

Wesley United Church
 Council Meeting by Zoom
 October 20, 2021 7:00 pm

Wesley United Church, located on Treaty 4 land, is an Affirming Ministry of Jesus Christ, nurturing spiritual exploration and growth. We advocate for justice and social action. We love and care for ourselves and our neighbours throughout the world.

Present:

	Name	Position on Council
		President
	Stephanie Dove	Past President
	Elaina St. Onge	Vice-President
	Al Goudie	Secretary
	Jim Chernick	Treasurer
	June Blau	Admin & Finance Division Coordinator
	Frances Goudie	Christian Education Division Coordinator
	Linda Paul	Pastoral Care Division Coordinator
		Pastoral Care Division Coordinator
	Tessa Whyte	Ministry & Personnel Division Coordinator
		Worship Division Coordinator
	Carolyn Woodall	Intentional Interim Minister
	Kent Stewart	Transition Team Representative

R = Regrets P = Partial

1. Call to order

Elaina called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Opening reflection – Kent

3. Approval of agenda

Motion 2021-65: That the agenda be approved as amended. M/S Stephanie Dove/Jane Blau – carried.

4. Approval of minutes from September 15 Council meeting

Motion 2021-66: That the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2021 be adopted. M/S Al Goudie/Kent Stewart – carried.

5. Transition Team report. The Transition Team would like to meet with Council. Council agreed to invite the Transition Team to the November 17th meeting, to be first on the agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1. Vice President's Report

- 6.2. Past president's report

- 6.3 Minister's report - attached

- 6.4 Christian Education – removed from consent agenda

- 6.5 Administration and Finance

- 6.6 Ministry and Personnel – removed from consent agenda

- 6.7 Treasurer

- 6.8 Pastoral Care – attached and removed from consent agenda

- 6.9 Social Justice

- 6.10 Worship – attached and removed from consent agenda

- 6.11 Staff

- 6.12 WUC/UCAS Liaison Committee

Motion 2021-67: That the Consent Agenda be approved with the Christian Education, Ministry and Personnel, Pastoral Care and Worship reports removed. M/S Frances Goudie/Jim Chernick – carried.

Reports removed from the Consent Agenda:

Christian Education: The CE budget allows for donations of \$1,000.

Motion 2021-68: That Council approves the payment of donations from the Christian Education budget of \$500 to St. Andrews College and \$500 to Lumsden Beach Camp. M/S Frances Goudie/Stephanie Dove – carried.

Pastoral Care: Linda had a concern about whether the office has a current list of Pastoral Care members. She will discuss that with Tina. Linda is still not sure about stepping down, but will continue month to month

Worship: Tessa reported that the Worship Committee is seeking approval for having a live trumpet player for our Remembrance Day Service.

Motion 2021-69: That Council approves of having a live trumpet player for the Remembrance Day Service on November 7, 2021 with the expectation that the musician uses a bell cover and maintains appropriate distancing within Covid-19 guidelines. M/S Tessa Whyte/Linda Paul – carried.

Motion 2021-70: To proceed to an IN CAMERA SESSION at 7:35 pm. M/S June Blau/Tessa Whyte – carried.

Council moved out of the IN CAMERA SESSION at 8:19 pm.

Motion 2021-71: That Council meet in a special meeting on October 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. M/S June Blau/Linda Paul – carried.

7.

Old Business

7.1 UCAS renovations. Darwin and Christine are collaborating.

7.2 Emergency pastoral care policy development. Upon a recommendation from Linda Paul, Chair of Pastoral Care and Tessa Whyte, Chair of Ministry and Personnel the following motion was proposed:

Motion 2021-72: That the following be approved as a policy for Emergency Pastoral Care and that the Organization Manual be updated by adding it as Policy P.3 Pastoral Care, P-6 Emergency Pastoral Care:

“If the emergency pastoral care giver is the minister of a pastoral charge, payment will be presumed to be reciprocal.

If the emergency pastoral care giver is not in ministry at the moment, payment will be offered at \$25 per conversation/meeting.

If the emergency pastoral care giver presides at a funeral or other church service s/he will receive \$221.” M/S Tessa Whyte/Linda Paul

Discussion: It was suggested that mileage and expenses such as meals at the United Church rate should also be paid and this should be included in the motion. Rather than fixing the rate at \$221 the motion should say “the UC schedule pulpit supply rate”. “s/he” should be changed to “they”. There was uncertainty over what “payment will be presumed to be reciprocal” means. It was agreed that more work on this issue needs to be done.

Motion 2021-73: That Motion 2021-72 be tabled. M/S June Blau/Stephanie Dove – carried.

7.3 Meeting with Eastside United Church Leadership Team. Deferred.

8. October strategy and visioning (new business)

8.1 Joint fundraising concert between UCAS and Band-its Community Band. Al said that he plays with the Band-its Concert Band. The Band-its is a Community Band with a Concert Band and a Jazz Band. The bands are now rehearsing at Wesley on Tuesday nights. At their AGM last night, the band director wondered if the bands could hold a fundraising concert at Wesley. Al described UCAS to the band members and said that UCAS has a drumming group and is a very musical group. The band members are interested in holding a fundraising concert jointly with UCAS with the proceeds being split between UCAS and the band. Wesley’s contribution would be to offer the space. Hopefully the concert could be held in the spring if COVID numbers decline.

Kent spoke to Christine at UCAS and she is on board.

Carolyn – if COVID was still in play in the spring perhaps the concert could be live streamed rather than postponing.

June – or outdoors

Motion 2021-74: That Wesley support a joint fundraising concert between UCAS and the Band-its Community Band in 2022. M/S Kent Stewart/Frances Goudie – carried.

9. Correspondence

9.2 College Sunday 2021 Invitation from St. Andrew’s College

10. Next meetings:
Special Council meeting October 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm by Zoom
Regular Council meeting November 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Volunteer
for reflection – Jim
11. Benediction - Carolyn
12. Adjournment at 8:56 pm

Elaina St. Onge, Vice President

Al Goudie, Secretary

REPORT OF THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTER

Many thanks to all for the beautiful flowers on Thanksgiving Sunday. It is lovely to feel welcomed and appreciated.

Worship

I have led worship three of the four Sundays since our last Council meeting and attended the fourth. My thanks to Wilma and Dan for their passionate leadership for the Environment focused Sunday. We had Communion on October 3rd, Worldwide Communion Sunday. I coordinated the Covenanting worship held on October 17th at 3 PM. There was one funeral.

The decorating for October 3rd was ably done by Tessa and those she contacted for different kinds of breads. I have been leading the way for other decorating because the Season of Creation is new for some. It would be good for those who have done the decorating in the past to lead going forward. I will be happy to consult on specific themes in worship.

Lee Stubbe and I have been working together on music. I make hymns suggestions for each Sunday and offer some ideas for response music. He tracks the hymn use so there isn't too much repetition, confirms the hymns and finalizes response music and chooses anthems.

Planning is underway for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season.

Pastoral Care

There have been several visits by phone, for both general and specific pastoral concerns. Three initial in-person/home visits were done. There were multiple meetings in relation to the funeral.

Education

The four-part UCC Stewardship webinar finished on Thursday the 14th. I have enjoyed participating in it with Linda G., Lee B. and Carolyn Mc. The KAIROS monthly meeting was last Tuesday evening, and I will be attending those as much as possible. The Book Study/Discussion group began meeting this morning and I will be attending when possible.

Fellowship

I have been attending the Tuesday evening prayer meetings, the Friday morning coffee group, and Choir as my schedule allows. I will continue to participate in these important connector groups whenever possible.

We held the Wesley/UCAS Thanksgiving Celebration on October 9th. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors. There was a good group from both Wesley and from UCAS. We will want to begin planning another event soon, for the Advent/Christmas season. We won't want to lose any momentum.

Local Governance

I have met with Worship, and Stewardship, and Christian Education committees now, and attended one staff meeting.

Wider Church

In addition to weekly gatherings of the Living Skies Regional Council ministry personnel, I have met with my Eastside, and Sunset colleagues, and the Regina Cluster has begun meeting again. There was an Ordination and Admission gathering on September 26th which was available online for those of us who could not attend in person. Our Covenanting on Sunday the 17th was available in the same way to facilitate participation across the Region.

We are in a time of testing across the UCC because changes are being made to the Group Insurance Plan for Employees and Retirees. The changes will have budget implications for Communities of Faith as well as for staff on the Plan. The financial challenges facing the UCC are real. They will spur many significant conversations between now and the General Council meeting set for 2022.

Intentional Interim/Transition Work

Part of my responsibilities in Interim Ministry include seeking support, finding opportunities for reflection and participating in ongoing education. To that end, I am a member of the Interim Ministry Network which offers me support and counsel in a monthly peer group gathering. It falls on the third Wednesday afternoon. In the UCC, we have a peer support group as well. The Intentional Interim Ministry group meets on ZOOM every six weeks or so. I had the first of those for this fall during this reporting period. I have had the opportunity to take a three-part webinar during my Thursday supper hour, called "Adaptive Leadership". The ideas in it are helping me with transition issues and ideas.

Cordially, Carolyn

Rev. Carolyn Woodall
Intentional Interim Minister

PASTORAL CARE

Submitted by Linda Paul, Pastoral Care Chair

As with other Divisions and Committees, much of Pastoral Care's work has been stalled or we continue in the background. However, in this tragic time of Covid-19, we have had important work to do visiting, mainly by phone, and keeping in touch with our Wesley friends and members. It is a sad time as we have lost five of our long-time members in the last couple of months. We remember them with love and care and we will carry them in our hearts. Others in our congregation have been ill and we have not been able to visit them in the hospital which has been a sad and frustrating situation. Thank heavens for the mail service which lets us contact people by mail. And the phone is always handy.

I will mention our committee because they are important to our congregation. Amber MacLeod and Mel Turner have obtained greeters when we held active services. For years, Norma Quinn was chair and secretary of our Women's Group. She and Trevor have now moved to North Battleford and we will miss them greatly but wish them well. Darwin Roske, chair of the Men's Club sends out notices to the men as needed, primarily through our church bulletin. He also patiently answers questions on the garage sale.

Linda Paul has sent out cards on behalf of Wesley, mainly sympathy and get well cards, and this year so far she has sent 31 cards.

Barb Schmuland is still on the Board of Clare Parker Homes and has held this position for many years. She thinks they are doing well with an active board and an expanding base. Likewise with June Blau, who has been on the Board of Mutchmor Lodge – Hewitt Place. She reports they have asked to be removed from the direction of the United Church specifically, a few years ago. They do not have a full house at the moment when Covid-19 fears tend to keep people in their homes longer. However, they are very careful with Covid details and have had no cases as yet.

Bobbie Nyhus, Val Stimpson, and Linda Paul are active with specific pastoral care concerns in the church. Primarily we phone now as Covid continues and, thankfully, many other church members are active in this regard. Our visiting/phoning team has not been able to visit for some time now. However we delivered some fancy chocolate bars and Christmas cards at Christmas and made sure our less mobile people were phoned at Easter. Some prayer shawls are still being made. Coffee Hour after church and the Men's Club's Dinners, ultimately with Lee Beck in charge, have been cancelled for Covid. Lee is currently organizing some of the members of the monthly Coffee Houses to bake muffins for the UCAS Tanzanian lawn party planned for October 9 on the church lawn. Some church members joined UCAS when they went to a reserve, Carry-the-Kettle, to observe one of the Indian ceremonies. We were so fortunate to attend part of the Sun Dance Ceremony, so revered by our Indigenous friends. This ceremony was outlawed by the Canadian Government in past days.

Carolyn McBean, who so carefully plans some Sunday services presented by Wesley to Wascana Rehab patients has been unable to organize these important activities during Covid.

We said a sad farewell to Cindy Bourgeois, our minister for seven years, at the end of January and we do hope her time in Toronto is going well. Carolyn Woodall has been with us as our Intentional Interim Minister, since August 1st and we welcome her greatly. Tessa Whyte, our Ministry and Personnel Chair, and I have been working on a motion to plan ministers' and speakers' salaries if they fill in for Emergency Pastoral Care. I have had an interesting Zoom time with Church Council meetings in the time of Covid and find it exciting to keep in touch with the ongoing activities of the church.

W O R S H I P

Submitted by Sheila Roske

Sheila Roske agreed to be Coordinator of the Worship Committee.
Tessa Whyte agreed to represent the Worship Committee at Council.

Pulpit Supply

We need pulpit supply on October 31 and November 7.

A suggestion of "Saints of Wesley" was put forward for Oct. 31, or thoughts on the Mexican Day of the Dead.

November 7 will be Remembrance Sunday. Can we find a local veteran or chaplain of the Moose Jaw Air Base? Lee has a trumpeter in mind. **Tessa** will ask Council to approve the use of a trumpeter on Nov. 7.

Suggested leaders of these worship services: Pam Thomas, Holly Shick, Carolyn McBean, Christa Eidsness, Mathias Ross. **Tessa** will contact.

Note (Oct. 11): The service on Oct. 31 will be led by the Stewardship Committee.

The service on November 7 will be led by Pam Thomas. She will try to find a veteran to read the words of remembrance.

Budget

Discussion re licensing music.

Our budget includes Senior Choir; Handbell Choir; Flowers and Chancel; Sacraments; Literature, Bulletins and Licenses; Worship Supplies and Equipment Maintenance.

Review of Communion Service, October 3.

The take-home brown paper bags with communion elements seemed to be a success. We needed a few more bags. We will do this again at Communion, November 28.

Advent and Christmas Services

During Advent we will try having something other than traditional worship services and music. An interim ministry is a good time to try different things – we will ask for feedback.

Tina should ask 4 families to light the Advent wreath.

Blue Christmas: this year we will ask people to RSVP to an invitation to the Blue Christmas service. It was suggested that take-home paper bags with makings for tea/coffee/hot chocolate, cookies and a candy cane be given out in place of an after-service gathering.

Christmas Eve services were confirmed – a family service at 4:30 p.m. and a Communion service at 9:00 p.m.

2. It was decided that there would be **no** worship service on December 26. Resources for worship at home will be given out.

Carolyn will be away on January 2, but Kiera will be here. **We need pulpit supply.**

There will be a communion service on Epiphany Sunday, January 9.

Sunday behaviour

Not everyone who comes to the Sunday service has previously registered; in order to remind people to register they will be asked to take a seat in the hallway till those who have registered have arrived. Each Sunday people will have a chance to register for the following Sunday.

Do not walk in front of the camera.

Do not visit in the sanctuary after the service, but go outside.

Carolyn and others will make these announcements.

Additional report: We will have Communion at the beginning of each season, as opposed to once a month as was done previously.

Dear Council,

We (the worship committee) seek approval for having a live trumpet player for our Remembrance Day Service, November 7. We usually have a live trumpet player at our Remembrance Day service (last year we did not, due to COVID).

As you know, wind instruments (especially brass) are known to project spit/aerosolized particles/etc.

How do we feel, safety-wise, about having a live trumpeter this year?

We can ask them to use a double-layer bell cover, which reduces the amount of droplets that are emitted.

We can ask them to play as distanced from the congregation as possible -- from the choir loft; from the back, facing the back wall; from the hallway?

-LS