

04, 20, 2023 Brechin United Church Council Meeting Minutes and Reports

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 10:00 am In person at Brechin United Church

ATTENDANCE: Rob Russell (chair), Rev. Tif McNaughton, Keith Allen, Linda Braid, Lynn Burrows, Darlene Darby, Marilyn Huffman, Anne Manikel, Val Neilson, Kathy Torhjelm (Acting Secretary and past chair)

Regrets: Eileen Carolan, Gloria LeGal, Grace Skomorowski, Susan Ward, Blaine Wilkins

WELCOME: by Rob Russell, Council Chair, who called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL: By Val Neilson, who read “Scaredy Squirrel” by Melanie Watt and a piece from “Embers” by Richard Wagamese on courage

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Additions to agenda:

- Proposal by Kris Jensen for a coffee time for apartment residents.
- Correspondence between Rob Russell and Dave Bodaly
- Correspondence to Anne Nesbitt

Motion: M/S Linda Braid, Darlene Darby that the agenda is approved as amended. **Carried.**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM FEB 16, 2023: M/S Linda Braid, Darlene Darby that minutes are adopted as distributed. **Carried.**

Motions circulated and voted on by email between Council meetings:

M/S Blaine Wilkins, Rob Russell that the following people be authorized as signing officers for the Brechin United Church RBC account: Marilyn Russell, Christine Robertson, Keith Allen, Randy Manikel, Blaine Wilkins, Kathy Torhjelm. **Carried.**

M/S Keith Allen, Rob Russell that Council approve the purchase of a new laptop suitable for use with the AV system at Brechin with a budget of up to \$1000 plus taxes. **Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- To Dave Bodaly – requesting a blessing on April 29th official opening.
- To Anne Nesbitt asking whether the in-person labyrinth sessions are continuing and requesting that Rob and Linda meet with her.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- From Kris Jensen, Coffee with Kris with residents – Discussion – agreement that Kris may book the Arbutus room and test it for two months rent-free, knowing that other groups may pre-empt them. Kris has asked for Wednesday morning twice per month from 10am to 11:30 pm. M/S Linda Braid/Keith Allen to accept Kris’ proposal for May/June and report to council in June. Kathy Torhjelm will email Kris.
- From Dave Bodaly – yes, he will come and present a blessing.

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- From Anne Nesbitt – No, all labyrinth sessions will be on Zoom until the Fall. She is currently not available to meet with Rob and Linda.

Minister's Report – Rev Tif McNaughton, see attached

Financial Report – Blaine Wilkins, see attached

Pacific Mountain Region (PMRC) – Val Neilson, see attached.

- Susan Ward, Val Neilson, Peggy/Chris, Tif are attending the regional AGM in Abbotsford.
- Re: Remit – Category 3 – It is not usual for General Council to override Communities of Faith and Regional Councils who are in favor of remit, however if any are opposed then General Council must oppose.
- The Regional Executive is meeting at Brechin on April 28th and morning of April 29th.

Redevelopment – Val Neilson, see attached.

- Randy and Val attended zoom meeting for final details of opening. 11:30 Tim playing the piano. Noon: Dave Bodaly blessing, Trina Duncan and Tif to speak. MLA, Mayor, Theo to speak. Team of 5 or 6 helpers will be provided. The food is being provided.
- Val reported that Don Evans has said “An agreement has been worked out with BC housing so there are no financial encumbrances for Brechin. The title will be returned to Brechin trustees several months from now when the legal requirements are completed.”
- There will be a recognition of the Redevelopment Team on Sunday, April 30th.

Motion: M/S Linda Braid/Darlene Darby that the above reports be accepted as presented.
Carried.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Faith Formation and Spiritual Development (FF) - Darlene Darby, see attached.

Ministry & Personnel – Linda Braid, see attached.

- Kathy will host Randy Antle on the 29th
- M&P will host coffee on Mother's Day and provide treats.
- Tim - M/S Linda Braid/Marilyn Huffman that we extend Tim's contract for one year. May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. **Carried**
- Allison – M/S Linda Braid/Darlene Darby that we offer Allison a contract for May 30th to Nov. 30th for up to 6 hours per week at minimum wage. **Carried.**

Brechin 4 ACTION – Lynn Burrows, see attached.

Pastoral Care – Marilyn Huffman, see attached.

- Gloria LeGal will fill in for Marilyn while she is away from April 29 to May 14th.

Property – Keith Allen, see attached.

- Update on organ – will be patched through to sound system.
- Door issues – more work being done on front door, so it doesn't stick. There needs to be a lock put on the Birch Room door for entry.

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- Keith needs help with facility bookings.

Stewardship & Finance – Anne Manikel, see attached.

Recruiting – Terry Donaldson has joined Anne on the team.

Fund raising is not the responsibility of Stewardship and Finance.

Worship – Grace Skomorowski, see attached

Any comments re communion serving are to be put in writing to the Worship team.

Thanks to Doris, Mary, and the Property Team for all their work with the banners.

Discussion on the use of the Chapel is needed.

Motion: M/S Darlene Darby/Linda Braid that Leadership team reports be accepted. **Carried.**

OTHER REPORTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

† United Church Foundation Grant – Rob will follow up

NEW BUSINESS:

† None

INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION:

† Linda will contact Anne Nesbitt

† Rob to follow up with the United Church Foundation Grant

† Kathy to follow up with Kris Jensen

CLOSING PRAYER – By Tif MacNaughton

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm on the motion of Keith Allen

Next Council meeting: May 18, 2023, in person in the Arbutus Room.

Devotional: Linda Braid

Rob Russell, Chair

Kathy Torhjelm, Acting Secretary

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Ministers Report

March: Catching Covid considerably disrupted my plans for this month! I needed to postpone my continuing education week, which was inconvenient and has impacted my prep time for our visioning and strategic planning conversations. Thanks to everyone who picked up pieces of my schedule while I was unwell; Allison was able to incorporate several things into her field placement and thankfully Brian was already arranged for Pulpit supply too. Our potluck for our Hope friends was delightful, thanks to everyone who brought that together!

April: Having just recovered as we were going into Holy Week, things were a little wild around here! Again, wonderful to have so many people engaged in leadership and hosting our gatherings. We hosted a variety of ways to move through the Easter story. Just before holy Week on April 1 we hosted the Celebration of Life for Rob McCormick, and I offered a brief blessing at the memorial service for Ken Lemmon on April 8th.

I have been making the switch to taking Sabbath time on Mondays and Tuesdays. It's taking some time to find a rhythm with my regular tasks and sort out where I do have time for visiting and new initiatives. My thanks for your patience.

Looking ahead:

-Our April 19th and 22nd sessions as a council will lay some groundwork for visioning and strategic planning type conversations. Expect this to be slow, humble, curious and intentional work, folks! These first two sessions will include an introduction to the main points of the book 'How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going' by Susan Beaumont if you are interested in a deep dive on the material.

-The Camp Pringle AGM is April 23rd. Tif and Darlene are planning to go: if you have any curiosity or interest in camp and intergenerational ministries, I'd encourage you to join us! A 'campfire lunch' will be served at 2 pm followed by the meeting. If you wish to vote in the events of the meeting, you will have to pay for an annual membership (25 dollars) but you can attend without becoming a member.

-I'm looking forward to working with Rev. Randy Antle in planning worship for our 'grand opening' weekend.

-Colleagues are organizing a full-day gathering for current, retired and in training ministers at Bethlehem Centre for May 10th, funded by ProVision.

-I plan to discontinue the second Zoom account and see if we have enough 'space' on the single Zoom account for all of our dealings, as I am required to host far fewer meetings now than I was even 6 months ago. It continues to be a challenge that Zoom uses 2-factor authentication style techniques to discourage multiple users on a single account, and we may find it beneficial to find another program for meetings and groups online.

-Wood Lake Publishing is closing this spring, after 41 years publishing United Church worship and education resources (many of which I know we've used here at Brechin).

-Resurrect Party: May 4-6th. Does anyone want to come? This will be a lovely opportunity to learn about creative, progressive Christian practices and new ways of connecting with our neighbours. \$100 registration, in Victoria. I plan to attend the Thursday and Friday.

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-May 7th: Michael Blair, the General Secretary of the UCC, will be preaching at Sylvan United Church. Is anyone interested in going, and possibly 'reporting back' in the Faith Focus sometime in May?

-May 23rd or 24th, Our regional justice ministries coordinator and Indigenous Minister are hosting a conversation on the balance of justice movements and reconciliation. I'll share more info when I have it. This is a follow up to the questions Brechin4Action and a congregation in Victoria had about the Stand up For Old Growth Campaign, and Rev. Snow's discomfort with the language of that campaign for institutional engagement. I would encourage many Brechin folks to attend, not just Brechin4 Action members, as Rev. Snow works closely with Indigenous church leaders and has much wisdom to share on how to discern a good way forward.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Tif McNaughton

Treasurers Report

According to the Comparative Income Statement comparing the first three months of last year with this year, our year-to-date revenues are up (if you don't count the money from the Restorative Care Program), helped by an increase in giving to local contributions through PAR, etransfers, CanadaHelps and open donations during church services, by continued support for the Friends of Brechin Wall Fund and by a very generous single donation of \$5,000 in February. However, we continue to run monthly deficits. The Income Statement for the month of March shows a deficit of about \$3,900. If you recall, we are forecasting a total deficit of \$44,000 by the end of this year.

Our expenses year to date are up as well. They include costs for an upgrade to our accounting software, a large order for janitorial supplies, as well as additional payroll for Allison's assistance to prepare our PowerPoints. There are additional monthly expenses for utilities and janitorial services, some of which offset the \$1,500 per month we are now saving since moving out of our Brechin House space.

Although our payroll is higher each year due to inflationary increases, the overall payroll expense shows less than last year, as last year we were paying Randy Antle for his services at the same time we were paying Tif her salary while she was on restorative care leave. That extra last year was recovered in the revenue column through the Restorative Care Program.

We took in our first rental revenues from the Malaspina Choir Society. Income from room rentals, together with increases in local contributions will hopefully see a decrease in our monthly deficits. However, it should be clear to council that we need to ramp up revenues, with more fundraising initiatives and more rental income and at the same time pinch every dollar.

The resuscitation of a Stewardship Team is a very positive development. Thank you to Anne for her work on this. I am optimistic that if we can incrementally increase revenues and at the same time keep expenses in check, we will make steady progress to achieving a balanced budget in the years to come. Pacific Mountain Region continues to pursue opportunities for us to eventually get our promised annuity payments. Although it won't solve our financial issues, if they are successful, it will help us reach our goal.

Respectfully submitted by: Blaine Wilkins, Treasurer

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Brechin United Church Balance Sheet As at 03/31/2023

ASSET

Current Assets

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Petty Cash | 121.40 | |
| Chequing Bank Account | <u>1,000.55</u> | |
| Total Cash | | 1,121.95 |
| Investments | | 221,903.42 |
| GST Receivable | <u>2,022.33</u> | |
| Total Receivable | | 2,022.33 |
| Prepaid Expenses | | <u>499.34</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>225,547.04</u> |
| Property | | <u>347,000.00</u> |
| Total Capital Assets | | <u>347,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL ASSET | | <u>572,547.04</u> |

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Accounts Payable | <u>550.00</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>550.00</u> |

Trust Accounts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Building fund | 29,725.39 | |
| Clear Building fund | -1,532.88 | |
| The Spiritual Growth Fund | 971.94 | |
| Mission & Service | 4,334.00 | |
| Clear Mission & Service | -4,334.00 | |
| Loaves & Fishes | 1,490.00 | |
| Clear Loaves & Fishes | -1,490.00 | |
| Memorial Funds | 4,868.20 | |
| The Piemakers' Fund | 852.35 | |
| Clear The Piemakers' Fund | -612.25 | |
| The Legacy Fund | 97,115.71 | |
| Brechin4Action Fund | 3,142.53 | |
| Clear Brechin4Action Fund | -247.73 | |
| Ladies Friendship Group Fund | 93.40 | |
| Nanaimo Community Refugee Fi | 71,576.01 | |
| Total Trust Funds | | <u>205,952.67</u> |
| Total Current liabilities | | <u>205,952.67</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITY | | <u>206,502.67</u> |

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Retained Earnings - Previous Year | 373,391.48 |
| Current Earnings | <u>-7,347.11</u> |
| Total Retained Earnings | <u>366,044.37</u> |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u>366,044.37</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | <u>572,547.04</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|

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Brechin United Church Income Statement 03/01/2023 to 03/31/2023

REVENUE

Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Local Contributions | 8,433.67 |
| Open donations | 308.75 |
| Weddings and Funerals | 475.00 |
| Special Events & Fundraising | 120.00 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 135.00 |
| Friends of Brechin Wall Fund | 485.58 |
| DILOR-RENT | 400.00 |
| Total Operating Revenue | <u>10,358.00</u> |

TOTAL REVENUE **10,358.00**

EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Insurance | 228.13 |
| Janitorial | 367.56 |
| UCC & Region Assessments | 464.36 |
| Telephone & Internet Expense | 136.88 |
| Total Overhead Expense | <u>1,196.93</u> |

Payroll Expenses

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wages & Salaries | 8,256.24 |
| Contracted Music Services | 1,500.00 |
| Employee Benefits | 2,059.44 |
| Pulpit Supply | 224.00 |
| Total Payroll Expense | <u>12,039.68</u> |

General & Administrative Expenses

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Sunday School & Christian Develop't | 38.64 |
| Continuing Education | 81.70 |
| Office Supplies | 461.51 |
| Bank Charges | 30.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 190.85 |
| Library Expense | 59.60 |
| Music Expense | 36.76 |
| Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses | 127.49 |
| Total General & Administrative | <u>1,026.55</u> |

TOTAL EXPENSE **14,263.16**

NET INCOME **-3,905.16**

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Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

| | Actual 01/01/2023 to 03/31/2023 | Actual 01/01/2022 to 03/31/2022 |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| REVENUE | | |
| Revenue | | |
| Local Contributions | 31,516.09 | 28,290.10 |
| Open donations | 979.75 | 20.00 |
| Weddings and Funerals | 475.00 | 0.00 |
| Special Events & Fundraising | 120.00 | 1,830.00 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 185.00 | 140.00 |
| Friends of Brechin Wall Fund | 2,104.30 | 0.00 |
| Restorative Care Program Revenue | 0.00 | 9,476.69 |
| DILOR-RENT | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| Investment Income | 0.00 | 710.36 |
| Total Operating Revenue | <u>35,780.14</u> | <u>40,467.15</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <u>35,780.14</u> | <u>40,467.15</u> |
| EXPENSE | | |
| Overhead Expenses | | |
| Moving & Temporary Space Expense | -750.00 | 4,538.80 |
| Electricity | 0.00 | 702.85 |
| Equipment Service & Agreements | -183.70 | 0.00 |
| Insurance | 991.47 | 576.90 |
| Janitorial | 846.89 | 27.37 |
| Contract Janitorial Services | 2,198.63 | 180.00 |
| UCC & Region Assessments | 928.72 | 1,184.00 |
| Repair & Maintenance General | 268.80 | 0.00 |
| Telephone & Internet Expense | 282.89 | 574.23 |
| Utilities | 543.50 | 0.00 |
| Total Overhead Expense | <u>5,127.20</u> | <u>7,784.15</u> |
| Payroll Expenses | | |
| Wages & Salaries | 24,683.01 | 33,071.80 |
| Contracted Music Services | 4,525.00 | 5,075.00 |
| Minister Travel Expense | 0.00 | 290.82 |
| Minister's Continuing Ed & Book Exp | 0.00 | 325.00 |
| Employee Benefits | 5,235.81 | 7,343.27 |
| Pulpit Supply | 672.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Payroll Expense | <u>35,115.82</u> | <u>46,105.89</u> |
| General & Administrative Expenses | | |
| Bulletins, Inserts & Service Supplies | 85.92 | 0.00 |
| Sunday School & Christian Develop't | 38.64 | 0.00 |
| Continuing Education | 81.70 | 0.00 |
| Office Supplies | 769.12 | 1,068.78 |
| Bank Charges | 151.50 | 151.50 |
| Broadview Magazine Expense | -125.00 | -80.00 |
| Fellowship Pastoral Care | 0.00 | 29.81 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 1,337.58 | 75.65 |
| Library Expense | 59.60 | 0.00 |
| Music Expense | 36.76 | 0.00 |
| Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses | 448.41 | 465.35 |
| Total General & Administrative | <u>2,884.23</u> | <u>1,711.09</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | <u>43,127.25</u> | <u>55,601.13</u> |
| NET INCOME | <u>-7,347.11</u> | <u>-15,133.98</u> |

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PMRC Report

In discussion with Tif, it was agreed the fall of 2023 would be the best timing for our council and congregation to study the remit before us. I received a response to our question on process which I will share at the meeting.

Although it is too early to register, the PMRC website has updated information on the General Meeting to be held June 1-4th. Attending online will be an option again this year. I have submitted my name as well as Susan Ward's as a declaration of our elected reps. This does not register us for the meeting but does put us in their database.

The PMRC executive is holding meetings in our Chapel from 9-5pm on Friday, April 28th and 9-11am on April 29th. This enables an opportunity for Region executive members to experience our beautiful space and to be here on site for the Grand Opening celebrations immediately following their meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Val Neilson

Redevelopment Report

Since my March report, the kitchen trolleys were assembled and have been in use for several events. The restored wood beams from the A Frame building were re-purposed into three outdoor benches which were installed on April 7th. One is outside the Birch Room and two are on the patio on the Brechin Road side of the building.

Minutes from the March meeting refer to a need for clarification of the church parking spaces in the surface parking area. The eight spaces have signage indicating they are for church use. They include spaces #5, and 7 thru 13.

By now, most folk are aware of the building awards received on April 6th. There is a plaque which will likely be mounted in the reception kiosk area.

On Wednesday afternoon, Randy and I will attend what is likely the final Zoom planning meeting for the Grand Opening. I will report any updates at the Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Val Neilson

Faith Formation & Spiritual Development Report

Sunday School

-still no regular attendance for children and still working on my criminal record check (Brechin Access code?)

-waiting on my copy of the Faith@Home Magazine to set up a work party for grab and go Sunday School when I am absent. I will be storing Sunday School supplies in a drawer by reception if needed when I am absent.

Library

-Suzanne, Marilyn, and Linda have spent hours sorting the library books. Suzanne will be looking for a used desk we can use for Sunday School and Library. Suzanne also will compile a list of books she is hoping people will donate. Suzanne will be in the library to answer any library questions Sundays 10-12 and Wednesdays from 1230-130. These 3 dedicated ladies as well as the Faith Formation Team

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members agree we do not need a head librarian. I will be making an announcement to have all returns and donations to be put on the table not on the shelves in the library.

-Marilyn has ordered more cards and sleeves for our books and I will be ordering a new stamp and ink pad. **Thinking it will just say Brechin United Church Library or should the address be included?**

Study Group

-Brian's study group is scheduled to end May 5th with a potluck wind up to be held in the fall. We are up to 16-17 members including Brian.

-The Going Deeper-Braiding Sweet Grass zooms will continue to the end of May 2023. Anne is planning on hosting zoom meets thru the summer and resuming weekly zoom meetings in the fall. Anne mentioned they will be picking the next study book in May which we will need to discuss if this will be run under the Brechin banner or run by Anne herself as we are not sure what the status of our zoom account will be in the fall.

Taize Gathering

-Brechin is hosting this gathering from 3:30-6 pm on Sundays on April 30th, May 28th, and June 25th. Tif will host the first meeting but hopefully someone else can take over the next 2 meetings. June 25th we may be asked to provide refreshments from 530-630.

Grand Opening

-the Faith Formation team will not have a table but I will be present to answer any questions.

The Faith Formation Team met Wednesday, April 12th where we reviewed all the above and more. We also discussed Tif and I attending some upcoming events put on by the First Third Ministry (Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Families within the United Church). Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12th at 7 pm in the Brechin Library.

Respectfully Submitted by Darlene Darby

M+P Report

The congregation welcomed Tif back after a recent illness and just in time for Easter. M+P received numerous compliments from the congregation regarding the success of Holy Week. On behalf of our members, M+P would like to thank Rev Tif and Allison Abuloc for their planning and presentation of the services that were well attended. The special events included Maundy Thursday (hand/foot washing, quiet meditation, walking the Labyrinth, soup & bun dinner with scripture), Good Friday with the St. Andrew's and Trinity United Churches clergy and congregations followed by Easter Sunday when Brechin members gathered joyfully to sing many "Hallelujah's" ending with hot cross buns and coffee.

Council members will be joining Rev Tif this Wednesday (19th) and Saturday (22nd) morning for Vision workshop sessions at the church. We look forward to connecting with one another and sharing our plans for the future.

M+P met recently on Zoom to review Cindy's job description and to update her conditions of employment. Eileen and Linda will share the documents with Cindy in mid May. The team also intends to recognize Cindy's work and effort on April 26, "Administrative Professional Day" with a gift of flowers and a card.

Linda and Tif will continue to meet next month to discuss and finalize our minister's personnel review.

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Two professional service contracts expire soon: Tim Weger's (Music Director) on April 29, 2023 and Allison Abuloc's on May 29, 2023. By all accounts, Tim's music has been welcomed by our congregation and visitors, including the choir whose number has increased to 22+! During her practicum, Allison has prepared PowerPoint and provided valued technical support during Sunday services. Linda will address these two contracts with the Council members this Thursday.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Braid

Brechin 4 ACTION Team

I. Truth & Reconciliation

- (a) UC Funding Grant applications for Fall 2023 T&R Workshops:
 - . Seeds of Hope – application submitted April 12th
 - . Justice and Reconciliation Funding Grant – application submitted March 15th
 - . ProVision Grant (Pacific Mountain Region) – Deadline is May 31st. We will apply.
- (b) 8th Annual Indigenous Speaker Series on March 20th. Speaker was Wilson Williams, Squamish Nation Councillor and Spokesperson. Moderated by Nahlah Ayed, host of CBC Radio's "Ideas". The event was highly informative as Mr. Williams shared his own personal story as well as hi-lighted the history of the Squamish Nation in the Vancouver area.

II. Social Justice

- 1. UC National & Regional News (BC Pacific Mountain Region): John will continue to forward the Jane Dawson, Regional newsletter to our team members. There are always many excellent links on the UCC website (www.united-church.ca) that include social actions and campaigns!
- 2. Anti-Racism National Action Plan – suggestions/concerns to think about for future events/planning.
- 3. Diversity/Inclusiveness – Good discussion around how to proceed. Tif talked about the idea/concept of working with other committees (perhaps Faith Formation, Pastoral Care) to plan events thus sharing in mutual ideas, manpower, etc. in turn developing, nurturing, and supporting one another.
- 4. Upcoming "Visioning process sessions" These two sessions are ideally for Council but there will opportunity for all at Brechin to develop more in-depth plans and concrete actions in the near future.

III. Climate Change/Climate Action

- 1. Earth Week April 14 – 22nd – Sunday April 16th will be celebrated as 'Holy Humour Sunday' as well as a focus on 'The Friends of Brechin Wall' during theme time. Due to the number of groups wishing to hi-light/focus themes, there will not be an Earth Day Sunday this year. We will be submitting a short announcement re: Earth Day Events for Friday's email and Sunday April 16th in-person announcements. In the future, we will assist Tif by giving her good notice (ideally 2 months) if we wish to have a specific theme in the service, so she can successfully coordinate with the other BUC groups and their planning/requests.
- 2. Nanaimo Green Faith Circle (NGFC) – John will continue to report and keep us up to date. They plan to host another Climate Hope Café - details to be shared later. NGFC invites us to two events for Earth Day/Earth Week: **Earth Day Invasive Plant and Litter Removal Work**

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Party at Bowen Park + **Stewards in the Spotlight** (April 29th at Departure Bay). This information will be added to the Brechin Friday emails as well as our team's BUC website page.

3. Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Brechin Workshop #2 "From Concern to Action" held Sunday, Apr. 2nd was very well received with a good turnout. Results of the Quadrant Exercise have been summarized and shared with those in attendance. There are a number of excellent ideas contained in the exercise. In addition, attendees were asked if there are any events or actions that this committee can help provide or organize. Guest speaker Whelm King, Program Manager of the Nanaimo Climate Pledge gave an excellent presentation. Workshop #3 "Build a Better Future" (focusing on climate advocacy) will be held in the Fall. The CAP subgroup will discuss ways to present ideas and actions into meaningful climate reminders (perhaps in May, June, and July). Brechin Car-Pooling data is being compiled.
4. Letter to RDN: our Brechin request to increase bus frequency (particularly Sunday mornings) has been mailed.
5. Climate Workshops with Other Congregations in the North – on hold
6. Old Growth Resolutions – an upcoming Climate Justice Conversation with Rev. John Snow, Jr. (Pacific Mountain Region, Indigenous Ministries Network) is planned for May 22nd.

IV Other Business

1. Brechin's Grand Opening – Saturday, April 29th Our team is actively planning for the event.
2. Minute for Mission – we continue this for the 3rd Sunday of each month.
3. New Committee Members needed – hopefully, the Grand Opening will precipitate this.
4. Palestine/Israel – several campaigns on both the UCC and Pacific Mountain Region's websites. We are also encouraged to check out the UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel) website which includes valuable information, as well as the featured Come & See Visits.
5. BUC Website updates including our B4A section. Lynn will be meeting with Doug Cochrane to learn how to keep our team website page updated and assist with image presentation.
6. Workshop May 11-12th - "Compassion's Eyes to See"
7. Brechin's Recent Award – Brechin is the recipient of two awards recently presented at the 16th Annual Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's Commercial Building Awards event in Nanaimo.
8. Our next M&O Team meeting: timing is to be determined as 2 of our 5 active team members will be out of town the second week of May.

Respectively submitted by Lynn Burrows

Pastoral Care Team Report

We opened with a land acknowledgment which we will do at each meeting; then Mary Boyd led us in a devotional reading from the book "Ode Spring-a year on the wild side".

There was a lively discussion around the summary of comments regarding the Potluck lunch, which we thought went very well for a first time around. The question asked of the active participants were what worked well; and what didn't work well and how can we make it better? If anyone on Council who didn't receive a request for comments have suggestions, you are welcome to email them to me; or if you'd like to see all the comments you are most welcome to read them also. A common comment was that the plates are too heavy and there were too many people in the kitchen.

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With the comments and suggestions in mind, we planned for Rob McCormick's Memorial Reception which, although the second one we'd done was quite different than the first. We had designated people for set up/serving/cleanup again but added that once your job was done and the next group took over, you would leave unless asked to stay. At our meeting we discussed how having the lead person be one of the people from start to finish would be beneficial for continuity. This event was also a success; the only glitch was the breaker went and the coffee in the urns was not ready which meant making it in the carafes. Thankfully the guests were very understanding. Anne McCormick is most appreciative of all the support she has received from Brechin.

We need to know where the breakers are please. We also need to work at learning how much coffee to make so we aren't throwing it out, suggestions welcome. We are recommending that cupboards be labelled; those of us who have spent quite a bit of time in the kitchen at various events are finding that things are put back just anywhere meaning that we are spending time finding them to use. While some folks are concerned labelling would spoil the looks of the cupboards, others of us think efficiency is more important. Having spent time working at our events at Hope Lutheran Church, I know how much we appreciated being able to find things quickly with the labels.

The Official Opening on April 29th will be the next event that Pastoral Care has been asked to assist with. This will only involve providing beverages, and setting out small plates, cups and glasses as far as we know. I could note that we are no longer using plastics nor paper plates, once present supplies are gone. Gloria LeGal will be leading our team on this event. Pastoral Care will have someone provide information about our team, as requested by Val.

We are planning a Newcomers event for May 27th
Rev Tif talked a bit about her and David's wedding plans.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Huffman

Property Team

Members of the Property Team met for a work party and discussions on April 11 at the Church.

1. Rods were installed in the Cedar Room to hang banners. Attaching rod holders to the drywall with screws proved to be very difficult, so an alternative method was used to install rods in the Chapel. Stick on hooks were purchased and installed later in the week.
2. Team members installed a rack in the storage room for hanging banners and a shelf was installed as well to make best use of the space. The large metal rack is on wheels and can be rolled out to permit access. Some reorganization of the shelves will be required.
3. Two additional roller type paper towel dispensers were gifted to the Church by Planet Clean. One was installed in the kitchen and another in the universal washroom. This will allow us to purchase only one type of paper towel. The folding towel dispensers installed in the washrooms are problematic as they do not match the current paper sizing and resulted in a lot of wasted towels.
4. There are still some issues with the automatic soap dispensers going through batteries at an unacceptable rate. We are experimenting with a different soap product. Keith met with Angus from AJPH on Friday to trouble shoot this problem and get a tutorial on how to maintain the dispensers. An inquiry has been sent to the manufacturer regarding the best kind of soap to use.
5. The library door has not been locking properly and messages have been sent to Pacificom for assistance.

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6. The M & P filing cabinet has been removed from the library and placed under the reception counter where it fits quite neatly out of the way.
7. Locking drawers in the reception area have been made available for library and church school supplies.
8. Entry door issues: for a couple of days last week the main doors were not closing properly. The problem was intermittent and thus very puzzling. Tibor applied WD40 to the mechanisms which so far seems to have solved the problem.
9. Council approved the purchase of a new laptop which would be capable of running the Power Point presentations and other AV functions. A new one was purchased (at a sale price) from Staples. No cost Microsoft Office software was applied for and approved under our status as a charitable organization. We have up to 10 user licenses with this program.
10. Myk and Bryan from ALLSTAR were at Brechin on Friday April 14 to complete some installation tasks and to provide the Brechin AV team with instruction on how to use the system and facilitate live streaming of services and events. The AV system has a lot of capabilities which the team will be exploring as they become more comfortable with it. The core team will be training other Power Point people on the operation of the system. Ian Gartshore, Matt Haapela, Rob Russell and Alison Abuloc comprise the core team.
11. May Sale: there are a number of surplus items in the storage areas of the church which can be put into the May sale.
12. Several groups have been provided information regarding our facilities and usage rates. We are working on scheduling weekly users into the meeting spaces.
13. Garbage and Recycling: There should be no compostables in the regular garbage. The blue bin can take **ONLY** paper and cardboard. None of the clamshell packaging can go in the building recycling. Thank you to the folks who are gathering tis up and taking it home to their residential city bins.

Submitted by Keith Allen

Stewardship/ Finance

It has been more than a decade since Brechin had a functioning Stewardship & Finance Team. With all that is involved in finally moving into our new building; - new activities and team functions, new volunteer requirements, new membership, and the ongoing financial debt load, there has never been a more critical time for Stewardship & Finance to be pro-active in assisting Brechinites in re-examining their calling.

The mandate for this team is:

8.2. Stewardship and Finance Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that members and adherents are encouraged to give of their time, talents and gifts in support of Brechin United Church and the wider church through the Mission and Service Fund and to disburse the funds within the priorities set out in the Manual, 2019 – Section G4

8.2.2 Responsibilities

- The primary responsibility of this Leadership Team is the use and administration of resources of the congregation, i.e. finances, talents, time and membership, in accordance with the Mission Statement and Core Values of Brechin United Church.
- To assist Council in securing contributions or donations for the livelihood of the congregation.

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- Through the Treasurer, the Leadership Team shall present to the AGM detailed financial statements for the past year and proposed budget for the coming year.
- It is within the mandate of this Leadership Team to bring to the attention of Council and the congregation any concerns it may have concerning the financial life or condition of the congregation.
- Oversee stewardship education of the congregation.
- Oversee the financial management of the Mission and Service fund and any other funds that are in trust.

The reality is that we are a team of two (myself & Terri Donaldson) who work with Blaine, our Treasurer and the ongoing mentorship of Randy, our past Treasurer. In the limited time that we will be available, we hope to:

- meet with the Treasurer each month to further analyze the financial reports
- augment the understanding of the Treasurer's Report at each meeting of Council
- conduct an extensive Stewardship Campaign in October, close to Thanksgiving
- offer a Stewardship focus for Worship, including a post-service fair/display of the work of each Team, in September
- Offer a book study to members of Council and the wider congregation entitled, "Serving Money, Serving God" by Sheryl Johnson. Dr. Johnson, an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ puts forward the argument that "Justice commitments can be integrated into the totality of a church's financial practices

Faithfully submitted, Anne Manikel

Worship Team Report

The Worship Team met March 29th in the Library at Brechin United Church, 2020 Estevan.

We would like to thank Allison for all the help she gave Rev. Tif during her recent illness.

Rev. Tif will bless Prayer Shawls on April 23, 2023. Rev. Tif told us that her days off will be Monday and Tuesday; Reminder that our emails will not be answered until Wednesday or later.

We had many requests to return to coming forward to receive Communion, so our team decided to give it a try.

First Services will be providing a light lunch for the Grand Opening on April 29th. Rev. Randy Antle will take a major part in the April 30th special worship service.

We would like to thank Anna Parkin for filling in for Tim Weber during his recent medical issue.

It is very exciting to have some families and children attending services.

We would like to thank Doris, Mary and Keith for their efforts concerning banners. It is so good to have them hanging in our worship space again.

"Brechin Bargains" will be in the Brechin Lot on Saturday, May 13th, 2023. We have booked the Birch and Arbutus Rooms in case we need more space and in case of rain.

A variety of services and other events were planned for the Season of Easter. The Good Friday Service was a joint service with St. Andrews, Trinity and Brechin at Brechin.

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All-Star will be providing training for live streaming and audio-video operations on April 14th.
Our next meeting will be on April 26th, 2023 at 1:00 PM in the Brechin library.

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski
