

Rural United Pastoral Charge
Official Board Meeting – April 28, 2021 – on Zoom

ATTENDANCE: St. John's - Dennis Atkinson, Sharon Lesy, Cheryl Atkinson, Heather LeGros, Elizabeth DeHoey
St. Paul's - Wendy Kempster, Carolyn Fraser, Chuck Scott, Gary Houston, Judy Houston, Sharon Ball, Jennifer Coffin, Barry Fraser
Turin - Bill Gardiner, Brenda Gardiner, Paul Hogg, Mary Hogg, Fred Stirling, Carol Rankin
Clergy - Rev. Wanda Burse, Betty Stirling CDM, Gabriella Cutler CDM
A quorum was present.

WELCOME: Chairperson Paul Hogg welcomed everyone and then acknowledged the Territory. "We acknowledge that our sacred space is found on the Indigenous territories of the Attawandaron, Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples. With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all." Rev. Wanda read a prayer "Be Near Us Loving God" from the book *Wisdom Is Calling*.

AGENDA: Sharon Lesy moved that we accept the agenda with additions. Seconded by Betty Stirling and carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Chuck Scott and seconded by Gary Houston that the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting be approved. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Social Justice – The social justice issue chosen at the January meeting, supporting a Universal Basic Income, is now a private member's bill and has received its first reading at the federal level.
- Wage Subsidy – Treasurer Brenda Gardiner reported that the Wage Subsidy has been extended until the end of June 2021. After many emails and phone calls, she still has not been able to figure out how to pay back the extra received in 2020. So far, we have not qualified in 2021.
- Stuff-a-Bus and Food Collection – Information was presented from the Session Meeting held last week. **Judy Houston moved that the Charge give \$500 from the Benevolent Fund to the foodbanks in Ridgetown, Blenheim and Chatham, to the C-K Mobile Market, and to the Downtown Windsor Mission. Seconded by Jen Coffin and carried.** Rev. Wanda will put that information in her next newsletter and will also ask individuals to donate to local charities.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Treasurer Brenda has not drafted a new resolution with current officers and directors for the CRA because she needs one or two people to be authorized to have the password for the account and also the ADP account in case Brenda is unavailable. Sharon Lesy agreed to be that person.
- Brenda received the newsletter from Windsor's Downtown Mission and the new copies of the *Gathering* which she has distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Brenda said that the bottom had been cut off her report and therefore the Ministerial Fees and Honorariums and Family Skate were not included but that they are in the January report. She sent the Youth Group money to Kenesserie as discussed at

the January meeting. **Brenda moved that her report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Barry Fraser and carried.** The report follows these minutes.

MISSION & SERVICE REPORT: Sharon Ball reported that she has sent \$6,000 to Toronto which leaves \$167 in the account. Each church's budgeted goal will be decided at its Annual Meeting. **Sharon Moved her report be accepted. Seconded by Judy Houston and carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sunday Services – The present lock-down continues until May 20, 2021. Rev. Wanda will meet with the Clerks of Session to determine when and how the churches will open.
- Annual Meetings – The meetings must be held before the end of June. It was decided that the churches would meet on Zoom on the following dates:
 - Turin – June 28
 - St. John's – June 29
 - St. Paul's – June 30
- Truth & Reconciliation – Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils are promoting education about the Truth & Reconciliation Report and are presenting a series of webinars.
- Regional Annual Meeting Dates: The meeting will be held the evening of June 10th, the afternoon of June 11th, and all day June 12th. The celebration of Ministry will be held on Saturday night.

CLERGY REPORT: Rev. Wanda's report follows these minutes.

JOINT SESSION REPORT: Sharon Lesy reported for Joint Session.

- They discussed the logistics of one baptism and five weddings.
- They decided to look into options to replace the Stuff-a-bus project.
- Rev. Wanda shared how she was involved with Truth and Reconciliation.
- Gabriella Cutler was invited to the meeting as another way to get to know her as our new CDM. She reported on what she is doing with visitation.
- They discussed using Break Out Groups after the Sunday service.
- Bible Study will be cancelled until the fall.
- Discussion was held about how to hold Communion.

OTHER BUSINESS: Barry Fraser said that the Stewards at St. Paul's have been looking after the building so that it is ready when indoor services resume.

NEXT MEETING: The next Official Board meeting will be held on September 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined according to the circumstances at the time.

CLOSING: Rev. Wanda read "In the End a New Beginning" from *Seeing Christ in Others*. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

Date