

Minutes
Grace United Church Session
Tuesday, May 27, 2021

Because of the Covid-19, the meeting was held via Internet Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Present: David Charles, Tammy Fergusson, Paul Harding, Barb Jenkins, Diane Kirkby, Bill Lussier, Donna Norman, Cheryl O'Leary, Rhea Roantree, Paul Scott, Raymond Shea, Rev. Takouhi, Joan Shaw

Quorum was present.

OPENING PRAYER:

Tammy Ferguson opened the meeting with prayer. Donna Norman volunteered to open with prayer at the June meeting.

AGENDA:

Motion: To adopt the Agenda as revised with the addition under New Business of 1) Change of dates of Session meetings 2) Sharing and Caring

Moved by: Tammy Fergusson, Seconded by David Charles, Carried

MINUTES:

Motion: To accept the minutes of April 27, 2021 as circulated.

Moved by: Joan Shaw, Seconded by Raymond Shea. Carried

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP:

Virtual Services

Welcome/Announcements/Readers – Worship Committee while doing virtual services.

REPORTS:

Minister's Musings: Rev. Takouhi

See attached report.

Ministry of Music: Paul Harding

Paul explained that he is working on a virtual choir project with our Grace United Church Choir. It will be debuted on June 6. It will be used during the service on Facebook and YouTube and also be posted on a virtual choir site and made available to choir members for sharing on their personal Facebook pages. Music was sent to choir members to practice, record and forward to Paul for final processing. Thanks was extended to Paul.

Four people have volunteered to assist with the audio video system.

Mission and Service Enthusiast Report: Dave Charles

I am striving to make sure all understand that whatever they do through financial support or talents makes a difference and give evidence of where our efforts go.

Audio Visual Team (I will defer to Paul Harding) is anxious to move forward with purchasing technical equipment and training of identified volunteers to expand our reach via social media, TV, and in person

experience. We plan to meet soon to decide a path forward with vendors (e.g. Soundworks) and volunteers. Like to try our equipment and train before we re-open.

The Gananoque and Area Food Access Network has applied for a grant for an accessible washroom at Christ Anglican Church where they are hoping to set up a Community Kitchen . A video presentation has been posted by Laurie Cadue on email and Facebook. David encourages everyone to log in and vote – the most votes wins.

EOORC Representative Report: Dave Charles

The annual meeting via Zoom on May 7 and 8 chaired by Rev Takouhi was full of inspiration, love for diversity, and lots of spirited opinion on path forward for the church. Considerable discussion on allowing more trained lay leadership on delivering the sacraments as availability of ordained ministers is stretched. Also as proposals by Region to provide guidance on expenditures such as internet / cell phone support there was general support but pushback to let Communities of Faith have final say on expenditures. Elections of reps for next General Council fairly well completed...unfortunately it will be virtual.

Called to Be the Church stewardship workshop led by Roger Janes was well attended by Grace UC. Vicki Leakey, Carolyn Scott, Denise Wood and myself. Should lead to small group training at the church. Resonating message for me was say thank you on a personal basis to supporters, tailor to the individual member, and make giving a joy to celebrate, easy to do, and regular.

Worship Planning Team: Paul Harding

During the service on June 27, 2021, Heather Haynes will speak via video regarding assisting women who take care of the orphan children in Goma. The Stewards have approved a \$500.00 donation to the project. Church members will be invited to donate through the church office, with receipts available. Paul, David and Heather will create a submission for Grace's Chatter, the church bulletin and the service on the 27th.

Licensed Lay Worship Leader Course: Tammy Fergusson

Tammy will have completed her course on June 10. She thanked those who have supported her throughout this journey.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK:

Correspondence: nil

Outreach: Joan Shaw

Get well cards were sent to Faye Trimble, Dianna Grier, Murray Roantree. Thinking of You cards were sent to Charlie Donevan and Reta Webb.

Communion Dates: May 30, 2021, Trinity Sunday

Liturgical Colours: May 30 – White/Gold

NEW BUSINESS:

Church Re-opening: Attachment from Colleen Harding.

It was agreed that we must not rush and open safely being cognizant of folks having their second inoculation. A statement regarding in-church services will be derived at the June 24 Session meeting.

Heather Haynes: See Worship Committee report.

Wedding Co-ordinator: Barb Jenkins

Barb explained that the role of the Wedding Co-ordinator would involve making the wedding experience at Grace United Church as attractive as possible. This would be assisting in welcoming the families, showing them the facilities, assisting with planning so that things run smoothly. There was discussion regarding the possibility of live stream weddings. Barb volunteered for this position. Rhea Roantree was asked if she was interested in assisting.

Policy Re: Payment of Worship Leaders:

Laurie Cadue advised Paul Scott that we have nothing in writing regarding the payment of Worship Leaders. Paul Scott referred this item to David Charles, of Ministry and Personnel for wording of the policy with the expectation that it will be brought to Session. Rev. Takouhi will forward information to David from the United Church of Canada.

Baptism Policy in Handbook: Rev. Takouhi

Rev. Takouhi will review the 2005 policy and share her results at the June 2021 meeting.

Change of Date of Session Meetings:

Motion: That future meetings of the Session be held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Moved by: Joan Shaw, Seconded by Bill Lussier, Carried

Caring and Sharing: Barb Jenkins

Barb reviewed the attached report. At this time there are 5 people. More members are always welcome.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Marriage Policy Report: Diane Kirkby

The fee in the current policy is stated as \$300.00, but there is concern that it may be too high for some people. Paul Scott reminded us that Stewards are responsible for the rental rates in the church building. The fees for Minister, Organist, Custodian would apply and are set by these personnel. Rev. Takouhi advised that the CRA does not approve two-tier systems, such as one wedding rate for members and a different rate for non-members. The committee hopes to make the policy more welcoming, inclusive and streamlined. This would involve changing the application to read applicant, attendants to make it more current. An on-line application could also be offered. Other church policies have been observed and it was noted that the use of alcohol, cannabis, nicotine on the premises should be addressed. It was noted that the law states that no one may be married while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Rev. Takouhi advised that she meets with the couple three times prior to the wedding. Paul Scott requested that the draft policy be presented at the June meeting.

Worship by Phone: Paul Scott

Our list of 25 folks who do not have a computer were contacted by five Session members.

Bottom line is the Worship by Phone initiative is a NO GO.

Of the 25 people contacted, 12 watch on Cogeco, 7 are not interested in the worship by phone idea and 5 could not be contacted (left messages and no return phone calls).

The seven who are not interested have a wide variety of reasons – on Bell and uses hearing aids, enjoys getting sermons from Lansdowne United, watches service of FB, tunes in to an evangelist, health care worker comes at 10:30 on Sundays, busy on the farm (will attend when open), will be back for in-person worship.

So, 19 of 25 are either watching on Cogeco or not interested in Worship by Phone.

Thank you to Diane Kirkby, Barb Jenkins, Tammy Fergusson, Cheryl O’Leary and Rhea Roantree for making the calls.

Grace's Chatter Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, June 11, 2021

NEXT MEETING: Note change in date to **Thursday, June 24, 2021** at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer for June 24, 2021 – Rev. Takouhi

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Joan Shaw

CLOSING PRAYER: Paul Harding

Paul Scott, Chair of Session

Joan Shaw, Clerk of Session

Attachments:

Rev. Takouhi's Musings

<file:///C:/Users/grace/Downloads/Ministers%20Musings%20-%20May%2027%202021.pdf>

Church Re-opening Report from Colleen Harding

Caring and Sharing Report [Caring and Sharing Team Meeting May 26 2021 - NOTES.pdf](#)