First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday September 15, 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

 Tyler Creasy Linda Quaschnick

 Lynette Barker Liz Gourlay

 Ron Lowther

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.** **88**  Moved by Lynette Barker that the Agenda for September 15, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Laura Creasy. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **89** Moved by Lynette Barker that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held May 12, 2021 be adopted as presented.

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

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
2. CORRESPONDENCE

* 1. Thank You Card – Thank you from the family for the funeral service performed for Eileen (Corry) Hagen. Chair Winona Gutsche advised that as a friend of the family she was asked to tell Rev. Coulthard that they were very pleased and thankful for the service.
1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
	1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the financial reports for April 30th.

* Stayed pretty static over the summer.
* Doing very well with actual revenue in comparison to budget. Expenses were up but another contribution from the thrift store helped to balance it.

Laura noted that the Fall visit letter is included in the package. If Council is happy with it, we will have the office administrator send it out this week. Council consensus was that the letter was good and should be sent as is.

* 1. Board of Trustees – No Report

Tyler Creasy advised that the Board did not meet with the bank representative last month, but the will schedule a meeting. He asked the insurance company if they provided a rate reduction for churches with security cameras and was advised that the rates will not change.

* 1. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka reported that the committee has not met, but things are going well.

Rev. Coulthard noted that Gloria Hutton and group of people are decorating the church tomorrow for fall.

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

Linda Quaschnick reported that the committee was getting prepared to meet with Aurora and meet with people in the long term care, but the covid restrictions have stopped that again.

The committee is still sending out cards as they hear of people who need one. She asked that the congregation members please let the committee know if someone needs pastoral care. Please phone the church and Tricia Gladdish or Rev. Coulthard will get the information to the committee.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Lynette Barker reported that Ray Heilman has been cutting the grass for the church, park and manse. The flowers are still being watered and hope to keep them nice as long as possible.

* 1. Ministry & Personnel – Verbal Report

Ron Lowther mentioned that the committee has not met, but Tricia Gladdish keeps him updated with information. The committee set a date to meet on October 18 at 1:00 pm.

* 1. Property – Verbal Report

Rhonda Lund read the following report on behalf of Gwen Snell & Alan Lund:

* July Items
	+ Burned out bulb in the hallway by the woman’s washroom turned out to be a ballast. Brady Ermel was hired to do the repair.
	+ Alan and Tricia checked on the manse during Rev. Coulthard’s vacation to ensure there were no issues while it was vacant
* August Items
	+ We contracted with Doug Longeway to clean out the gutters on the church, including the high eaves on the north side. There was a rather large wasp nest that he had to work around. He will be contracted to do the eaves again in the fall.
	+ Eaves Repair work - Doug Longeway did seal the eaves (some areas needed repairs) and looked at some additional dams for the roof.
* September Items
	+ Ants – Scott Fortna of Assassin Pest control treated the outside of the church for ants. This should eliminate any concerns with ants coming into the building on such a dry year.
	+ Irrigation will be blown out and winterized within the next week or so. Alan has already turned the water off to the irrigation so that Dave Beckie can go ahead when he is ready.
	+ Ray Heilman and his sons provided a great service for our church, park and manse this summer. They are very hard workers, did a very good job and watched to ensure that the grass did not get too long, but were not cutting when not required. It is our recommendation to approach them for next season mowing.
	+ Snow removal – it is our recommendation that we approach Ray Heilman and sons to inquire if they would be interested in providing snow removal services for our church and manse sidewalks. Council agreed that Ray should be asked to do snow removal.
	+ Hot water tank for the kitchen – thank you to the thrift Store for installing the hot water tank for the kitchen. With the issue now with COVID it is a great that the issue was re-visited and changes were made.
	+ New sign on the church looks great. Thank you to Rhonda and Winona for their work in seeing this project through.

Winona Gutsche noted that the metal sign on the northwest corner of the church needs to be repaired or replaced. The sign is very high and difficult to change. The consensus was that she look at prices for a new sign.

Rev. Coulthard noted that the back door of the manse needs to have weather stripping repaired as water will come in during a storm. She offered to call Anchor Glass and arrange the repair.

Laura Creasy asked that the manse eaves be cleaned when the church ones are done.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

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

* May – August statistics
	+ May - $7,374.75 in sales, 462 customers, 278 volunteer hours.
	+ June - $8,396.00 in sales, 568 customers, 264.5 volunteer hours.
	+ July - $6,376.63 in sales, 499 customers, 241 volunteer hours.
	+ August - $6,659.25 in sales, 494 customers, 228.5 volunteer hours.
* Cameras have been installed
* Garbage bin is being rented from Greenslade’s Disposal
* Gary & Judy Burgemeister built and donated a new donation box.
* Small hot water tank was installed under the sink in the kitchen
* A new group will be coming to pick up excess donations (Inclusion Alberta) and rented a bigger shed
* No one responded to the advertisement to sponsor kids to attend Bar Harbour camp.
* Planned a volunteer appreciation supper on September 8th to be catered but postponed it due to rising covid case numbers.
* Did a take down for a funeral for the first time in over a year and a half – went smoothly, with a lot of help and time from volunteers.

**Motion No.** **90** Moved by Jean Lypka that the motions from the Thrift Store Board meeting be ratified as follows:

1. To purchase $100.00 Chamber gift certificates for Gary & Judy Burgemeister in appreciation for building the donation box.
2. To donate $1,000 each to the following programs at JC Charyk School for the 2021-2022 school year if the programs are running this year:
	1. JC Charyk Concession
	2. Hot Lunch Program
	3. Breakfast Program.
3. To donate $750 to the Hanna Community Youth Fund

 Motion seconded by Ron Lowther. **Carried.**

Discussion was held regarding the change in Covid restrictions and how they will affect the Thrift Store operations.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Verbal Report

Rev. Richardson reported:

* She will be attending a virtual retirement session.
* Rev. Stephen Harper has replaced Lee Spice in Pastoral Relations. He did a covenanting service and is working on the memorandum of understanding between churches.
* Congregations are working on Memorandums of Understanding - how to coordinate for a shared minister or staff for more than one church. Bowden congregation members are worshipping elsewhere because they closed their church, but still need pastoral care, etc. Difficulty finding ministers and funding is not always available in congregations to support a minister.
* Because of covid restrictions, hybrid is the new word now, some congregations want to have services in person and some want online services. Concern that the covid vaccination program has caused differences of opinion in families and congregations.
* A new student minister is starting in Drumheller and the minister from Coronation is moving to Kimberly BC.
* Sunnybrook United Church in Red Deer held a covenanting service for their minister, who has been there for almost a year.
* Bar Harbour Camp – older age group was full, but they had to cancel the September camp.

Discussion was held regarding the restructuring proposal from the United Church of Canada that was accepted prior to the covid pandemic. Part of the proposal was to have churches work in clusters, but in rural areas it is more difficult due to distance. Rev. Harper will be working on those for our area.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – Verbal Report

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

* In person services opened in August. Average attendance is still slightly lower than usual, but some new people attending.
* Services at the Lodge have been approved, but that may change with the new Provincial Covid restrictions.
* Bible Study has started on Tuesday evenings.
* Will not be a service on October 3 as she will be away from September 29 – October 4.

**Motion No. 91** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

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

1. NEW BUSINESS
2. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 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 8:00 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary