

**Grace United Church**  
**Official Board Meeting via Zoom**  
**Thursday October 29, 2020 2:00 pm**

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**Present:** Ted Brett, Brian Brooks, David Charles, Shirley Clark, Angus Fergusson, Tammy Fergusson, Christina Gordon, Colleen Harding, Vicki Leakey, Diane Nuttall, Cheryl O'Leary, Carolyn Scott, Paul Scott, Bruce Wilson, Marg Worth

**Absent:** Marilyn Belbin, Linda Brooks, Charlie Donevan, Dianna Grier, Mary Haussler, Bill Lussier, Tony Maroni, Donna Norman, Rhea Roantree, Joan Shaw, Eileen Thomson

There was a quorum in attendance.

**Opening Prayer** was led by Marg Worth.

**Welcome:** Brian Brooks, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

Ted Brett was thanked for his counsel as our regional representative over the past 20 months.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

September 10, 2020: Paul Scott moved that these minutes be accepted. Seconded by Colleen Harding. Carried.

No business arising.

**Reports:**

**Session** met on October 14 and welcomed Rev. Takouhi to the meeting via Zoom.

Reopening of the church brings the Session back to their normal routine of finding ushers and readers. The advent schedule was reviewed – Church decorating on November 27, Communion on Sunday November 29, White Gift Sunday, Advent Wagon, Advent wreath candle lighters, Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm, and Baby Shower for Jesus on the last Sunday in December.

Rev. Takouhi's first service is November 15. A Covenanting Service will be held in the new year.

Regional representative, Ted Brett, was thanked for being at Session meetings for the past 20 months.

Grace will purchase "One License" which will cover copyright on music, video streaming, etc.

A Service of Gratitude will occur on November 8 to recognize and thank all volunteers who helped throughout our transition and with COVID-19 online services. This is also Remembrance Day Sunday.

The October newsletter was sent out on October 15 and the November newsletter will have an Advent theme.

The church membership roll was reviewed and, by motion, 19 were moved from the active to the historic membership records. There are currently 450 names on Grace United's membership records. Session supports Rev. Takouhi's plan to send a personalized Christmas card to each member.

The next Session meeting will be Tuesday November 24 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Paul Scott moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Shirley Clark. Carried.

**Stewards:** Denise Wood has moved back to Gananoque and would like to resume her position on Stewards, a position that was never filled. Moved by Carolyn Scott that we accept Denise Wood back on Stewards. Seconded by Christina Gordon. Carried.

The pie makers are continuing twice a month and will have accumulated enough frozen pies to have a sale on November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Details to be worked out.

**Trustee/Treasurer:** An update was given to the congregation in the September newsletter.

Vicki Leakey says that it is “amazing” that we have been able to maintain funds during COVID. We need to convey a message of appreciation to the congregation.

Offerings for September were \$5,277. Offerings, to date, for October are \$9,100. The increase in part is due to in-church services resuming.

After COVID and with Rev. Takouhi here it is hoped that the number attending church will increase, thus increasing offerings.

Pie making is great, but we need to increase fundraising beyond pie making.

Committees has been asked to submit their budgets and the first draft of the budget should be ready by the end of November.

Vicki Leakey moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Carolyn Scott. Carried.

**Maintenance** year to date costs have been within budget even with the extra elevator repairs and the lighting upgrade in the sanctuary.

Hopefully, the lighting in the auditorium can be upgraded with grant funding.

It remains to be seen if electricity costs will be down due to the lack of use of the church.

Pine Street construction continues with the town being very cooperative during negotiations.

An upcoming expense will be the addition of a parking space for the minister.

It is anticipated that the Maintenance budget for next year will be maintained at the current level.

Brian Brooks moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Angus Fergusson. Carried.

**Ministry and Personnel:** Rev. Takouhi has completed all tax forms.

She has been given building keys and keys to her office.

Rev. Takouhi has requested a new computer. The current computer, which is several years old, will be checked out to see if it can be upgraded.

The purchase of an iPad has been approved.

M&P is working on salaries and their budget.

David Charles moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Vicki Leakey. Carried.

**Financial Request from the Technology Team:** The Technology Team is looking to improve the audio/video/computer equipment for Sunday services as we now have an online presence and to possibly expand to community outreach.

David Charles made the following motion:

"To implement the technology improvement required to meet Grace United Church goals of community engagement and the needs of Grace United Church community of faith, the Technology Team requests that the Official Board approve a budget of \$10,000 for 2020 and \$5,000 for 2021 to improve the audio, visual, and computer capabilities of Grace United Church. If we cannot obtain the equipment or install in

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2020, the balance of 2020 budget will be rolled over to 2021. Funding will be provided by EOORC grants, Memorial Fund, cause fundraising, and/or transfers from Trustee Funds as determined by the Stewards and Trustee Committees”.

Seconded by Vicki Leakey. Carried.

An application has been made to the EOORC Mission and Strategy Fund for a \$5,000 grant to assist with this project.

**Nominating Committee:** Moved by David Charles (on Nancy Abrams's behalf) that a nominating committee be created to fill positions on committees for 2021. Seconded by Marg Worth. Carried. Members of the committee, to date, are Diane Kirkby, Linda Brooks, and Tammy Fergusson.

**Rev. Takouhi's first service** will be November 15.

Brian Brooks will introduce Rev. Takouhi.

Those attending the service need to reserve with either Laurie Cadue or Colleen Harding.

**Other Business:**

**Board minutes** need to be posted on the web. Session and Stewards minutes already are posted.

“**United We Stand**” video is available online. It is about housing issues for veterans. United Churches are invited to contribute to the fund.

**Next meeting** will be Wednesday November 25 at 2:00 pm.

**Closing Prayer** was led by David Charles.

**Motion to adjourn:** Shirley Clark