

Minutes
Grace United Church Session
Tuesday, January 26, 2021

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, David Charles, Marg Worth, Joan Shaw
Regrets: Dianna Grier, Bill Lussier, Charlie Donevan.

Quorum was present.

OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Takouhi opened the meeting with prayer. Donna Norman volunteered to open with prayer at the February meeting.

AGENDA:

Addition to Agenda: Memberships, Communion

Motion: To adopt the Agenda

Moved by: Shirley Clark, **Seconded by** Marg Worth, **Carried**

MINUTES:

Motion: To accept the minutes of November 24, 2020

Moved by: Joan Shaw, **Seconded by** Rhea Roantree. **Carried**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP:

Virtual Services

Welcome/Announcements/Readers - Colleen and Paul Harding volunteered to continue their involvement, along with Tammy's assistance. Session will take over once we are in church.

REPORTS:

Minister's Musings: Rev. Takouhi

See attached report.

Ministry of Music: Paul Harding

Paul noted that a new hymnal is slated to be released in the fall of 2024. It will contain over 800 hymns and will be available digitally. It was agreed that it is easier to sing along with the hymns during the virtual service when there is vocal accompaniment, although this is difficult to always arrange. Paul Harding also advised that messages or thank you notes could be posted at the beginning of the virtual service. He will add a picture/information regarding COVID.

Paul Scott expressed appreciation to Paul Harding for the excellent presentation of music in the virtual services.

REPORTS: (continued)

M&S Enthusiast: Dave Charles

Our M&S donations for 2020 were \$8,189 vs \$9,039 which is amazing support considering the pandemic. Very pleased to see that we are targeting \$10,000 for this year's budget. These numbers do not include our tremendous support for the Spirit of Giving for local causes totaling \$5000. In the next few week I want to

highlight opportunities to support Veteran's House, Emmanuel Baptist Church in El Salvador, and Gan Refugee Settlement Group.

The Your Generosity Matters segment was introduced into worship in the first weeks of January. I really like the current videos and stories that replace Minutes for Mission.

The Gananoque and Area Food Access Network has evaluated the local candidates for a Community Kitchen that will be used to teach nutrition and cooking techniques and can be used to prepare meals for those in need or wanting fellowship. We have recommended Christ Church Anglican as the first choice if we get a government grant (\$60,000) to upgrade the kitchen equipment. Grace UC is the second choice if government funding does not materialize. A proposal would need to be brought to the Official Board if we are chosen.

EOORC Update: Dave Charles

The Region plans to hold its plenary meeting via Zoom on February 27 as well as workshops on topics such as Ministry and Personnel, Worship During Covid, and Financial Management. I will ask Laurie to add a link to the Grace Home Page to EOORC website so folks can easily retrieve news and information.

Tammy Fergusson will complete the Licensed Lay Worship Leader training this spring. Well done Tammy!

Worship Committee:

Information regarding the Worship Committee responsibilities was circulated with the agenda. Paul Scott asked if the Worship Committee's responsibility would include scheduling dates for the Special Music, Baptism and Communion. Baptism dates are sometimes requested by parents or a date is announced of the possibility with parents asked to contact the church. The Worship Committee will meet monthly or as required. Colleen has completed her term on Session but volunteered to continue on the Worship Committee and the "Opening Committee".

Licensed Lay Worship Leader Course: Tammy Fergusson

Tammy reviewed the LLWL Program that she began in September 2020. She is now working on the Sermon Unit, having completed the Prayers, Special Services and Liturgy Units. Since January 2020 she has participated in services 24 times. Tammy has requested to lead two services in April and May and will coordinate this with Rev. Takouhi.

Christmas Children's Book: Colleen Harding

In December we purchased 6 copies of the book *Twas the Evening of Christmas* by Glenys Nellist and Elena Selivanova. This was a book with lovely illustrations that told the story of the birth of Jesus. With the help of several members of Session, we hand delivered these books to families who had had children baptized recently or who had been involved in our Sunday School program before Covid, to let them know we had not forgotten them. Thank you to Banquet Books for helping us obtain these books. The final cost was \$115.00.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK:

Correspondence

Request from Gananoque Historical Society to use the church hall on March 16, April 20, October 19 and November 16. It was noted that it is the church's responsibility that the group work within the COVID

guidelines. The limit for the meeting hall with social distancing is approximately 30 to 35 people. Paul Scott will advise Laurie to contact John Nalon regarding this.

Motion: That the dates requested be approved pending COVID situation.

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

Outreach: Joan Shaw

Get well cards were sent to Graham Anglin, Jack Hutcheson. A sympathy card was sent to Bill Lussier.

New Memberships

Motion: That the memberships of Gary Petro, Bert Petro and Choughik Dimirdjian, Faye Trimble, Gord Trimble be transferred to Grace United Church even though the paperwork has not yet been received.

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

Communion Dates: February 21 and April 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Year End Financials

Budget for 2020 was \$3,700, Expenses - \$2,616

Thank You:

Paul Scott expressed thanks to Shirley Clark, Dianna Grier, Colleen Harding and Margaret Worth for their service on Session.

Spirit of Giving Wrap-up – Colleen Harding

During Advent we offered our community of faith two opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others in our community, and they participated generously! Our first event was our White Gift celebration on December 15th in support of the Gananoque and Area Food Bank Christmas hampers project. We asked for monetary donations so the food bank could purchase items they needed, taking advantage of bulk buying prices. Our community of faith responded with donations totalling \$3070, enough to supply over 76 hampers. Our second event was the Baby Shower for Jesus on December 27th, in support of the Leeds and Grenville Interval House who provide intervention for abused women and their children in our community. We were not able to have our informal shower this year, but we were pleased to have Rev. Kathy Walton lead us in a virtual celebration. In addition to a variety of gifts for babies and toddlers (we estimate a value of more than \$500), monetary gifts exceeded \$1350. Our total donations for the two events was almost \$5000! (\$3070 + \$1355 + \$500 estimated = \$4925). An overwhelming success! Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Sermon by Phone:

Information was attached with the agenda. This program will add to our outreach. Those without computers would be able to dial a number and listen to the sermon or all of the Sunday worship service on their phone. The cost seems very reasonable. It was suggested that non-memorial hymn books be recorded and delivered to participants. There are about 20 folks who do not have internet connection.

Motion: That the Sermon by Phone be implemented for a three-month trial period to those who don't have internet service and wish to participate.

Moved by: David Charles, **Seconded** by Tammy Fergusson. **Carried.**

Membership – Marg Worth

Marg volunteered to continue to work on the membership roll. Discussion ensued. Donna mentioned that it is important to recognize that some of the folks who moved on have a new allegiance and have found a place of acceptance. Rev. Takouhi and Marg will work together and determine how to handle the removal of the names, e.g.: letter with thank you.

OTHER BUSINESS

Children's Ministry – nothing to report at this time

Study Group – Rev. Takouhi

Rev. Takouhi will prepare a flyer. Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 time slot was suggested.

Sharing DVD's With Shut-Ins

No action at this time.

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OTHER BUSINESS: (continued)

Broadcasting via Cogeco – Information attached with Agenda

Rev. Takouhi will ask her Smith's Falls contact for information regarding the Kingston area.

Grace's Chatter Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021

Zoom Subscription

Dave Charles will ask that a Church Zoom subscription be added to the Official Board agenda.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer for February 23, 2021– Donna Norman

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Shirley Clark

CLOSING PRAYER: Tammy Fergusson