

Minutes
Grace United Church Session
Wednesday October 14, 2020

Because of the Covid-19, the meeting was held via Internet Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Paul Scott, Rev. Takouhi, Shirley Clark, Donna Norman, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Tammy Fergusson, Rhea Roantree, Ted Brett, David Charles, Christina Gordon, Marg Worth, Joan Shaw

Regrets: Dianna Grier, Bill Lussier, Charlie Donevan.

Quorum was present.

OPENING PRAYER: Tammy Fergusson opened the meeting with prayer. Rhea Roantree volunteered to open with prayer at the November meeting.

AGENDA:

Addition to Agenda:

Email re Snow Suit Drive – Corus Entertainment in Kingston covers Gananoque and Lansdowne - no action required at this time

Service of Gratitude

Motion: To adopt the Agenda

Moved by: Shirley Clark, Seconded by Colleen Harding, Carried

MINUTES:

Motion: To accept the minutes of September 22, 2020

Moved by: Marg Worth, Seconded by Joan Shaw, Carried

WELCOME:

Paul Scott welcomed Rev. Takouhi. We are thankful that we have her as our new Minister and that she will be leading Grace United Church. Rev. Takouhi expressed happy anticipation to journey with Grace United Church.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP:

Ushers & Readers

October/November – Paul Scott

December – Marg Worth

Colleen mentioned that only two ushers are necessary at the current time. Christina advised that access and security are issues. Paul noted that the Church Handbook shows that the Maintenance Committee is responsible for opening, closing the church and operating the elevator. As Session is not responsible for this issue, Laurie will be asked to put a notice in the bulletin, asking for

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: (continued)

Ushers & Readers continued

volunteers. Christina has a document with instructions. For the time being, those carrying out these responsibilities will be expected to continue.

REPORTS:

Pastoral Charge Supervisor: Ted Brett

Paul Scott thanked Ted for his help and guidance through 2020 and our transition! His final meeting will be with the Official Board later this month.

Ministry of Music: Paul Harding

The license for copyrighted music is up for renewal. Based on the research done by Gary Petro, Ted Brett and Margaret Ross at E.P.P.C., One License covers a lot more copyrighted material than C.C.L.I. and it would be our recommendation that we purchase an annual Category B license for in-church and a Category B license for streaming.

<https://onelicense.net/>

Motion: To approve the purchase of One License.

Moved by Dave Charles, **Seconded by** Tammy Fergusson. Carried

M&S Enthusiast: Dave Charles

Dave will attend an expanded Zoom meeting on Oct. 20 of the Gananoque Area Food Access Network which includes churches and charities. The United Church and the world are realizing that people have the right to food and minimal subsistence. He noted that the Salvation Army building in Gananoque has been condemned so assistance is needed to cover that area. The United Church is becoming more involved in housing, social issues.

EOORC Update: Dave Charles

Rev. Takouhi is the incoming President. Dave will attend the fall meeting this weekend. The theme is “We Are All In This Together – Covid19”. David shared the latest EOORC newsletter with members of Session.

Dave asked for input from Session as to what capabilities the Grace Community of Faith would like to improve to reach out to our members and “the curious” with the Good News. Paul Harding, Angus Fergusson, Laurie Cadue, Brian Blowes (Elgin UC), and Gary Pedro (Takouhi’s husband) have formed a Tech Team to look at possible technical solutions to improve our capabilities versus our needs. Dave will be applying for a \$5000 grant from the EOORC to defray some of the costs of new audio / visual / computer and other equipment. Below is a draft of potential capabilities we might want to explore.

- reach shut-ins, at risk, and the curious with worship services, messages, studies, and special events
- improve worship experience for those with vision and / or hearing impairments
- provide computer accessibility for those who cannot afford it
- provide outside presentations to our church and community

REPORTS: (continued)

EOORC Update: Dave Charles (Continued)

- fellowship entertainment and experience
- overflow capability if sanctuary at capacity
- worship experience in the nursery or childcare areas
- interactive Sunday school.

Donna expressed concern for those who are hearing impaired. She suggested that CNIB, the Hearing Society and others could be contacted for best practices.

Paul Scott asked that we forward any suggestions for outreach opportunities in the community to David Charles..

Emergent Pastoral Care Report: Rev. Jolyn Campbell
Jolyn has agreed to continue until the middle of November.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK:

Correspondence

Pre-filled Communion Cups – Discussion. Decision to buy small cups with lids, to be filled with juice and bread by Session members to be distributed to the congregation as they arrive.

Outreach: Joan Shaw

A Sympathy card was sent to Carol Ann and Bob Brown.
Joan will send Get Well cards to Doug Dennison and Raymond Shea.

Communion

Rev. Takoui requested that we celebrate Communion on November 29 to mark the beginning of Advent.

Liturgical Colours:

Colleen advised that the Opening Committee would take care of this at the present time.
To November 15 – green; November 22 – white; November 29 to December 20 – blue
December 24 and 27 plus January 3 and 10 – white; January 17 to February 21 – Green.

Welcome and Sunday Announcements:

Paul Scott will work at getting volunteers for the welcome and announcements.

Commitments to Careth: Donna Norman

Donna noted that we need to ensure that Carveth has the link for the church services during Covid19. Pre-pandemic a schedule created by various churches and services are held at 2:00 pm

OUR CHURCH AT WORK: (Continued)

Commitments to Careth: Donna Norman (Continued)

on Sunday afternoons. Tammy Fergusson agreed to assist Rev. Takouhi with the Carveth services.

Thanks to Volunteers

Decision to have a “Service of Gratitude” included in the service on November 8 for the Profile and Search Committees and all those involved in the online worship services during Covid 19. Tammy will contact Cathy Walton regarding the implementation.

Covenanting Service – A covenanting service will be coordinated with EOORC once Rev. Takouhi has settled in to her new ministry at Grace.

NEW BUSINESS:

Remembrance Day Observance:

With no service at the Cenotaph this year, a brief virtual service will be held online. It was decided that we would observe Remembrance at our Sunday service on November 8.

Advent

Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on Friday, November 27 at 1:00 p.m. It was decided to buy new lights for the one Christmas tree that had light failure last year. Paul Scott reviewed the various services/events that have been held during the Christmas season: White Gift, Advent Wagon, Advent wreath candle lighters – readers; Baby Shower for Jesus on the Sunday after Christmas. Session agreed that these would take place this year in some form considering Covid 19. Rev. Takouhi would like a spiritual focus to Advent. It was noted that the Christmas Eve service is held at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Grace's Chatter newsletter – Paul Scott

The October issue is on Laurie's desk. Paul will do the November newsletter with an Advent Theme and introduction by Rev. Takouhi.

Membership Roll Update – Marg Worth

Marg Worth and Laurie Cadue have worked on the membership roll. Grace Church has a list of approximately 450 names. Historic records must be kept. We are allowed to remove folks who haven't attended for a reasonable amount of time. Probably another 100 people could have been removed but Marg wished to consult with Rev. Takouhi first.

OLD BUSINESS: (Continued)

Membership Roll Update – Marg Worth (Continued)

Motion: That the list of people that was presented be removed from our membership roll. List is attached to minutes.

Moved by: Marg Worth, Seconded by Rhea Roantree. Carried.

Rev. Takouhi advised that she would like to send a handwritten card to the Grace Church members at Christmas time. It was agreed that Session would finance this fantastic endeavour.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer for November 24, 2020 – Donna Norman

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Colleen Harding

CLOSING PRAYER: Joan Shaw
