

## East Plains United Church Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:00 p.m. on Zoom

**Members Present:** Morgan Perigo, Chair; G. Burnison, C. Archer, B. Berry, G. Boogers, K. Burnison, P. Currie, G. Lorimer, K. Maerz, Rev. J. McCormick, W. McCrea, B. McMaster, J. McMaster, J. Smith, Acting Secretary, G. Smith, R. Terry, R. Townsend, Rev. H. Wells.

**1) Call to Order and Welcome:** Chair, Morgan Perigo opened the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Morgan thanked J. Smith acting as the Recording Secretary and Rev Jan McCormick for recording the meeting as Zooms host. Morgan reminded everyone to mute themselves until called upon to speak and to be brief. A show of hands would be used to vote. G. Burnison would calculate the votes.

**2) The Chair opened with prayer** for guidance, joy and enthusiasm. Morgan then read the Land Acknowledgement.

**3)** Morgan asked everyone to follow the Respectful Communications Guidelines.

**4) Extending voting privileges to Adherents present:**

**MOTION:** By C. Archer, Seconded by G. Burnison, CARRIED

**5) Approval of the Agenda** as distributed, with change to item 11 a) – Rev Jan will speak re 180<sup>th</sup> Celebrations. **MOTION:** By R. Townsend, Seconded by P. Currie CARRIED

**6) Approval of the Minutes** of the Official Board Meeting June 27, 2023.

**MOTION:** by G. Burnison, Seconded by C. Archer, CARRIED.

**7) Changes to the Church Roll** were read out by G. Burnison:

- **Members Removed by Death, Date of Death**
- 1. Ronald Reed, June 28, 2023
- 2. Johanna de Vlas, August 20, 2023
- 3. Marion McKee, August 22, 2023
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- **Adherents Removed by Death Date of Death**
- 1. Franklin George, August 13, 2023

**MOTION:** that the EPUC Membership Roll and Archives be amended with the changes noted.  
By Gayle Burnison, Seconded G. Smith, CARRIED.

**8) Acceptance of all published reports:**

**a) The Ad Hoc New Governance group report:** Morgan reported that the new Governance Handbook had been sent to Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Lynne Allin improved several areas. The changes were made and it has now been approved. They are preparing to present it at a Congregational Meeting. We are to be ready to implement it in 2024, after the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**b) The Minister's Report:** Morgan thanked Rev. Jan for all her work.

**c) The Building and Property Report:** J. McMaster is seeking quotes for audio visual equipment for the sanctuary. Morgan thanked Jim for his good report.

**MOTION:** that all the reports be accepted as published.

By B. McMaster, Seconded by K. Burnison, CARRIED.

#### **9. Business Arising:**

**a) Aldershot BIA Harvest Hoopla** September 30th: J. McMaster reported that the event has been cancelled.

**b) Guaranteed Livable Income Letter:** G. Lorimer reported that letters went to all Burlington City Council members, but no one has received a response.

**c) Funding & Installation of new heating system:** C. Archer congratulated the congregation on the funding responses. G. Burnison reported that Lancaster Heating and Cooling plans to turn on the whole new system September 27th. If there are no problems, they expect to be finished. New thermostats have been installed. The two offices are controlled by one thermostat. The heating in the Sanctuary needs to be controlled, with the windows closed. 10% of the payments will be held back until 30 days after start-up. We anticipate a grant of \$20,000.00 from Faithful Footprints. The TUCC loan is being used for incidentals and needs to be returned, by using the grant. The HST of 13% is \$12,051.00 of which there will be a rebate of \$8,400.00. Since we anticipate no more large item spending, per the Finance Report, the audio/visual equipment will have to wait. Other options will be considered.

**d) Reactions to all gender washroom:** G. Lorimer reported no major problems. C. Archer suggested that a person be on duty at the washroom during the Arts and Crafts Sale November 5/23. C. Archer also suggested wearing the striped pins, at the sale, to promote inclusiveness.

**e) Postponement of vote on Affirm:** M. Perigo reported that Affirm United's Linda Hutchinson wrote to the Affirm Committee, saying that they have more to do before holding the vote.

1, Morgan explained the rationale of mail in votes versus in person voting. All persons must be present to cast a secret ballot. People can be on zoom and will be able to vote privately.

2, An Action Plan needs to be prepared and approved by Affirm United.

3, The vote must be postponed.

**f) Category 3 REMIT on Indigenous Church:** Rev. McCormick reported that she is in possession of the file. The basic points were read. The Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples is to be carried out by the churches. This will transform colonization into respect. The church is to provide the mechanism to create and evaluate it. The vote is due March 31, 2024. It was noted that the Indigenous church wishes for this to pass. More research and education will come later, before the vote.

**10. Finance Report:** G. Burnison explained the reports as published and congratulated the congregation on meeting the church's needs and expenses. C. Archer thanked G. Burnison for her work.

**MOTION:** to accept the Finance Reports for information only.

By W. McCrea, Seconded by R. Townsend, CARRIED.

#### **11. New Business:**

**a) Oct. 21st 180th Anniversary Celebration:** Rev Jan reported that on Saturday Oct 21st there will be a dinner, displays and a hymn sing. On Sunday, Oct 22nd, Rev Bruce Dickson will be the guest minister delivering the sermon. There will be a reception after the service.

**b) Update on negotiations with the EPCCC:** M. Perigo reported that the daycare is operating at full capacity of 83. Their contributions are much appreciated. A mutually agreeable 5 year lease is being prepared. The cost of construction of the EPCCC was much greater than originally projected. This has left the church with significant debt. Every possible option is being explored, in the hope of finding the best way of managing this debt. The lawyer costs were discussed. Some negotiations have been difficult. Morgan asked that we keep praying for a successful conclusion. Principal and interest have been paid each month.

**c) No other business to report.**

**12. Upcoming Meetings:**

**a) Fresh Start** Session #5 October 17 at 7:00 p.m. at church

**b) O. B. Meeting** Tuesday November 28th at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM

**13. Closing prayer:** led by Rev. McCormick.

**14. Adjournment: MOTION** by K. Burnison to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Joyce F. Smith**

**Acting Secretary**

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**Morgan Perigo**

**Official Board Chair**

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