First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday December 8, 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 Tyler Creasy

Laura Creasy Linda Quaschnick

Lynette Barker Liz Gourlay

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:04 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.** **99** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Agenda for December 8, 2021 be adopted as presented.

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

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **100** Moved by Laura Creasy that the minutes of the meeting held November 10, 2021 be adopted as presented.

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

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

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the financial reports for October 31st.

* Total assets are up $10,000 and expenses down by $1,000 so overall we are $9,000 to the positive.
* Fall Visit contributions are up from last year, but not as high as budgeted.
* Overall we are in good shape as we get close to the end of the year.
* Linda thanked Laura Creasy for her hard work on the budget.

Laura Creasy presented the proposed budget for 2022

* Salaries are calculated with Rev. Coulthard working until April and a full time minister starting in May.
* Included all utilities we are currently paying, for the church and manse as well.
* Revenue – fall visits and offerings are down. Have not been able to have a fundraising function due to covid in 2 years.
* The budget as presented has a deficit of $23,000.
* She asked that committee members or others contact her if they have any ideas for changes to the budget.

Laura noted that a donation of $3,000 was received during the fall visit and the person said we could use for something other than fall visit if needed. It was the consensus to leave the funds in Fall Visit revenue.

Laura mentioned that Ray Heilman has been sending invoices every time he shovels snow and she would like to pay him by etransfer. Documents would be kept and signed, but cheques would not be issued. It was the consensus that Mr. Heilman be paid by etransfer if that is his preference.

Laura confirmed that she would contact Cindy Hickle to ask if she would audit the church accounts as she has in the past. She usually is given $150.00 Chamber gift certificates.

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

Jean Lypka advised that the committee has not had a meeting since the last Council. She expressed appreciation for the people who helped to put away the fall decorations and set up the Christmas decorations in the church.

Jean advised that and Gloria Hutton met with Rev. Coulthard regarding Advent services. The plan is to hold two Christmas Eve services, one at 5:00 p,m. and one at 7:00 p.m. to allow people to attend and be able to maintain distance due to Covid-19 restrictions. Rev. Coulthard advised that people will be asked to sign up for the service they want to attend. It will be posted on facebook and the church sign.

Rev Coulthard confirmed that she has received permission to do sacraments so we will have communion at both Christmas Eve services.

As Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fall on Saturday, there will be no Sunday services on December 26th, 2021 or January 2nd, 2022.

Laura Creasy asked if a date had been chosen for the St. Andrews Sunday. Jean advised that it will be determined in the new year.

* 1. Mission & Service – No Report
  2. Christian Education – No Report
  3. Pastoral Care – Verbal report

Linda Quaschnick noted that four people did not get their birthday cards, but they will get a Christmas card with an apology for missing their birthdays.

Linda also noted that the committee will be checking restrictions at the Lodge to see if Rev. Coulthard can do some pastoral care visits before she leaves our community.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Lynette Barker reported that the nativity scene was put up before Advent. Lorelei Greenslade donated the hay bales again this year. It was mentioned that the new lights look very nice on the display.

Winona Gutsche mentioned that there is an empty light socket at the peak of the roof above the stained glass cross on the outside of the building. Discussion was held about whether an LED light or a photocell light could be put installed.

* 1. Ministry & Personnel – Verbal Report

Rhonda Lund advised that a letter was written for the office administrator to confirm that she would be removed from the benefit plan as she requested.

* 1. Property – Verbal Report

Rhonda Lund read the report submitted by Gwen Snell, regarding the following:

* Doug’s Eavestroughing cleaned the eavestroughs on the manse.
* Robin Gall of Sinclair Plumbing was contacted to service the boiler. He will check on it now and do a complete service in the spring. She asked that he provide a service record to be posted by the boiler.
* Sinclair Plumbing fixed the sewer backup at the manse. A broken cap needs to be replaced so it is ordered and will be fixed when the part arrives.
* Sinclair Plumbing have been asked to auger the sewer line at the manse on a regular basis, as they do for the church.
* Anchor Glass was able to fix the weather stripping at the back door of the manse and it is much warmer.
* Ray Heilman has agreed to do snow removal for the church.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

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

* November statistics - $10,092.47 in sales, 620 customers & 330 volunteer hours. This was the second highest month for sales.
* Volunteers, executive and Deb have been busy with all the donations coming in and the record sales.
* There is a need for one or two people to join the board. It is an amazing and rewarding experience.
* Did not hold an executive meeting this month, so no motions to ratify.
* Inclusion Alberts picked up 375 bags of donation items from storage.
* Store will be closed from December 24 – January 3, but will probably do a couple of sorting days during that time, just to keep up.
* To thank the volunteers for all they do, they will be given gift certificates to the store.
* Gift certificates will also be given to the Food Bank to include in the Christmas hampers.
* The proposed budget for 2022 has more expenses than prior years, but this is related to how busy the store is now.

Jean Lypka asked how much the Thrift Store budgets to contribute to the church. Laura advised that the store budgets a contribution of $25,000 with a $5000 discretionary amount if needed. To date, the church has not requested the discretionary funds.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Verbal Report

Rev. Richardson reported:

* Pleased to be able to watch the covenanting service for Lacombe. She was not able to participate in the service at Drumheller but sent greetings.
* Busy locally wit the proposal to join Erskine and Big Valley with Stettler. Rev. Stephen Harper is helping in this process.
* Looking for someone to host General Council next summer – it will be online.
* Council is receiving questions about helping people in British Columbia following the floods. Stettler United church sent a donation to Kelowna United Church.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – Verbal Report

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

* Last Sunday she announced to the congregation that she would be leaving Hanna First United Church in May. A Search committee can now be formed.
* She received permission to do sacraments for the remainder of the time she is here, so she will be holding communion at Christmas and most likely at Easter services. We will need to use individual cups for juice and the bread will need to be cut into pieces that can be held on a toothpick. She will reach out to Sherry & Calvin Warnock to help with serving.
* She contacted St. Andrews regarding College Sunday, to ask for a Sunday in February. She has not received a reply as the semester is coming to a close so they are busy.
* Pastor Ralph Ellison of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hanna passed away December 7th. Discussion was held regarding an acknowledgement. Jean Lypka and Rev. Coulthard will look after sending an arrangement to Rev. Ellison’s wife and to the congregation.

**Motion No. 101** Moved by Jean Lypka that flowers arrangements expressing our sympathy upon the passing of Rev. Ralph Ellison be sent to Sharon Ellison and the congregation of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the amount of $75.00 to $100.00.

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

Rev. Coulthard asked that Pastoral Care send a card to Ben Funk as he was very good friends with Rev. Ellison and Jean Lypka stated that she would inform Rev. Sellers as well.

**Motion No. 102** Moved by Tyler Creasy that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

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

1. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Winona Gutsche advised a Congregational meeting needs to be scheduled so it can be announced in Church on two Sundays prior to the meeting. Following discussion, the Annual Congregational Meeting was set for February 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. Unless the Covid-19 restrictions are changed, we will not be able to have a potluck lunch prior to the meeting as we have in the past. Rev. Richardson advised that she will try to attend in person, but if road conditions are poor, she will attend virtually.

Chair Winona Gutsche advised that a Search Committee is being formed to find a new minister. Liz Gourlay has agreed to sit on the committee. Rev. Harper suggested 4 or 5 people, but we can operate with fewer. An email will be sent out to the members, asking for volunteers. Winona noted that Tricia Gladdish has started work on the Needs Assessment for the annual meeting. The big decision will be whether we want a full- time, part time, shared, or student minister. Laura Creasy has offered to help with the ChurchHub and bookkeeping needed.

1. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

1. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winona Gutsche thanked everyone for attending and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Chair Winona Gutsche stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary