

Little Britain United Church
Council Meeting – Minutes – September 6, 2017

Draft

Attendance: Shirley Froehlich, Rev. Shelly Manley-Tannis, Margaret Speer, Tanya Wiegand, Shannon Leask
Regrets: Linda Ward

Call to Order at 6:35 pm by Shirley Froehlich

Acknowledgement of Territory and Opening Prayer

Review of Agenda and Additions to the Agenda

New Business

- Request to cut oak trees
- Storage room

Moved by Shannon Leask/Inez Drummond to accept. Carried.

Review of Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2017.

Deferred until next meeting. Tanya Wiegand will send out previous month's minutes 2 days before a Council Meeting

Reports

Finance (Inez)

There are no receivables for July and August as of yet.
Inez will send out the Bell Tower expenses for everyone's information.
The quarterly financial update is under New Business

Ministry and Personnel (Linda)

No report

Caring for the People Team

- No report. The Team has not met since the last Council Meeting but will meet before the November meeting.

Caring for the Space Team – Cemetery, Property, Buildings (Judy)

Much has been happening this summer.

Sanctuary

- Rod continued his work with the windows on the south side – repaired, cleaned, painted and put weather stripping in to keep moisture out.
- Rod also fixed the cracks above the window openings inside the sanctuary.

- He also anchored the pews to the floors where they were loose – a difficult job since he had to drill into concrete.

Bell Tower and Vestibule

- Wasps, which had found a home along the wall where the bell tower meets the sanctuary, took a great deal of work to eradicate. Rod, Sandy and Tom spent over a week getting rid of them.
- The bell tower restoration was completed and the contractor paid. Part of the restoration was the replacement of the steeple which Tom Greenham helped to accomplish.
- The interior of the vestibule was repainted by Sandy. He also put a light fixture over the bare bulb. FYI the new bulb is guaranteed for 5 years but should last 22 years at normal use. No need to change the bulb for a long time. Tara is going to shampoo the carpet in the vestibule. The vestibule bench has also been restrained. A new bulletin board will be hung on the south wall.

Hall

- Tara and Fran cleaned out the storage room while Susie did the same with the nursery.

Property

- The garbage bins have been kept empty by Pete.
- Tom and his crew kept the grass cut.
- The area around the cairn is being freshened up. The stones are to be moved, landscape cloth put down under crushed rock and then the rocks replaced. No more weeds!

Cemetery

Three interments in the cemetery since the last report

- June 10 Al Barr
- July 11 Gloria Sandison
- Aug 19 Eleanor Chomiak

The updated directory list will be installed before on or before September 10.

Work has been progressing on the clearing of the lilacs and other shrub along the Red River Trail.

Most of the toppled headstones in the East Cemetery have been fixed – a couple more need more work on their bases. This work is being done by Smith Memorials of Selkirk.

A committee is being formed with descendants of Roderick and Angelique McKenzie with the intention of securing funding to restore the McKenzie Plot as soon as possible since the enclosure is deteriorating very quickly. Two quotes each about \$18 000 have been received but neither includes repairs or restoration of the headstones. Therefore, we expect the work to cost about \$20 000. To our amazement a descendent and her husband have offered to put the money up front. We will be working out the details of this gift shortly so that perhaps work can begin before winter sets in. We will also be seeking financial assistance in the form of grants from various sources.

Caring for the Work and Stewardship of the Church Team

No report. The team will meet before the next Council meeting in November.

Presbytery (Shannon)

In April, the Selkirk Presbytery met at St. Pauls United Church in Beausejour.

The worship and educational portion of meeting was once again in the morning. Guest speaker Lesley Harrison from Edge led us in an EPIC worship (Experiential, Participatory, Imaged focus, Community centered) We answered questions such as Who am I? and Where am I from? We watched and listened to a story enacted by figurines in an example of Godly play.

We then participated in crafting an angel to represent our Presbytery. The Edge power point presentation was on the challenges facing the average United Church today and that changes that have occurred among congregations in the last few decades. We were invited to think differently about these changes and that we are on the front edge of the greatest transformation of the church. We discussed how we are experiencing this shift and the differences between "denominational church" and "missional church". The power point presentation is available for anyone wishing to see it.

The afternoon portion of the meeting involved the business of Presbytery and a decision on where congregation were in regards to voting on the various remits, as well as what is outstanding at the Presbytery level. We heard a little about the remit on One Order of Ministry. As we move forward with learning more about this and what it involves, it was decided that to learn more about ordained ministers vs. diaconal ministers vs. lay leaders that some churches participating in a pulpit exchange.

All remits that have been voted on to this point have been passed.

The next Presbytery meeting is to be conducted at the end of September 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Leask

Minister (Rev. Shelly)

THE PAST FEW MONTHS

***Truth and Reconciliation – Treaty Learning Event - June 25, 2017**

Thank you to Council for agreeing to be part of the location for this Treaty Event. There were about 100 people who attended various parts of the days' events – new Canadians and settler folks connected with many other churches. Thanks to the 2 Little Britain members who helped with the hosting. The cost of one septic tank pump is being covered by the organizers.

***Pastoral Visits & Pulpit Exchange**

I was blessed to be able to visit a few families this summer - in homes, hospital, nursing home. I also really appreciated the chance to do the pulpit exchange with Jan Van Aertsaeler from West Hawk Lake and I know she enjoyed being here. Since I was heading into cottage country anyway, I was able to visit in some LBUC families summer locations too!

COMING UP

***Shelly's Schedule for Office Hours** – my plans are to be at the University on Tuesdays, *LBUC on Fridays* and alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays (depending on Senior's Services, Council Meeting at both places, etc.) There will be a few Sundays when I will not be at LBUC because of other work (as discussed with M&P) and one Sunday that will need coverage is November 5th (St. John's College Convocation Weekend).

***Christian Education update**

***Grief Sessions** – we have had low registration and RSVP date was Monday, so will probably be postponing the fall series.

***Sunday School** starting Sunday, Sept 10 – Fran taking the first few weeks & many others willing to take turns teaching!

***'Why Bother Reading the Bible'** sessions – starting again soon based on interest and scheduling!

***Handiworks Sessions** – low attendance last year, perhaps not of interest right now – other ideas?

***Worship** – we are entering the Season of Creation – celebrating Forests (Sept. 10); Land (Sept 17); Wilderness (Sept. 24); Rivers, World Wide Communion and St. Francis of Assisi day [Pet Blessing] (October 1) and Thanksgiving (October 8)

QUESTIONS

***Social Media Question** Wondering if there are ideas of anyone who might be interested in helping post on FB – especially when I am away on holidays. There is not a lot of action if I am away or busy and the more engagement we have on the page, the more people see the page and postings! There has not been as much engagement with the page as there could be and regular postings would help with that.

***Guidance on the Electronic Sign** – not sure where these fall as it's both tech an property (?). Just wondering if there has been any further information about a soft-ware update so we can change the sign from the lap top computer?

I also noticed that there are quite a few light bulbs out in the sign itself – so some letters not clear. How do we get new ones?

The base of the sign is also one project that has been discussed for some time and would look really nice if covered up – especially now with the Trans-Canada trail so close to us. Is this in the works?

***Stewardship & Marketing** – the 2nd quarter financial report is very hopeful. I am looking forward to also hearing what the folks working on 'marketing' are working on. Shirley Froehlich and I both attended a Stewardship workshop 2 weeks ago and there was some interesting learning from that – what do you want to do next?!

Respectfully submitted: 6 September 2017; S. Manley-Tannis

Council Discussion about Minister's Report

- it was suggested asking Natasha, Sarah and Hannah be asked if they would like to look after keep LBUC Facebook page updated. They would have to have some supervision
- Tara has offered to help with the Bulletins
- Electronic Sign – ask Ray if he can contact the company about the software, contact the Caring for our Space Team about covering the base of the sign.

Acceptance of Reports. Moved by Inez Drummond/Tanya Wiegand to accept. Carried.

Fundraising

Lasagne Dinner and Time, Talent and Treasure Auction

Saturday, October 28/17 @ 6 pm

\$20 pp Children 5 - 12 \$8 Under 5 - free

Live and silent auction

Cash bar

Tickets available from 204-757-2489 or 204-757-9860

Grey Cup Party

Last Sunday in November, November 26. More details to follow from Margaret.

Church Events

Breakfast with Santa – December 2, Tara and Tanya will organize and set up Santa's Store

Christmas Concert – need to connect with Christina about a date

Old Business

Rededication of the Bell Tower and 165th Celebration – there will be a meeting tomorrow night.

Red River Churches Refugee Team will be holding a fundraising dinner on October 21st. Margaret will have tickets.

New Business

Quarterly Financial Update

LITTLE BRITAIN UNITED CHURCH FINANCE REPORT 2nd Quarter 2017

OPERATING FUNDS	2017 April - June	2016 April - June	2017 Year to Date	2017 Budget *	2016 Year to Date
Offering - General	\$8,161.00	\$5,167.79	\$14,823.35	\$50,000.00	\$11,351.85
Offering - General Par **	\$8,870.50	\$6,973.00	\$16,021.00		\$14,006.00
Offering - Mission & Service	\$469.00	\$113.00	\$888.00	\$4,500.00	\$333.00
Offering - M & S Par	\$904.50	\$772.00	\$1,704.00		\$1,529.00
Offering - Open	\$436.25	\$254.00	\$774.00	\$1,000.00	\$597.00
Fundraising	\$2,213.65	\$825.00	\$2,845.80	\$17,525.00	\$3,616.75
Other	\$2,305.10	\$2,135.45	\$8,899.58	\$12,704.00	\$4,405.15
Total Income	\$23,360.00	\$16,240.24	\$45,955.73	\$85,729.00	\$35,838.75
Total Expense	\$30,952.02	\$22,149.15	\$55,767.82	\$101,823.00	\$49,410.74

1) Offering for April to June 2017 is 42 % higher than same time last year

2) Offering for Year to Date 2017 is 23 % higher than same time last year. Excellent news. Thank you for your generosity.

* Note: The 2017 Budget showed a \$16,000. deficit so we need to exceed budgeted income by \$16,000.00

** Par - Pre Authorized Remittance

Our Total Expenses for 2017 Year to Date are \$6,357.08 more than 2016. This is due to our share of the cost of the Bell Tower Restoration which was completed in June. Council encourages everyone to come out to our Bell Tower Rededication Celebration on Sunday, September 17 and to invite friends and family to our special Bell Tower Roast Pork fundraiser on Saturday, September 23. Details for both events are in the Newsletter and on the Invitation sent in mid August. Information is also on our website www.littlebritainunitedchurch.ca

- Selkirk Shriner's non-profit group use of hall – the Shriner's need a space to have their monthly meetings. They would also like to store 2 large chairs and a podium that they use in their meetings at the hall. They would also like to donate chairs that they have. The chairs are cushioned and would be great to use for dinners etc. Then there would be the issue of where to store the other ones. One suggestion was to sell them. Tara will be meeting with them on Sunday to discuss it with them.
- Staff Safety – deferred until the next Council Meeting
- Request to cut oak trees – Shirley received a request from someone to cut some of the Church's oak trees for firewood. Council unanimously declined the request.
- Storage – Tara and Fran went through the storage area and a few issues came to their attention.
 - there are a lot of paint cans and some are 10 to 15 years old. Council suggested getting rid of anything that is older than 4 years and keep the paint that was used four years ago to repaint the hall. It was also suggested talking to the Space Committee.
 - the bar that is used for special events is very large and takes up a lot of room. There has been suggestions to cut it down and make it smaller. Shirley will talk to Fred and Margaret to find out who donated it to the church.

- There are quite a few old signs advertising past events. Council advised Tara to get rid of them .
- there is a container of dishes that have been donated to the Church from another group. The Church doesn't need them. Some have already been given to Nova House. It was suggested asking Sloan Mission and the Soup Kitchen in Selkirk if they could use them.
- Rhonda Martin contacted Tara about renting the hall for a Harvest Festival for Kids. The dates they want are September 28, 29 and 30. Wondering if they can get a discount on the rental fee. Council agreed that \$300 and their offer of a silver collection would be fine. The more kids coming to Little Britain the better. The information can be put on the church's website.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

Next Meeting Dates: Wednesdays - November 8, January 31, March 21 and May 30.

Meeting Closing Prayer

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35