

**Orchard Valley United Church  
Council Meeting February 27, 2019  
Minutes**

**1) Call to order**

**Regrets:** Harvey Gilmour, Ernie Draper, Nancy Handrigan

**Present:** Gary Dunfield, Jane McDonald, Rev. Don Sellsted, Marion Buchan, Norma Mailman, Joy Waterbury, Jean Millett, Sylvia Jacquard, Rebecca Godfrey, Chris Seymour, Cecil White, Bill Simpson, Thea Burton

**2) Opening Prayer/Reflection:** Rev. Don Sellsted

**3) Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED:** Jane McDonald; **SECONDED:** Norma Mailman

**CARRIED**

**4) Approval of minutes January 23, 2018 (Thank you to Sylvia for the minutes)**

**Corrections:**

a) Food Band should read Food Bank; Treasurer's Report: The amount has been capped at \$16,384 for 2020-2021.

b) Council approving this (the) budget.

c) 6C: Emmanuel United Church of Kingsport. Add this to the motion as well.

**MOVED:** Chris Seymour, **SECONDED:** Norma Mailman

**CARRIED**

**5) Business Arising from the Minutes/Old Business:** None at this time

**6) Correspondence**

a) JNAC/Search Committee/Region 15: Regional liaison is Ann Hoganson from Spryfield United Church. The training session has occurred.

b) Search committee member: Val Mosher is stepping down from Search Committee. There are still 7 members, so she will not be replaced.

c) New initiative: To become an Affirming congregation.

This would entail bringing in speakers to share their story of being affirmed / rejected by the church community. Educate us on the scriptures and prepare us for how we can speak to others on the street to explain what it is and why we chose to become an affirming church. Jane will share a document that explains the process with Affirm United. A committee needs to be formed. 75% of the congregation must approve this endeavor. Council is supportive of moving forward to find volunteers for a committee.

**7) Nominating process**

Gary has a list of names he will circulate to the council prior to the congregational meeting. We do not as yet have 2 regional reps and are still seeking a vice-chair for council.

**8) New Business for discussion from Committee/Team Reports**

a) Christian Development

i) Highlight the Seekers successful Coldest Night Walk.

- b) Communications:  
**MOTION:** To investigate appropriate wording to acknowledge the First Nations territory we are currently residing upon and make such statement at special events.  
**MOVED:** Jane McDonald; **SECONDED:** Marion Buchan **CARRIED**
- c) Congregational Life  
 i) This committee was interested in investigating combining with Stewardship. It was suggested that currently our Stewardship Committee is not following a typical mandate for a Stewardship committee. They are doing fundraisers that also support the life of the congregation or outreach. Stewardship is supposed to be more about developing a program to increase the spirit of generosity within the congregation rather than fundraise; i.e. building a foundation from which we can fundraise. It was suggested that rather than disband Stewardship or combine with Congregational Life, we look at revisiting Stewardship's mandate, and move the activities currently organized to the appropriate committees.
- d) Covenanter
- e) Finance:  
 i) 2 new members will join this committee  
 ii) Supported Y'All Come to Supper
- f) Inter-church councils  
 i) Kentville/New Minas,  
 ii) Valley Foodgrains Bank: haven't met since last meeting. Will continue with Pumpkins and Blueberries and are looking for a new project  
 iii) Foodbank  
 iv) WAICC
- g) Ministry & Personnel  
**MOTION:** To approve the hiring of Glenda Singer as a part-time, interim custodian while Louis is on sick leave.  
**MOVED:** Norma Mailman; **SECONDED:** Chris Seymour **CARRIED**
- h) Outreach
- i) Pastoral Care: Correction--65 nursing home visits
- j) Property
- k) Region 15  
 i) We need to find representatives. There is a document that outlines all the roles on the Region website. Right now there are many committees, with the hopes that this will be reduced.  
 ii) The Governance Structure document will be distributed to council.

- l) Stewardship: See Congregational Life discussion.
- m) Trustees:
  - i) Have not met. Will meet soon.
  - ii) Draft Financial Statements for the Trustees were distributed—Gary presented.
- n) UCM
- o) UCW: Jean gave a verbal report.
  - i) Chrysalis House-recipients were grateful for the donations delivered on February 7<sup>th</sup>
  - ii) New format on trial. Informal UCW meeting to keep members involved and up to date on UCW events. Some women have asked for an afternoon Prayer Shawl group. These women also attend UCW. The space is booked for the third Monday of the month. The women could meet at this time, keep up to date on UCW events and knit Prayer Shawls. Those advised were agreeable with this arrangement. Others may be interested in knitting as well.
  - iii) World Day of Prayer 2019: Friday, March 1, 2:00 at Kentville Baptist Church. Storm date is March 8. Special Speaker is Rev. Thelma MacDonald. Please join us for a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians of other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia.
  - iv) Next Meeting is March 18, 2019, 2:00 at OVUC.
- p) Worship
- q) Facilities committee: Report circulated.
  - i) We have been offered from BD Stevens/LaFarge to facilitate the transfer of a portion of the property to our east. This would facilitate expansion of the building, parking lot, and increase our visibility to the road. Rev. Don has spoken to the Region, and they were clear they would not let us move ahead without an environmental assessment. The transfer of this property will cost us between \$8,000–20,000. If we then decide not to go ahead with the expansion, BD Stevens would reserve the right to take the land back.
  - ii) The fee for moving ahead with architectural drawings would be \$10,000, which would come from the \$20,000 fund allocated for this process.
  - iii) They would like to move forward with the environmental assessment.

**MOTION:** To reaffirm the Facilities Committee task to carry on with their recommendations:

- a) Ask its Facilities Committee to make some assumptions from the above “statement of facts,” to develop a plan to undertake the next phases of this project.
- b) Re-affirm the availability of funds to undertake the next BD Stevens design steps (\$10,000) and authorize Facilities Committee to retain BD Stevens for this.
- c) Authorize the Facilities Committee to retain Marc Comeau of TMC Law at an early stage – as deemed necessary – for legal advice re property and environmental matters (suggested budget authority of \$10,000)

- d) Authorize the Facilities Committee to retain an environmental assessment professional at an early stage – as deemed necessary and costs of Phase one study knowing that it might lead to a phase two (suggested budget authority of \$10,000)
- e) Give thought to the longer-term internal project management issue.
- f) Advise as to level of information/vision that should be shared with the congregation at its Annual Meeting, March 10, 2019.
- g) Pending legal advice: give BD Stevens the go-ahead to begin discussions with LaFarge on the gifting of property.

**MOVED:** Cecil White; **SECONDED:** Jane McDonald **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** To accept the reports as presented

**MOVED:** Jane McDonald; **SECONDED:** Rebecca Godfrey **CARRIED**

**9) Treasurer**

- a) Financial report: Bill presented reports – See attached.
- b) Annual Report: Correction – We had a \$10,359 surplus.

**MOTION:** To approve reports as presented, and the transfer of \$30,000 from the Trustees to the operating accounts.

**MOVED:** Bill Simpson; **SECONDED:** Cecil White **CARRIED**

**10) New Business**

- a) Indigenous Awareness: Rev. Don shared information on meeting with Dion Kaszas, Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs and Student Advising at Acadia, and Chaplain Tim McFarland at Acadia on how we can work together to build awareness and relations with the First Nations community. Some ideas included:
  - i) Speaking series with topics like Truth and Reconciliation, Residential Schools, Treaties, Land Rights, Colonialism, etc.
  - ii) Workshops such as the blanket exercise.
  - iii) Opportunities for action: how can we as a church participate in a meaningful way. Rev. Don will report back to Council if there is any more action to take.
- b) The Portal: Gov't sponsored program to address homeless teens. They are looking for homes where the teens can live while they complete their high school education. Susan Demont would like to present to the congregation to see if there is any interest.
- c) Chester Reese passed away this week. He initiated the Men's Can idea, which used to be called "Reese Cans".

**11) Authority for Executive to conduct business on behalf of the Council between meetings.**

**MOVED:** Joy Waterbury; **SECONDED:** Jane McDonald **CARRIED**

**12) Minister's Report:** 17 people are signed up for the Lenten Study series

**13) Chair's Last Words:** Thank you for all the work the council and staff has done over the year. Pleased to have Rev. Don here and for the initiatives he is bringing forward. He is certain we will be as supportive of Jane as she takes over, and he wishes us well.

**14) Next Meeting:** March 27, 2019

**15) Closing Prayer:** Gary Dunfield

**16) Adjournment**