First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday February 9, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche

Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Rev. Aurora Coulthard, Hanna First United Church

Rev. Jan Richardson, Stettler United Church – by video

Jean Lypka Tyler Creasy

Laura Creasy Linda Quaschnick

Lynette Barker Liz Gourlay

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.** **109** Moved by Lynette Barker that the Agenda for February 9, 2022 be adopted as presented.

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

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **110** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the minutes of the meeting held January 12, 2022 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Tyler Creasy. **Carried.**

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
2. CORRESPONDENCE
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Laura Creasy reviewed the financial reports for January 2022, noting the following:

* The Thrift Store contribution will be received in February and the Mohl Investment contribution will be received in March.
* Proposed budget and income comparison for the operating account was reviewed. Offerings are lower than 2021 but expenses are very similar except for utilities. Following discussion, Laura was asked to investigate whether a fixed rate for power would reduce costs.
* The operating account is in a deficit position for January, but funds from year end decreased the deficit.

Laura also reviewed the Notes to the Financial Statement.

* She attended a webinar for church treasurers, and it was noted that churches are moving toward electronic banking. Laura developed a form to authorize etransfer payments, that will be signed by authorized personnel.
* The payroll provider (ADP) does not allow funds to be drawn from more than one account, which is set up as the Church Operating Account for the minister and office administrator. In order to pay the Thrift Store manager through the payroll program, Laura developed a form to electronically transfer funds each month from the Thrift Store Operating Account to the Church Operating Account and be signed by authorized personnel.
* Laura also developed a policy to allow an employee to carry forward a maximum of $500.00 vacation pay accrued. Any accrued vacation pay in excess of $500.00 will be paid prior to year end.

* 1. Board of Trustees – No Report
  2. Worship – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka advised that she and Gloria Hutton discussed decorating the church for the Easter season. They also discussed plans to clean out the room in the basement that stores the decorations and then invest in some new ones.

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

Linda Quaschnick stated that the committee is sending cards as usual. They are hoping that as the Covid restrictions are lifted by the province, committee members will be able to visit with congregation members in the long term care and the lodge.

Rev. Coulthard noted that she can visit with people if she is registered as a volunteer with Alberta Health Services, but she cannot discuss religion, read from the bible, or provide pastoral care.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche noted that she will be ordering 4 flower baskets from the 4H Multi club for the park planters. The flowers for the planters under the sign and at the church entrance will be purchased once the stores open their garden centers.

Laura Creasy mentioned that the thrift store executive would like to meet with the committee to decide on the placement of the bench and picnic table being donated in memory of thrift store volunteers Archie Williams and Shirley Platten. Lynette Barker and Winona Gutsche agreed.

* 1. Ministry & Personnel – No Report
  2. Property – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche advised that Gwen Snell asked her to report that Sinclair Plumbing was hired to fix the boiler last month.

Other items discussed included the following:

* Water dripping from the eavestroughs is still an issue. We will need to look at it this summer.
* The wood around the deadbolt on the back door looks to be rotting away. It will need to be repaired.
* The Town public works crew will look into the ice build up in the parking lot and invoice us if there is something they can do to help.
* Dick Pahl donated an electric snow shovel that he didn’t need anymore. A thank you card and tax receipt for the value of the shovel was sent to him.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the Thrift Store report, confirming the following:

* January statistics - $ 7,388.25 in sales & 495 customers.
* A storewide sale of 50% off was very well received this month.
* The store began taking credit cards in addition to debit card transactions. The feedback has been very positive.

**Motion No.** **111** Moved by Tyler Creasy that the motions from the Thrift Store Board meeting held February 3, 2022 be ratified as follows:

1. To obtain a credit card for the Centre Street Thrift Store with a low credit limit ($500.00) to allow purchases necessary for the operation of the store.
2. To donate $750 to the Hanna Community Youth Fund

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

Linda Quaschnick advised that the Thrift Store Executive welcomed Charlotte Preston as a new member on the committee.

Linda also noted that the committee accepted, with regret, the resignation of Laura Creasy, expressed their gratitude for her expertise and assistance, and wished her well.

* 1. Pastoral Relations Committee – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche advised that the committee had a meeting with Stephen Harper, Pastoral Relations minister for Chinook Winds. They reviewed the process to date and he agreed they were on the right track. It hasn’t been determined yet, but our representative will be Barbara Zimmerman from Castor or the minister from Drumheller. The committee is working on the Needs Assessment.

Winona also advised that a congregational meeting is required to declare a vacancy so that the search for a minister can begin. This item of business cannot be held during the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for February 13 at 1:30 p.m., so a short meeting will be called prior to the annual meeting. Laura Creasy noted that the church must hold the meeting to declare a vacancy prior to uploading the profile on the ChurchHub website.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Verbal Report

Rev. Coulthard reported that Rev. Stephen Harper has submitted his resignation as Pastoral Relations Minister for Chinook Winds Region. Winona Gutsche stated that she was very sorry to hear that Rev. Harper is resigning as he is very knowledgeable and helpful.

Rev. Richardson reported:

* She is hopeful that with the Covid restrictions being lifted, the Chinook Winds Region meetings scheduled for May 6 – 9 in Red Deer will be an in person.
* She was also sorry that Rev. Stephen Harper is resigning.
* Bar Harbour Camp registrations opened today.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – Written Report

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

* She has been doing a preaching series on stewardship for the season of Epiphany.
* She is looking at setting up a couple of training sessions to teach people how to set up the technology for worship. Hoping to train a core group to be trained before she leaves.
* Still interested in leading an evening activity for the congregation, but not sure what people would be interested to do. Did plan to do a drumming circle, but did not get a response, so that was cancelled. Any ideas would to get people engaged would be appreciated.
* Lent begins Sunday March 6, which is prior to the next council meeting. Before the end of February, the sanctuary will need to be decorated the sanctuary for the season.

**Motion No. 112** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

Motion seconded by Tyler Creasy. **Carried.**

1. NEW BUSINESS

1. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

This is a change from the regular meeting schedule as Rev. Coulthard will be away March 9 and other members have commitments.

1. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winona Gutsche thanked everyone for attending and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary