

Rural United Pastoral Charge
Official Board Meeting – September 29, 2021
St. Paul's United Church and on Zoom

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

WELCOME: Chairperson Chuck Scott welcomed everyone and lit the Christ candle to welcome Christ into our presence. He then acknowledged the Territory. Instead of a prayer, Rev. Wanda did a blanket exercise with us to show how many Indigenous peoples have been lost in each family due to colonialization.

AGENDA: Jen Coffin moved that we accept the agenda with additions. Seconded by Mary Hogg and carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Betty Stirling and seconded by Sharon Lesy that the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting be approved. Carried.

Moved by Paul Hogg and seconded by Betty Stirling that the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on June 24, 2021 be approved. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Wage Subsidy – Treasurer Brenda Gardiner reported that the Wage Subsidy issue is up-to-date until the end of August 2021. She has filed for April, May and June. She did receive the TEWS (Temporary Emergency Wage Subsidy) and has disbursed it to the churches.
- CRA – Brenda has drafted a letter to be sent to the CRA about updating and filing the names, addresses and phone numbers of the current Official Board members. Sharon Lesy will be the alternate authorized contact. It needs to be signed by Chuck Scott and Wendy Kempster before it is sent in.
- Copyright Fine – It has been paid and documented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Rev. Wanda stated that she is retiring as of August 31, 2022. At the end of December 2021, she will become retired but active and will request a change of status from the Regional Human Resources Commission.
- Brenda received the newsletter from Windsor's Downtown Mission and the new copies of the *Gathering* which she has distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The *Gathering* magazine – Brenda usually buys five subscriptions for \$146.62 (tax included) each year for the organists and ministers. They are now changing its format to a paper copy plus extra on-line material for \$75 each per year. This would come to \$423.75. Does she continue to buy five copies? It was decided to leave the matter until the November meeting as it is not due until the end of the year.

- Donations – Brenda said that there was \$2,000 available that could be donated, leaving about \$1,500 in the Benevolent Fund. **Betty Stirling moved that \$500 be sent to the Salvation Army in Ridgetown, \$500 to the Salvation Army in Blenheim, \$500 to the Downtown Mission in Windsor, and \$500 to Outreach for Hunger. Seconded by Gary Houston and carried.**
- Foodgrains Bank – **Paul Hogg moved, seconded by Carolyn Fraser, that the Charge promote the support of the Foodgrains Bank in the individual churches. Donations can be given to the Church Treasurer and then forwarded to the Charge Treasurer who will send them on. Carried.** It will begin on October 12th and end on November 7th.

Brenda moved that her report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Jen Coffin and carried. The report follows these minutes.

MISSION & SERVICE REPORT: Sharon Ball reported that she sent \$6,000 to Toronto in April and \$4,000 in September. The combined Charge goal is \$23,200. **Sharon Moved her report be accepted. Seconded by Betty Stirling and carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Profiles – These are necessary before a call can be put out for a new minister. Congregational meetings must be held to accept them when they are completed. Two weeks notice must be given before the meeting. Then they are sent to ARW Regional Council to be approved before being posted on Church Hub.
St. John's and Turin's are ready and will hold their meetings on October 24th after the service. St. John's will move their service time to 9:00 a.m.
St. Paul's need more work and will have their meeting on November 7th after the service. Betty Stirling and Rev. Wanda will need to switch their preaching dates to accommodate this.
- Annual Reports – The 2021 reports and statistics have been sent to the National Office.
- Self-Assessment Check List – This needs to be done before a search for a new minister can begin. Rev. Wanda will get the details on how to complete it from Judith Fayter.
- Policies on Harassment and Misconduct Posters – Rev. Wanda has the posters which need to be put up in conspicuous places in each church. They alert anyone involved in such an offence about whom to contact.
- Vaccine Certificates – Religious institutions are not allowed to collect that information from their parishioners. However, it is needed from others entering/using the facilities. St. Paul's has been approached by the Countryside Knitting Club to hold its monthly meeting there. The members would need to provide proof of vaccination. Also, the club does not have insurance and so Chuck Scott volunteered to check out the policy with UCC Protect to see if it would be covered.

CLERGY REPORT: Rev. Wanda continues with all of the activities included in her last report. Also, there are three baptisms and two weddings coming up in the future. She is putting together an Indigenous Study that will be held once a month. Details need to be worked out, yet, as to when and where. Bible Study will begin in November. As a member of the Credentialing Committee, she has been busy interviewing candidates wanting to be Educational Supervisors.

JOINT SESSION REPORT: Sharon Lesy reported for Joint Session.

- They approved three baptisms and two weddings.
- They looked at the Preaching Schedule.

- They discussed having Communion with everyone bringing their own elements. Session will have some on hand in case someone forgets.
- They decided that there will be one service from Turin with a Zoom link on October 31, the weekend of the Fall Regional Meeting.
- Rev. Wanda is taking a study leave and so St. Paul's will require a supply on November 14th.
- There was discussion around the Christmas Eve service and the December 26th service. Decisions will be made at the November meeting.
- They discussed the CCLI Music License. Brenda confirmed that it had been paid when it came due. There will be further discussion at the April 2022 meeting about whether to continue subscribing to it.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- St. Paul's will be holding its Affirming/Anniversary Service on October 17th at 2:00 p.m. Michael Shewburg will be the guest preacher. Everyone is welcome.
- St. Paul's is planning to make 450 apple pies at the end of October.
- Turin has been making pies all year long.

NEXT MEETING: The next Official Board meeting will be held on November 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Turin.

CLOSING: Rev. Wanda read a poem/prayer from *Children of the Turtle*. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

Date