

Rural United Pastoral Charge
Official Board Meeting – November 24, 2021
Turin United Church and on Zoom

ATTENDANCE: St. John's - Dennis Atkinson, Sharon Lesy, Elizabeth DeHoey, Wayne Balmer, Carol Ann Balmer
St. Paul's - Wendy Kempster, Carolyn Fraser, Chuck Scott, Sharon Ball
Jennifer Coffin sent regrets.
Turin - Bill Gardiner, Brenda Gardiner, Paul Hogg, Mary Hogg, Fred Stirling, Harold Stirling
Clergy - Rev. Wanda Burse, Betty Stirling CDM
A quorum was present.

WELCOME: Chairperson Paul Hogg welcomed everyone and Mary Hogg lit the Christ candle to welcome Christ into our presence. He 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 poem, *I Am Waiting* by Jan Phillips, substituting Canadian references, to begin the meeting.

AGENDA: Harold Stirling moved that we accept the agenda. Seconded by Mary Hogg and carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Sharon Lesy and seconded by Betty Stirling that the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting be approved. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Rural United Profile – The meeting of those working on the profiles from each church went well but there is a little more to do. It could be passed at the next Official Board meeting and then sent to the Covenanting Commission along with the profiles from the individual churches. Then we can begin setting up a search for a new minister. It was put forward that we might need to decide what exactly we are searching for, ie. how many, part time/full time, qualifications, etc., before finishing the profiles. Chuck Scott was asked to call Diane Blanchard of Human Resources to clarify how to proceed.
- The Gathering – Carolyn Fraser moved that Brenda get three subscriptions for 2022 as it is being offered at 50% off for the first year. Seconded by Chuck Scott and carried. They will be for Rev. Wanda, Betty Stirling and Wendy Kempster.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Brenda received thank-you notes from Windsor's Downtown Mission, Outreach for Hunger, and the Ridgetown and Blenheim Food Banks.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Brenda revealed that she had overpaid Rev. Wanda for Books and Study by \$231.01. After some discussion, Sharon Lesy moved that Brenda increase the budgeted amount to cover the extra cost. Seconded by Harold Stirling and carried.
- Brenda noted that the pension had also been paid over the budgeted amount. This was because she thought the payments would stop with Rev. Wanda's birthday in June but they continued until she has to start to collect her pension in December.

- The UCC Assessment Fee was incorrect in the budget. It should have been \$8,517.00. The 2022 fee will be \$7,572.00.
- The letter about changes in addresses and phone numbers for Official Board Executive members has been sent to the CRA but no acknowledgement has been received.
- The Pastoral Charge donated \$2,800.00 to the Foodgrains Bank. It should be matched 4 to 1 by the Federal Government.
- Brenda requested that the Finance Committee meet on Zoom on January 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to make a budget for 2022.
- Brenda will contact Gary Houston and Laurie Bateman about examining the books for 2020 and 2021.
- The Charge did receive money from the Temporary Emergency Wage Subsidy for April, May and June and Brenda has one more report to send in before it ends in November.

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

MISSION & SERVICE REPORT: Sharon Ball reported that she has sent \$13,482.00 to Toronto and has \$3,610.00 in the bank. The combined Charge goal is \$23,200. **Sharon moved that her report be accepted. Seconded by Harold Stirling and carried.**

JOINT SESSION REPORT: Sharon Lesy reported for Joint Session.

- Christmas Eve will be celebrated with a service at St. John's led by Betty Stirling, and Rev. Wanda will hold a separate Zoom service for those who prefer to stay at home.
- The December 26th service will be cancelled.
- The Advent readings will begin this Sunday, November 28th, and the readers may come to the front of the church.
- The offering plates will be brought to the front of the church during Advent.
- Confirmation Class will be held on February 21st if there is any interest.
- ARWRC requested that communities of faith sign a multi-faith statement of solidarity for a Hindu priest who has been condemned for officiating at a same-sex marriage ceremony. Rev. Wanda will send an endorsement on our behalf.

STEWARDS' REPORT:

St. Paul's

- upgraded P.A. system for audio
- upgraded cabling to support Zoom
- new outside signage to indicate the Affirming designation
- Signage 'Love is Love' on the turret
- parking lot graded
- mouse patrol in operation
- furnace inspection completed
- dead flowers removed, all shrubs pruned
- last lawn cutting
- winterized the building and pumphouse
- Christmas lights and star were added to be turned on December 1st

Turin

- outside light replaced

St. John's

- no report

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL: no report

CLERGY REPORT: Rev. Wanda continues with all of her regular activities. She has just completed the last of four sessions on Truth and Reconciliation provided by the Region. The Indigenous Study has begun and will continue until June. Bible Study will continue for two more weeks. The Village in Ridgetown has begun offering worship services for the residents, again, and Rev. Wanda will be leading services according to the schedule. She officiated at a wedding today.

She is working with three benevolent families/individuals. She is also working to provide funding for a resident of Blenheim Community Village to take transportation to and from the hospital to have a test. It will cost \$800.00 for the 50 km round trip. Rural United will pay for half and the Blenheim and District Ministerial Association will donate the other half.

NEW BUSINESS:

- White Gift Sunday is traditionally held on the first Sunday of Advent but it has not been announced in the bulletin. Also, the Municipality held it's "The Gift" drive last Saturday. It was decided that Sharon Lesy would send out an email for St. John's to bring their white gifts on Sunday and Paul Hogg would send one out for Turin. St. Paul's will encourage donations to the Mitten Line. Gifts can be brought to the front of the church.
- The Stuff a Bus project was put on hold until the spring. The Municipality is considering holding another "The Gift" drive. If that does not happen, maybe we could hold a food drive without a bus.
- The deadline for all Annual Reports to be submitted to Gail or Carol will be January 16, 2022. Annual Reports will be ready to be picked up by February 6, 2022.
- St. John's Annual Meeting will be held on February 27th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. during the service. Turin's will follow at 11:00 a.m. St. Paul's will be held on March 6th at 10:00 a.m. Times are subject to change.
- Carolyn Fraser promoted the Reading Club sponsored by *Broadview* magazine. It can be found at broadview.org/national-online-reading-club/

NEXT MEETING: The next Official Board meeting will be held on January 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

CLOSING: Rev. Wanda closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

Date