First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche

Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Rev. Barbara Zimmerman, Castor United Church

Laura Creasy Alan Lund

Liz Gourlay Jean Lypka

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Rev. Zimmerman to open with a prayer.

Rev. Zimmerman spoke about the seasons, moments of change and where our spirit is within each season prior to opening the meeting with a prayer.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion No.** **47** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Agenda for November 13, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Alan Lund. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **48** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held October 9, 2019 be adopted with the following amendment:

Page 3 – First Sunday of Advent is December 1st.”

Motion seconded by Alan Lund. **Carried.**

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Laura Creasy advised that the cost to repair the piano was not as high as anticipated, so the invoice was paid from the general fund rather than the memorial fund.

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

Laura Creasy received a letter from Doug Todd’s office with a cheque for $10,000 from Dr Wilkin’s estate. A letter has been sent to the family to thank them for the donation. There were no stipulations with the donation regarding where the funds may be used. Consensus was to recommend to the Trustees that the funds be set aside in a cashable GIC to be used when needed, rather than keeping the funds in the operating account.

Laura Creasy reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for October 31, 2019. M & S funds are paid monthly, so that account will be depleted by the end of the year. Offerings and fall visits are down, but expenditures are on target.

Laura presented a draft of the proposed budget for 2020, which includes a minister’s salary for the full year. At this point the budget would require a contribution of $5,000 from the investment account to balance. Laura asked committee members to advise her as soon as possible if there are items that need to be included or changed in the proposed budget.

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

Jean Lypka reported on the following:

* Gloria Hutton has asked if someone else could look after getting the tablecloths as she is very busy with the thrift store. Winona offered to look into finding a supplier to provide custom cut tablecloths that are sturdy, flexible and easy to clean.
* She has not contacted Brady Ermel about moving the light switch in the storage room below the choir room, but she will do that.
* The Hanna Community Choir has given a cheque to the church for the use of the church for practices. The choir will not be holding a concert in the church this year.
* We will be using the old Advent wreaths and candles for this year, but she is going to ask Richard Crowle about the making one for next year.
* Tricia Gladdish has arranged for pulpit supply to the end of December, with Bonnie Burke and Jerry Beskowine leading the worship on alternate weekends.
* Rev. Sellars will lead the service on December 22nd. As we do not have a minister for December 24th, this will be our Christmas Service and we will celebrate communion.
* Services for December 24th and December 29th were discussed. The Worship Committee did not feel that Bonnie Burke or Jerry Beskowine should be asked as they have families. A music service was considered, but there needs to be leadership for the service. Attendance is usually low on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s Day.
* Christmas decorating was discussed. It was the consensus that the large tree not be set up as the volunteers have a difficult time setting it up.
* World Day of Prayer is the first Friday in March. As the Thrift Store is open on Fridays, the Committee thought it might be an option to hold it Thursday night. Jean will be away at that time, but she will have as much organized as possible before she leaves. Liz Gourlay offered to be the alternate contact for the event as the Pastoral Care representative.
* Piano tuning – When Mr. Canfield tuned the piano, he did some minor repairs, but did not feel the piano needed the amount of work that was suggested by Mr. Foo. Mr. Canfield’s invoice was for $115.00, but it was suggested that he be paid equivalent to Mr. Foo ($175.00) as he spent most of the afternoon working on the piano.

**Motion No.** **49** Moved by Jean Lypka that that we send Mr. Canfield an additional $60.00 to bring his invoice to the same as Mr. Foo

Motion seconded by Alan Lund. **Carried.**

* December 10 is the Service of Light at the Redeemer Lutheran Church.
* Christmas Eve Service – it was the consensus of Council that a Christmas Eve Service be held as it is a special night and people look forward to it. Winona will organize it with the help of the Council. Rev. Zimmerman will provide a service outline for readings and carols, which they do for Christmas in Knox United Church in Castor.

**Motion No.** **50** Moved by Jean Lypka that the Sunday service at Hanna First United Church be cancelled for December 29th, 2019 as recommended by the Worship Committee.

Motion seconded by Laura Creasy. **Carried.**

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

Liz Gourlay advised that Linda Quaschnick spoke with Dean Southern, Spiritual Care Practitioner for our region and asked him to contact Liz about a meeting, but he has not contacted her at this point.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche advised that Gwen Snell is looking after getting hay bales for the nativity scene. The nativity scene will be set up before the Turkey Supper.

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

Alan Lund reported that the twin beds were picked up from the Neill’s house in Morrin and put in the manse, but are not assembled yet. He will be putting up the blinds in the living room and dining room in the next couple of weeks.

Laura Creasy advised that Geordon Jensen has been hired to clear the snow from the sidewalks on an as needed basis for $15.00 per hour.

Laura Creasy confirmed that the Thrift Store does not want Property to continue working on their request for a dishwasher in the kitchen of the church.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the Thrift Store reports, confirming the following:

* October Statistics: $6,440.55 in sales, 537 customers and 258 volunteer hours
* Elaine Neilson has completed the training and taken over the duties as the administrator.
* The Thrift Store will be closed over Christmas from December 22 – January 2 to give the volunteers a much deserved break.
* The store will be closed November 16th for Betty MacKenzie’s funeral as well as November 30th in preparation for the Turkey Supper.

**Motion No.** **51** Moved by Alan Lund that Council ratify the motions made by the Thrift Store Board meeting to authorize the following:

* Advertise the Customer Appreciation Sale in the ECA Review and The Coffee Break.
* Have a $25.00 Gift Certificate draw each day during the Customer Appreciation Sale.
* Christmas inventory will be displayed prior to Remembrance Day, but not advertised until after November 11th.
* Donate gift certificates for a value of $10.00 for singles and $20.00 for families to the Food Bank Christmas hampers.

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

* 1. Search Committee – Verbal Report

Rev. Zimmerman asked whether there was progress in the process to get Rev. Badi Lombard to Hanna. Discussion followed:

* Laura Creasy spoke with Rev. Lombard a few days ago. On September 15 he received a VISA tracking number from the Zimbabwe government. The last time he got a tracking number, we knew within 6 weeks, but we have not heard anything this time.
* Winona Gutsche noted that we keep providing proof that our documents are in order and there are no deficiencies that we are aware of at this time.
* Hanna First United has been waiting for a year since the Search Committee offered the position to Rev. Lombard. It is disheartening that we have waited so long and that Laura has submitted and re-submitted forms.
* Suggestion that a month’s notice be given so the Search Committee can start the process if needed.
* Consensus that Laura Creasy contact the Member of Parliament’s office to see if they can provide some assistance. If we don’t get a response, the Search Committee can meet to discuss options.
* Perhaps there is some input we can get from the Region regarding the direction we should go.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COMMISSION – No Report
2. MINISTER’S REPORT – No Report

**Motion No. 52** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

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

1. NEW BUSINESS

9.01 Handbook

Winona Gutsche stated that not all the committees have reviewed their sections so it is not ready for Council review. Discussion was held that a Handbook Review Committee could be set up & possibly meet after church to review the Handbook prior to the December meeting. Winona agreed that she would call a meeting.

9.02 Turkey Supper – December 2, 2019

Winona Gutsche advised that preparations are underway for the turkey supper. The turkeys, salads, plates, cutlery, etc. are ordered and people have been delegated to make phone calls to arrange for people to cook turkeys and/or bring desserts.

As we did not have enough turkey, potatoes and stuffing at the 2019 supper, discussion was held regarding how to reduce waste (have people serve the food or provide smaller serving spoons) and to limit people from eating at the church and then taking more food when they leave. Ary

1. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday December 11th at 7:00 p.m,

1. ADJOURNMENT

Winona thanked everyone for attending and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary