response was “Be patient, just not now”.
- † Kathy Torhjelm also sent a letter to Ron Klusmeier regarding his suggestion of a summer concert and our concerns. Ron Klusmeier responded positively suggesting a “Welcome to our new location” concert to be held after we move into the “new Brechin”

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- † The Pacific Mountain Region sent an email with clarification regarding vaccine passports and the wearing of masks during worship services. We discussed the reopening of Brechin House to meetings and decided to leave things as they are for the time being.
- † Kris Jensen sent a letter requesting Council’s approval of an application for funding for a follow-up men’s gathering called “Healthy Masculinity”. **Motion:** That Council approves the application of funding for a gathering “Healthy Masculinity” to be held at Bethlehem Centre. **M/S:** Marilyn Huffman / Linda Braid. **Carried.**

Minister’s Report – Rev. Tif McNaughton – see attached. Tif mentioned that the ProVision Grant program is changing. Val Neilson thanked Tif for including the link to an article by Carey Nieuwhof in her report.

Financial Report – Blaine Wilkins – see attached. Between January to August, our

revenues are down \$10,000 in Local Contributions and our subsidies from the Federal Government are up by \$10,000. We discussed several things including in which account the funds raised by the Spring Into Action fundraiser were included. Blaine will investigate and let everyone know.

Pacific Mountain Region (PMRC) – Val Neilson – see attached.

Redevelopment – Val Neilson. See attached.

Motion: M/S Linda Braid / Darlene Darby that the above reports be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Faith Formation and Spiritual Development (FF), - Darlene Darby – nothing to report.

Ministry & Personnel – Linda Braid – see attached. Linda will assist Rev. Tif when she talks with bereaving families.

Mission and Outreach – Lynn Burrows – see attached. The Truth and Reconciliation workshop will proceed in November, following all Brechin and City of Nanaimo COVID protocols. There is a Peace Day event coming up this Saturday (Sept. 18th).

Pastoral Care – Marilyn Huffman – see attached. As Anne Manikel and Anne Harris-Freed are stepping back from calling members, more people are needed to make calls. Darlene Darby will join the calling team. Council appreciates the work of the Pastoral Care team, especially the calling of our congregants. Gwen Boyd is willing to carry on with the monthly services at Eden Gardens.

Property – no report.

Stewardship & Finance – Blaine Wilkins – the Stewardship workshop presentations were wonderful. There were 8 in-class hours, then time spent with the Brechin participants. There are lots of things for a committee to do including educating the congregation about the various types of stewardship other than money. The team needs a leader and more members to provide a “Case for Support”.

Worship – Grace Skomorowski – see attached. Grace will check with Lonnie and the team regarding the conflict between the next Worship team meeting and Fresh Start. Grace will also talk to Lonnie concerning a “messy church”

Motion: M/S Darlene Darby / Lynn Burrows that Leadership team reports be accepted. **Carried.**

OTHER REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

- † Fresh Start – The next session is scheduled for September 28th, 1:00 – 4:00, but there is a conflict with the Worship team’s next meeting. Val will check with the facilitators to see if it could be changed to Sept. 29th. The subject is ‘Power, Authority, and Influence’. The final module is currently scheduled for

Wednesday, October 27th 1:00 – 4:00.

- † Ad Hoc committee on Indigenous Art at the new Brechin. This is a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION:

- † Kathy Torhjelm will respond to Kris Jensen's letter.
- † Blaine Wilkins will confirm which account the Spring into Action funds were assigned.
- † Val Neilson will contact the Fresh Start presenters regarding the dates for the next modules.
- † Linda Braid will assist Rev. Tif with conversations with bereaving families.
- † Grace Skomorowski will check with Lonnie Moddle and the Worship team about the time of the next team meeting. She will also check with Lonnie concerning the "messy church" workshop.

CLOSING PRAYER – Tif closed with a prayer.

Next Council meeting: October 21, 2021, via Zoom.

Devotional: October - Christine Robertson.

November meeting – Linda Braid.

December meeting – Darlene Darby.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am on the motion of Linda Braid.

Kathy Torhjelm, Chair

Christine Robertson, Secretary

Minister's report to Council

September 2021

The summer months went by quickly. My vacations to visit a few friends and family were very enjoyable, though I question my decision to own a vehicle without air conditioning. I had the opportunity to attend a retreat with the theme *Deep Listening* at Bethlehem Centre which was a very positive experience.

By August 3rd my second vaccine was in full effect, and it was safer to resume in person indoor visits. Covid precautions have been a moving target these past few months, as we respond to the fourth wave and other more regional variables. I am grateful that Brechin has continued to be mindful of how to keep one another safe, and that we continue to carefully consider how to make use of the exemptions given to faith communities by the province.

Meetings of our teams have resumed, and the fall schedule is full of our team work, events, worship, and considering how to speak to this stage of the redevelopment project amongst all the many things shaping our faith community right now. Pastoral visiting continues to be a priority, and families who had planned for fall memorial services are back in touch. Institutional requests for pastoral care are popping up at times, as hospitals and care facilities are recognizing the need for more connections where safe. I have been asked when we may resume Wild Church. I haven't had a chance to schedule it in yet, but I would encourage you to consider attending the Nanaimo Green Faith event on September 18th which several Brechin folk have been involved in planning.

My focus through it all is considering what a sustainable pace looks like for us right now, and informed by the wisdom I encountered at the *Deep Listening* retreat. As has often been the case during covid some items can resume, while others cannot or take more time and effort; so, what does it look like to build a realistic schedule for myself, for each of us, with our teams, and our community? Where do we leave space for genuine rest, for reflection, to listen for Spirit? Is there something that needs to be added to support our mission and nurture our connections?

This recent article by Carey Nieuwhof summarizes some of the challenges being faced by some clergy and faith communities. We may name our joys and challenges a little differently than the writer does, but this offers some helpful reminders of the need to care for one another as a council as we lead and serve in these times.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/feel-like-2021-has-been-harder-than-2020-on-you-as-a-leader-youre-right-heres-why/>

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Tif McNaughton

**Brechin United Church
Balance Sheet As at 08/31/2021**

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	121.40	
Chequing Bank Account	12,412.74	
Total Cash		12,534.14
Investments		175,000.00
GST Receivable	418.21	
Total Receivable		418.21
Prepaid Expenses		961.78
Total Current Assets		188,914.13

Capital Assets

Office Furniture & Equipment	288,636.00	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	-288,636.00	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		0.00
Church Building	2,098,149.38	
Accum Amortization Bulding	-2,098,149.38	
Net Building		0.00
Property		347,000.00
Total Capital Assets		347,000.00

TOTAL ASSET

535,914.13

LIABILITY

Trust Accounts

Building fund	56,466.77	
The Spiritual Growth Fund	1,935.94	
Clear Spiritual Growth Fund	-432.00	
Mission & Service	12,094.00	
Clear Mission & Service	-12,094.00	
Loaves & Fishes	4,435.00	
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-4,435.00	
Memorial Funds	4,693.20	
The Piemakers' Fund	2,579.39	
Transitional Expense Fund	73,050.29	
The Legacy Fund	14,870.93	
ProVition Fund	13,100.17	
Clear ProVition Fund	-296.00	
Ladies Friendship Group Fund	56.95	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fun	49,372.92	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refuge	-15,986.08	
Total Trust Funds		199,412.48

Total Current liabilities	<u>199,412.48</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>199,412.48</u>
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	373,391.48
Current Earnings	<u>-36,889.83</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>336,501.65</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>336,501.65</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>535,914.13</u></u>

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**Brechin United Church
Comparative Income Statement
Jan-Aug 2021 - 2020**

	Actual 01/01/2021 to 08/31/2021	Actual 01/01/2020 to 08/31/2020
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Local Contributions	71,011.40	81,967.70
Open donations	0.00	458.20
Weddings and Funerals	0.00	1,300.00
Special Events & Fundraising	0.00	670.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	162.18	1,268.50
Federal Wage Subsidy Grants	17,993.87	6,249.39
Investment Income	387.84	2,440.68
Total Operating Revenue	<u>89,555.29</u>	<u>94,354.47</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>89,555.29</u>	<u>94,354.47</u>
EXPENSE		
Overhead Expenses		
Moving & Temporary Space Expense	12,599.37	13,591.70
Electricity	1,840.50	1,882.36
Equipment Service & Agreements	863.03	1,217.79
Insurance	2,225.20	1,790.46
Contract Janitorial Services	250.00	450.00
UCC & Region Assessments	4,744.11	5,218.85
Telephone & Internet Expense	1,513.79	1,475.95
Total Overhead Expense	<u>24,036.00</u>	<u>25,627.11</u>
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	60,864.94	58,018.09
Contracted Music Services	16,200.00	15,536.50
Wedding & Funeral Compensation	0.00	1,400.00
Minister Travel Expense	52.48	569.54
Minister's Continuing Ed & Book Exp	642.96	1,901.43
Employee Benefits	18,378.35	16,671.05
Pulpit Supply	1,537.00	1,668.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>97,675.73</u>	<u>95,764.61</u>
General & Administrative Expenses		
Newspaper Advertising expense	0.00	825.73
Bulletins, Inserts & Service Supplies	123.89	0.00
Website Expense	213.53	565.02
Envelope & Stewardship	0.00	226.32

Sunday School & Christian Develop't	340.05	327.99
Office Supplies	721.42	1,117.68
Bank Charges	301.50	0.00
Broadview Magazine Expense	-25.00	-290.00
Fellowship Pastoral Care	0.00	28.22
Miscellaneous Expense	2,344.84	160.26
Music Expense	50.00	42.49
Mission & Outreach Committee Exp.	100.00	0.00
Subscription Expense	25.00	32.22
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	538.16	538.19
Total General & Adminstravtive	<u>4,733.39</u>	<u>3,574.12</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>126,445.12</u>	<u>124,965.84</u>
NET INCOME	<u><u>-36,889.83</u></u>	<u><u>-30,611.37</u></u>

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**Brechin United Church
Income Statement 08/01/2021 to 08/31/2021**

REVENUE

Revenue

Local Contributions	8,370.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	93.00
Investment Income	41.10
Total Operating Revenue	<u>8,504.10</u>

TOTAL REVENUE	<u>8,504.10</u>
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EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

Moving & Temporary Space Expense	1,500.00
Electricity	117.61
Insurance	288.45
UCC & Region Assessments	677.73
Telephone & Internet Expense	183.75
Total Overhead Expense	<u>2,767.54</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	8,397.98
Contracted Music Services	2,025.00
Employee Benefits	2,201.81
Pulpit Supply	663.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>13,287.79</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Office Supplies	31.25
Bank Charges	30.00
Total General & Administrative	<u>61.25</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>16,116.58</u>
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NET INCOME	<u><u>-7,612.48</u></u>
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PMRC Report for BUC Council meeting: September 16, 2021

Over the summer there have been periodic town hall meetings on Zoom, all of which are recorded and available on the PMRC website. The most recent was in late August when new Public Health orders were announced by Dr. Bonnie Henry. Because there were specific implications for churches and worship services Treena Duncan wanted to provide an opportunity for Q&A. There were 175 attendees for that gathering and plenty of questions as you can imagine.

Our next Fresh Start module is #17: Planning for Effective Ministry. I am currently waiting for confirmation from the facilitators to my email stating we would need to be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, September 28th from 1-4pm rather than in person as we had hoped.

Submitted by Val Neilson

Redevelopment Report for BUC Council meeting: September 16, 2021

I do not have anything more current than what Randy posted to our newsletter and website a few weeks ago. We have been told there are meetings to be held in mid September between BC Housing and the Region so Don Evans will report to us following those discussions.

Submitted by Val Neilson

M+P Report to Council: September 16, 2021

The team members had a restful summer with some short trips and visits with family and close friends.

Our thanks to Cindy and Christine who spent several office training hours together in preparation for Cindy's three week summer break. As Christine wasn't able to assist with the finances (donations, payment of invoices, receiving

cheques), Cindy is wondering if additional office financial training could be offered to Christine.

In the past, Brechin's Safety Stewards Team was called upon to make sure all necessary precautions were followed at events, these past eighteen months. Currently, Worksafe BC recommends that "HR or similar" (M+P in our case) be involved in decision making on the prevention of communicable diseases. For this reason, on September 15, 2021, the team met with Tif, Lonnie and Ron to discuss additional precautions that need to be considered with regard to Celebrations of Life. **Care, caution and compassion for family members and for the Brechin community (minister, musicians, choir and guests) were discussed.** Tif appreciated the comments and suggestions she received. Linda will write a brief summary. It will be shared and reviewed with the Safety Stewards team and those who participated at the September 15th meeting.

Linda Braid, M+P team leader

MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR SEPT 16TH, 2021.

I. TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

We are planning a 'Paddling Together' workshop Nov 8th at Beban Park Social Centre. This follows our Jan 2020 Building Bridges workshop: it was scheduled for March 2020 but had to be postponed due to Covid. Kathi Camilleri is continuing to facilitate both live in-person or zoom workshops, but our team prefers to have the in-person event if we can. One of our members is currently polling those people who had expected to attend the cancelled workshop of March 2020 to try and determine numbers for interest in workshops...and a preference for in-person vs. zoom. We still have enough funds left from the UC Truth & Reconciliation Fund from 2020 to cover our one Fall 2021 workshop and a set of 2 workshops Spring 2022. We will apply for further UC Truth & Reconciliation funding in March 2022 for 2 Fall 2022 workshops (Building Bridges & Paddling Together). We will be applying again for a City of Nanaimo Culture & Heritage funding – for 2 series of workshops in 2022 – this is due by October 19th. We understand that Brechin's safety team will still have to approve a Fall in-person workshop. All Covid precautions would be undertaken.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Social Justice Networks

Port Alberni will continue to administer the funds for Central Island Network and Elaine Julian is still committed to maintaining the network. Jane Dawson has been hired as Regional Minister for Justice. More details on www.pacificmountain.ca

B. Nanaimo Homelessness

NSI (Nanaimo Street Initiatives) and Nanaimo Hospice Society expect to continue to partner with the fall clothing/blanket program roll out. There may be another non-profit organization involved.

C. Climate Change/Climate Action

1. **Nanaimo Green Faith Circle:** one of our members Julia Roberts is key to Nanaimo Green Faith Circle. There is an upcoming Peace Day event “Making Peace with Earth” on Saturday, September 18th 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the outdoor labyrinth at Bethlehem Centre, Nanaimo. RSVP for this event at the Nanaimo Green Faith Facebook Event Page <http://fb.me/e/3Qd2bc2PZ>. We are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and snacks for a short time of gathering after the event.
2. **“Climate Change: Finding Local Solutions”** Workshop – this workshop is presented by the North Island Climate Hub (NICH). NICH is a grassroots climate change organization located in Campbell River. Team member John Bullas attended this workshop on Gabriola (sponsored by the Gabriola library) earlier this spring. Our group decided to sponsor a local Nanaimo workshop October 19th at 7:00 pm, (Zoom). We will invite Brechin folks, and also extend invites to the two other United Churches in Nanaimo.
3. **Upcoming Local climate actions:**
 - Fridays For Future – UpRootTheSystem Friday Sept 24 4:00 pm – Diana Krall Plaza.
 - Show & Tell, Electric Vehicles – Saturday, Sept 25th – Gabriola Island

D. Upcoming Worship Themes

We recognize this as a great place to highlight some of the things our team cares about, a perfect opportunity to ‘weave’ in some social justice topics, and perhaps at the same time encourage new M&O Team members. October 17 – the theme will be “Guaranteed Livable Income”

Respectively submitted by
Lynn Burrows,
Chair, M&O Team

PASTORAL CARE REPORT TO COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 16 2021

It was good to see most of our team back after our summer break.

Our September Call Out went well again with folks expressing appreciation for the calls. Over the summer we have gained several new followers on Zoom, and they have also been contacted by team members; we hope these people will stay with us so we can get to know them better in person. Once we are in our building and Covid is behind us it would be good to think about another Newcomers event. We have decided to change up our callers phone list for the next call out so that we can perhaps each get to know more of our congregation better. We would really appreciate having a few more people to be phoners for us and would like to say thank you to Anne Harris-Freed and Anne Manikel for the time they spent doing that since we started, they have decided to step back from that. Also, thanks to Gwen Boyd and Peggy Jensen as well as Grace and Nelson Skomorowski who are carrying on. You do not have to be a part of the Pastoral Care Team to be a phoner tho' we would certainly welcome you on the team!!

Another change we are making is our meeting day which will now be the FIRST TUESDAY of the month. This will avoid any Monday holidays and also give more time between our meeting and Council.

Sadly, our "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner " has been bumped again due to Covid; if the situation improves, we will try again in late October.

We again discussed a Zoom service to recognize folks who have died through Covid; Tif will be talking more with the Worship Team about that. Tif let us know that she will be doing a worship service at Eden Gardens on Sunday, October 3.

Our team very much appreciated the lovely card and words of support that we received from the Worship Team for the work our team are doing to stay in touch with our congregation.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn Huffman

September 13 2021

Worship Team Report for Council September 16, 2021

The Team was in the most part pleased with how the summer services unfolded. “Beguiled by Beauty” helped with some of the worship but required more work than was expected. The graphics were excellent.

Tif had a good holiday with her family, friends and new niece.

Christina Bogucki and Ron Klusmeier will resume their duties in September.

Eden Garden services will resume on October 3.

We will be returning to “Theme Time”. These will be used as teaching moments.

We will continue with the practice of having the 4th Sunday with no service for September and October. We will revisit this at our September 29th meeting.

The 3rd Sunday of the month will highlight Mission and Service with a special Minute.

October 1st will be World Wide Communion Sunday.

Council Chairperson Kathy attended our meeting and reported on the Pacific Mountain health guidelines and other important issues.

Our Fundraiser 2021 (Advent) will be further discussed at our next meeting.

Our August 15 outdoor picnic was a great success. We will host another one at Mansfield Park on September 26th. We are encouraging attendees to wear orange shirts to support Truth and Reconciliation.

We remind everyone of the next Fresh Start presentation September 28th (1 – 4)

Reader’s list will be reactivated for September 12, 2021.

Tif will invite folk to enter their prayer requests or tell of celebrations in the chat box during “Prayers of the People”

Worship Committee will host a special meeting with those interested in the Technology aspect of our services. *(Date to be decided)*

Choir will resume creating online anthems. This announcement was greeted with great joy and gratitude.

Messy Church Symposium October 14 – 17. Information on registration will be forthcoming.

Wild church will be discussed at our next meeting.

We had further discussion on furniture. The retired clergy group has found a beautiful alabaster glass bowl from Turkey and will gift this for the Baptism bowl.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Skomorowski

Hello Everyone,

RE: RESCHEDULE OF 'PADDLING TOGETHER' RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP

The Mission & Outreach team at Brechin United Church in Nanaimo is presently reviewing our fall plans to present The Village Workshop Series © “Paddling Together for Community” in November 2021 (~~date to be determined~~ (Monday, November 8th)). 2 series of the Future workshops (of “Building Bridges” and followed by “Paddling Together”) are planned for next spring and fall of 2022.

This email is intended for all prior registrants who had planned on attending the March 18, 2020 “Paddling Together” originally to be held at Beban Park Social Centre but was cancelled due to COVID-

At this time, it is our hope to move forward with this postponed workshop. Given that we are currently living with ongoing Covid19 restrictions, we felt it pertinent to seek your interest and your intention to attend this rescheduled workshop, as well as your preference to attend a live In-Person workshop, or by joining an On-line zoom presentation. Our presenter Kathi Camilleri continues to facilitate this series and is actively providing options for both live and on-line workshops. All provincial Covid19 guidelines will be recognized and followed for in-person gatherings- The on-line workshop involves considerable emails back & forth but also on-line connections.

Please indicate your workshop presentation preference for the Monday November 8th workshop by **Monday, September 27th**:

I Would Prefer to Attend In-Person _____

I Would Prefer to Attend On-Line _____

I Would Attend In-Person OR On-Line _____

I Would **Not** Attend In-Person OR On-Line At This Time _____

We value your feedback and appreciate you taking the time to advise us of your interest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you.

Colleen Crossland

Mission & Outreach, Workshop Planning Team

Brechin United Church, Nanaimo

brechinmando@gmail.com