First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday October 13, 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 – by video

Jean Lypka Gwen Snell

Tyler Creasy Linda Quaschnick

Lynette Barker Liz Gourlay

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:14 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.** **92** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Agenda for October 13, 2021 be adopted as presented.

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

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Secretary Rhonda Lund apologized that the minutes for the September 15, 2021 meeting are not completed.

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
2. CORRESPONDENCE

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the financial reports for September 30th.

* Not as good as last month but still doing well.
* Investments have dropped a little.
* Budget proposal revenue close to last year at this time.
* Total expenses up $21,318 from last year. Sounds significant, but we were not paying wages last year so salaries and benefits are higher. Insurance also increased.
* Will get our final contribution from the Thrift store soon.

* 1. Board of Trustees – Verbal Report

Tyler Creasy advised that he spoke with the bank representative, but it is difficult to get in the bank due to covid.

He noted that the United Church of Canada has secured cyber liability protection coverage starting April 12, 2021 at no extra cost to us. The coverage is for $100,000 with a deductible of $2,500.

* 1. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka advised that the committee has not met. She noted that Gloria Hutton and her team did a wonderful job decorating the church for fall.

Jean stated that Rev. Coulthard did a wonderful job on the October 10 service when pianist Denise Wiens was unavailable due to an unexpected medical issue. Everyone agreed. Rev. Coulthard thanked everyone and noted that Denise is doing better and hopes to be back home at the end of the week.

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

Linda Quaschnick stated that the committee is anxious to get back to when they can visit people again. As always, please let the Committee members know of anyone who needs pastoral care.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Lynette Barker advised that the flowers have been taken out and the planters put away.

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

Gwen reported on the following:

* Contacted Ray Heilman to do fall clean up and he agreed.
* Also asked him about snow clearing – waiting for his quote.
* Gwen has made arrangements for the irrigation to be turned off.
* Discussion regarding the problem with water coming in the back door at the manse. Gwen has offered to contact Anchor Glass to look into the repairs to the weatherstripping.
* Linda Quaschnick stated that the new taps that were installed in the kitchen are great.
  1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Linda Quaschnick (amended from Laura Creasy at November 10, 2021 meeting) reviewed the Thrift Store report, confirming the following:

* September statistics - $6,845 in sales, 432 customers & 211 volunteer hours.
* With the Rummage Sale cancelled, the thrift store has an overwhelming amount of donations.
* Volunteers are doing a wonderful job keeping up.
* Halloween inventory is out.
* As Sherri Kinsmen volunteers at the Thrift Store, the board wants to recognize Archie Williams in some way – perhaps a bench in the park if Council and Park Committee agree.
* Laura has approached the Thrift Store about stepping down from administrative duties. She will work with the committee until the end of the year. Committee will try to move most of her duties to administrator and put her on payroll with an increase to $20.00 per hour, not a contract. Ministry & Personnel have agreed.
* Still need one member of Council to sit on the Thrift Store Committee

After discussion, it was agreed by the Park Committee that a bench in honour of Archie Williams would be accepted in the church park, but will need to be on a cement base.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Verbal Report

Rev. Richardson reported:

* There is concern in the region regarding the ongoing problem of lack of ministers. Lay people are stepping up, but there are times when a service requires a minister.
* She noted that she is pleased with what Rev. Stephen Harper has done as Pastoral Relations Minister
* She just started a six week online seminar called Bridges between Poverty & Privilege. People need the circle of support.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – Verbal Report

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

* Has been in conversations with members about letting new people in the community know we are here. Tammy McMillan from the Business Hub suggested we could put something in the Welcome to Hanna package given to new residents.
* Bible Study is going well with two weeks left to complete eight sessions.
* She is open to suggestions from the council or congregation for a winter project or study session.
* Preparing for her interview in January 2022 for Approval for Ordination.
* Having been the Minister in Hanna for over a year, she can request special permission from the region to perform the sacraments. Council consensus was that Rev. Coulthard move forward with the request so she could lead the congregation in communion and other sacraments.

**Motion No. 93** Moved by Gwen Snell that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

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

1. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Winona Gutsche advised that she requested the Town public works crew to remove the parking barricades from the parking lot as they were damaged and she was concerned they would cause vehicle damage. The crew was able to remove them at the same time as they did other concrete work.

1. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 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 7:54 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary