

## Little Britain United Church - Draft Council Minutes, Jan. 5, 2017. At LBUC Hall

**Attendance:** Inez Drummond, Shirley Froehlich, Shannon Leask, Shelly Manley-Tannis, Margaret Speer, June Curtis, Judy Rekrut, Susie Slobodian, Barry Bernhard, John Verhoeven **Regrets:** Cathy Harder

**Call to Order** at 6:45 pm by Margaret Speer

Review of Meeting minutes for Nov. 3, 2016. Moved Shirley Froehlich/June Curtis to accept. Carried

### Review of Ad Hoc Committee Report on Committee Structure

The Care Teams suggested were Caring for the People, Caring for our Space, Caring for the Work of the Church and Caring for our Minister. Discussion on the structure and duties of Care Teams included :

- clarification of duties of care teams. Each team would have a core group of 3 or 4 and additional volunteers would be asked to sign up for specific tasks, such as Newsletter or connecting with people who are new or shut-ins or in hospital.
- Communication needs to go both ways. Chairs are doing a good job of sending reports to council but we must make sure the Teams receive copies of council minutes so they know what is happening.
- In Caring for the Work of the Church, under 3 h and i the wording “marketing strategy “ may not be the correct way to put it. It was noted that Stewardship is not mentioned anywhere in the document and should be included.
- In Caring for the Minister it was noted that M & P is stand alone committee that does not need extra volunteers.
- In Caring for our Space we should elaborate on things to be done both in upkeep of cemetery , management of hall and care of buildings and grounds.
- It was noted that along with our Mission Statement we include Our Vision and Our Values. Our values include honouring our heritage and respecting and protecting our natural environment. We could improve in both of these areas. Perhaps we could ask for a few volunteers to champion and promote each of these areas of our church life. Our values should be promoted through everything that we do as a church community. Perhaps in 2017 we could discuss one value at each council meeting and evaluate our performance and possibilities for improvement.

Council agreed by consensus to accept the new committee structure. The Ad Hoc committee will continue to refine the new committee structure based on suggestions and also do job descriptions. We will trial the new structure in 2017 beginning right after the annual meeting on Feb. 26 and then amend the constitution in 2018 as needed.

### Committee Reports

Finance – Inez

- We have a **\$15,000.00 Deficit to end of November**. A \$12,000. deficit had been projected in the 2016 budget.
- Inez will assemble financial information to hand out to congregation to make them aware of the problem
- Paying for an Auditor is not in the budget, it costs thousands of dollars and many accountants are reluctant to take it on. Inez will look at getting a third party to do a Review of Little Britain books. Shelly will look into what other churches are paying and who they are getting.
- Suggested to cut our M&S payment for 2017 from \$5,000. to \$4000. since the designated givings to M&S have not reached \$5,000. the last few years.
- Stewardship has not been done for a number of years and we need to be doing this if we want to continue as a congregation. There are new United Church resources available on getting this going. Shelly will send a link to these resources to council members. She also has a print copy available. Council will meet again in January to discuss this so we can present a plan to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 26, 2017. Some stewardship that was done about 10 years ago was outlined. Information was circulated regarding average giving amounts. This worked well without putting pressure on people.
- **For the 2017 Budget we have 2 choices –**
  - 1) Continue with a deficit budget. However in a year to two our money to cover deficits will run out. We are currently shoring up our deficits with a bequest we received a few years ago.
  - 2) Propose a balanced budget. This can be achieved by increasing givings and membership.

- Hence the importance of stewardship

- Inez will present the financial information at the February Annual Meeting

#### Ministry and Personnel – June

- A recent survey gave two thumbs up for Shelly
- M & P approved request to use 1 week of 2016 holidays left over on Jan. 30 – Feb. 7

#### Congregational Life & Worship/Sanctuary & Sunday School – Susie

- Committee met December 11, 2016 with Shelly, Tanya, Dale and Susie in attendance
- Guest worship leader, Rev. Lesley Harrison came to lead service on November 27, while Shelly attended a retreat.
- On December 4, the Christmas tree in church was decorated, followed by Munch and Mingle
- Members of the Tabula Rasa choir provided song, during service on Dec. 11 and entertained at the Concert, later in the day. The choir has provided seat cushions for the congregation to use, during services.
- The “living” nativity pageant/Christmas story was held on December 18, with Tanya narrating, and members participating in the telling of the story.
- Christmas Eve services to be held at 6:30 and 10 pm. The late service included communion and candlelight.
- Sunday School continues to be well attended by our children. Teaching schedule is filled until early February. Discussion has taken place re: which curriculum would be most suitable.
- Grief sessions will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening (starting in Jan/17) and are led by Shelly and Lila Larson (Grief Recovery Specialist and Business Coach)
- 2 generous Christmas hampers were collected for families in the St. Andrews community. The families were appreciative. Susie/Inez will provide outreach to one of the recipient families, who are dealing with a difficult loss, and determine how our congregation may assist.
- A short New Year’s Day service will be held in the hall, with a Potluck lunch to follow. Attendees may donate money toward the Bell Tower project for an opportunity to “ring in the New Year”.
- Infant baptism has been requested and may take place on Jan. 15/17. Shelly is awaiting the parents’ decision re: date.
- Discussion and voting, on General Council remits, will take place after service on Jan. 29/17.
- Worship committee to discuss leadership of the Feb. 5/17 service while Rev. Shelly is away on holidays

#### Hall Management – Tara

- The hall has been rented for Yoga Classes on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Please do not enter the hall during class times since it disturbs the class. Thanks to Tara & Fran the storage room has been thoroughly cleaned up to make space for Yoga material storage for an extra rental fee. Left over garage sale items were also removed from the Sunday School room and donated.

#### Cemetery

- No interments since last report
- New printer purchased for office – cost to be shared with church
- It has been suggested that some of our rates such as opening and closing be raised to put us more in line with other cemeteries in the area.
- Will begin work on seeking funds for the restoration of the McKenzie plot/enclosure.

## Property

- Bell Tower Restoration progressed quite well in the fall. Both levels of government have or are in the process of paying their share of the costs. Many thanks to Terri Hooper for all her efforts with this undertaking. Darell left us some interesting photos of the restoration.
- Snow clearing – an ongoing task. John has been doing most of the work to date. Tom has a contact to call if we need some extra help in getting the driveway opened.
- Have spoken to the people connected with the walking/cycling trail about the fact that the it is above grade and may present a drainage problem in the spring. They will watch what happens in the spring and may have to provide some drainage for us.
- Ray fixed the lock on the front door of the hall.
- Will have a meeting before the annual meeting.

## Presbytery – Shannon

- The last Selkirk Presbytery meeting was held in November 2016. Unfortunately neither myself nor Shelly were available to attend the meeting.
- An important piece of the work of the Presbytery at this time to ensure that congregations are working on providing education around the remits, some of which will soon need to be voted on.
- January 29, 2017 has been set aside for furthering our own education and voting on the remits from the last General Council meeting. For anyone looking for more information including study guides for each of the remits they can be found at <http://www.gc42.ca/remits>

## Minister's Report, Questions and Suggestions – LBUC Council, January 5, 2017

- November and December have been busy with many exciting events and time to connect with one another – highlights have been: Faith Xploration Group reading *The Rebirthing of God* and discussing together; Breakfast with Santa; working on the Directory and editorial decisions, etc; Sunday School and the Christmas Pageant; Advent worship and Christmas Concert with Tabula Rasa Choir; and hosting the session on “Grief and the Holidays” just before Christmas.
- I also enjoyed and learned a lot at my week away with the Jubilee Deepening Year for Spiritual Directors which was focused on The Lord's Prayer - perhaps an idea for a sermon series again or Faith X topic.
- The Grief Sessions that have been planned for Jan/Feb/March do not currently have enough people interested for us to run them – we have widened the invitation and sent the announcement to United Churches in Selkirk Presbytery and some other denominations in St. Andrew's and North Winnipeg. Cut-off date is Jan 10 so we can decide whether to hold them or not.
- A couple of items for discussion if possible:
  - Senior's Home Services – last few services only 2 or 3 people coming – do you still want this to be part of your ministry?
  - Lay readers – Worship committee has tried to welcome lay readers to share the scripture readings each week in worship – not many have shown an interest. Should we keep trying?
  - Mission and Service Fund – there is no one in the “Enthusiast” position and it's something that we haven't spoken much about for quite a while now... do we want to see if someone is interested in the Enthusiast work? Should we do Minutes for Mission in Worship again (but will there be people willing to read them? Or we could use the video versions?) Could we do an entire Worship Service on M&S?

- Planning for Jan 29<sup>th</sup> – afternoon – Voting on the United Church of Canada Remits
- Looking ahead:
  - Plans for the Canada 150 – Rededication of the Bell Tower Celebration. Would we want Manitoba Living History Society to take part – they would come in costume and offer period-appropriate games, crafts, etc. (ANY period in our history) See brochure that was shared with me. Should we invite an ad hoc group to do this planning?
  - Blessings on this new year into which we journey together! S. Manley-Tannis
- New Items (suggested) for Regular Agenda

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### **Acknowledgement of Territory**

*We are grateful for this sacred place and would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Treaty 1 territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

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### **Closing Prayer**

To you, O Divine one who created us, we pray that this work we have done has been done in companionship with you.

May the work that we will soon begin add to the light of your presence in the name of Christ because it is done with great love.

May we reflect your Creation because of  
 Our joy in doing it for its own sake,  
 Our poverty of ownership over it,  
 An openness to failure or success,  
 An invitation to others to share in it  
 and may it bear fruit for the world.

Send us out, Beloved, with ready hands and hearts open to your call. Amen.

*Edward Hays/adpt. smt*

### **Fundraising**

- The Grey Cup Party was cancelled due to lack of interest. However Margaret and helpers sold Grey Cup tickets and raised a lot of money for St. Francis Place Homeless Shelter and the Refugee Team. \$1,213.00 was donated to each group from the sale of these tickets.

### **Church Events**

- Breakfast with Santa, organized by Fred Haight, was held Sat. Dec. 3 and was very well attended. Profits were over \$600.
- Christmas Concert, organized by Christina Jacobson, was held Sun. Dec. 11. Profits were \$413.

### **Old Business**

- Council reorganization continues. The Ad Hoc Committee met in Dec. and will meet again in Jan. to refine the document after suggestions.
- Photo Directory – Pictures were taken in late Nov., early Dec. and editorial decisions regarding cover photo and layout are being done. We will receive the directory about 1 month after final information is submitted.

### **New Business**

- Quiz night on March 31, 2017 is suggested. Margaret will ask Cloverdale if they would like to partner with us.
- Nominating Committee – Margaret & Shirley will work on this
- AGM planning – Inez and Tara will help with collating reports

**Next Meeting Date: possibly March 2 or 16** Meeting adjourned and Closing Prayer

DRAFT