First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Lynette Barker Jean Lypka

Laura Creasy Linda Quaschnick

Liz Gourlay Gwen Snell

Rev. Barbara Zimmerman, Castor United Church, available by phone at 403-741-6289

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the last meeting until September 11, 2019; unless Rev. Badi Lombard arrives earlier.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion No. 30**  Moved by Laura Creasy that the Agenda for June 12, 2019 be adopted as presented. Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **31** Moved by Jean Lypka that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held April 10, 2019 be adopted as presented. Motion seconded by Lynette Barker. **Carried.**

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Gwen Snell confirmed that she contacted Sinclair Plumbing regarding the issue with the plumbing on the day of Dr. Wilkins funeral, but she has not received a reply to date.

1. CORRESPONDENCE
2. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the Balance Sheet dated May 31, 2019 as well as the Budget & Income Comparison Report. She noted that the church funds are still in good shape, but we are down $6,000 in revenue from last year. We are fortunate to have the donations that we do to keep our finances in good shape.

Laura Creasy noted that the annual revenue from the Mohl Fund was received in June, so those funds are not recorded in these reports.

The Search Committee funds are kept separate and everything spent to date is included in the report. It is anticipated we will need some funds when Rev. Lombard and his family arrive.

* 1. Board of Trustees – No report
  2. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka advised that the Worship Committee has not met formally, but the members keep in contact. She noted that the Committee is in favor of closing for the summer months as we did in 2018.

* 1. Christian Education – No Report
  2. Pastoral Care – Verbal report

Linda Quaschnick reported that the Committee has not met since the last council meeting, so no changes from last meeting.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Lynette Barker noted that flowers were planted in the planters at the church and the park and weeds were pulled around the base of the trees. Reid Heilman mows the grass at the church and park when Ira and Lana Ross are not available. Gwen Snell advised that she will check on the irrigation system for the season.

* 1. Ministry & Personnel – No Report
  2. Property – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka advised that Jennifer Laux asked her to mention that there appears to be a leak in the roof by the door to the Minister’s office.

Gwen Snell noted the following:

* Manse maintenance
  + Manse painting is finished – thank you to the Lunds.
  + Fan in the basement washroom was replaced by Ermel Electric.
  + Estimate for a replacement furnace at the manse is $6,426.00. The existing furnace was installed in 2005 and is a mid-efficient furnace. A new furnace would provide more even heat and reduce utility costs, however as the current furnace is working, it was the consensus not to move forward with a new one at this time.
* Church maintenance
  + Winona Gutsche received an estimate from Jensen’s Handiman Service for $4,058.00 to paint the exterior of the church. Jensen’s are willing to re-caulk windows and do minor repairs as they paint.
  + Discussion was held regarding the balance between being respectful of the investment funds and completing necessary maintenance and repairs.
  + The church does not have the volunteer labour force that it once did and the church needs the work.

**Motion No.** **32** Moved by Gwen Snell that the Board of Trustees be asked to transfer $5,000.00 from the Investment Fund to the Memorial Fund in order to allow for exterior maintenance of the church.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

**Motion No.** **33** Moved by Gwen Snell that Jensen’s Handiman Service be contracted to a maximum of $5,000.00 to repair and repaint the exterior of Hanna First United Church, based on their estimate; with funds being taken from the Memorial Fund. Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick. **Carried.**

Gwen Snell advised that the part is on order to repair the dishwasher in the fellowship room.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the Thrift Store reports for May 2019, confirming the following:

* $4,581.60 in sales, 406 customers and 259 volunteer hours
* An executive meeting was held June 5.
* Will start advertising immediately for a new Administrator as Danae Kimpinski will be leaving at the end of August.
* Will be holding a volunteer appreciation supper on August 21st.
* Zach Voltner has started as waste control person, taking over from Devin Buchwitz.

**Motion No.** **34** Moved by Lynette Barker that Council ratify the motions made by the Thrift Store Board to authorize the following:

* Sponsor the Hanna 4-H Club in the ECA Review for $50.00
* Sponsor the Outdoor Movie Night by donating $500.00

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

* 1. Search Committee – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche advised that she and Laura Creasy made a video and Laura sent it to Rev. Lombard to lift his spirits about the delay in coming to Hanna. The following items were discussed:

* Member of Parliament Kevin Sorenson has been contacted to see if his office can assist us with immigration. We will keep his office updated on the situation.
* It appears that all the paperwork on the Canadian side is good and everything on the Zimbabwe side is good, but the Zimbabwe government has not signed off on Rev. Lombard’s visa at this point.
* Rev. Lee Spice from Chinook Winds Regional office has offered to provide more information if we need it.
* Laura advised that we received an email asking for assistance in funding the tickets. The United Church of Canada stance is that churches do not pay for airfare. It is up to council, but Barbara Zimmerman is also recommending that we do not pay. She suggested we could skype with Rev. Lombard to find out if there is any other way we could help. Chinook Winds Region gave the same advice.
* Winona noted that it was suggested at the Chinook Winds Regional Commission meeting that perhaps the church in Zimbabwe does not support the move to Canada or pay enough to allow it.
* We need to keep a compassionate attitude in the situation, but it is the UCC policy not to fund expenses outside of Canada. It is also important to know the exact issues holding up the process.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COMMISSION – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche advised that she attended the General Meeting on June 7 & 8 in Lethbridge with approximately 200 other delegates. It was the first meeting of the Commission, so they were doing a lot of detail work (bylaws, policies, etc.), which was somewhat overwhelming. There seems to be a lot of uncertainty within the ministry, not just the representatives and some confusion over roles and responsibilities.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – No Report

**Motion No. 35** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight. Motion seconded by Liz Gourlay. **Carried.**

1. NEW BUSINESS

Winona Gutsche advised that she spoke with the office administrator, Tricia Gladdish, regarding closing for the summer as we did last year. Tricia does not have a problem with the idea and will look after the mail, emails, and make arrangements if needed for funerals, etc. Tricia has also agreed to come in and review records stored in the basement with some of us from the council.

Consensus that the caretaker be asked to continue cleaning during the summer; perhaps extra cleaning if there is time.

**Motion No. 36** Moved by Laura Creasy that Hanna First United Church be closed for services beginning July 1, 2019 and re-opening September 8, 2019; unless Rev. Badi Lombard arrives prior to September 8, 2019.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

1. NEXT MEETING Next meeting: Wednesday September 11th at 7:00 p.m.,
2. ADJOURNMENT

Winona Gutsche thanked everyone for attending, wished them a great summer and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary