

Rural United Pastoral Charge
Executive of Official Board Meeting – June 24, 2021 – on Zoom
7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: St. John's - Dennis Atkinson, Sharon Lesy, Wayne Balmer, Carol Ann Balmer
St. Paul's - Wendy Kempster, Gary Houston, Judy Houston,
Turin - Brenda Gardiner, Paul Hogg, Fred Stirling,
Clergy - Rev. Wanda Burse, Betty Stirling CDM,

Rev. Wanda gave a brief welcome to those present and then presented the reason for the meeting.

A letter was sent to Turin United from PicRights, a company that investigates copyright violations, saying that the Rural United website had broken copyright laws. A picture had been posted at the time of Hurricane Dorian that depicted some of the devastation it had caused. The picture belonged to The Associated Press. Webmaster Wendy Kempster had copied the picture and the related appeal for funds from E-ssentials, the newsletter from the United Church of Canada. The fine was \$480.

Rev. Wanda made many phone calls and sent many emails to see if the claim was legitimate. It was, in fact, because the United Church buys a one-time use of pictures that it uses which means that they cannot be copied elsewhere. However, because the Church is a charitable organization and all funds raised from using the picture were given to the appeal, the fine was reduced to \$240.

Rev. Wanda was willing to try to reduce the fine further but the executive agreed that it was a waste of her time and that we should pay the fine and end the matter. **Fred Stirling moved that Treasurer Brenda Gardiner be given the authority to pay the fine of \$240. Seconded by Wayne Balmer and carried.**

As a result of her investigations, Rev. Wanda learned that we have to be very careful about what pictures, music, etc. are used in our services and on-line. She suggested Unsplash, Pixabay and Pexels as sources for free pictures.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

Date