

**Orchard Valley United Church
Council Meeting February 24, 2021
Minutes**

- 1) **Call to order. 7:05 pm**
 - a) **Present** – Jane McDonald, Thea Burton, Bill Simpson, Rebecca Godfrey, Gary Dunfield, Jean Millett, Sue Smith, Harvey Gilmour, Chris Seymour, Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk, Joy Waterbury, Vicky Austin, Rev. Don Sellsted, Andy Pitter, Cynthia Bruce, Susan Cater, Sylvia Jacquard, John Foote
 - b) **Regrets -**

- 2) **Opening Prayer/Reflection:** Jane McDonald

- 3) **Approval of Agenda as amended**
Moved: Cynthia Bruce; Seconded: Harvey Gilmour **CARRIED**

- 4) **Approval of minutes January 27, 2021**
Moved: Jean Millett; Seconded: Chris Seymour **CARRIED**

- 5) **Business arising from the Minutes.**
 - a) Review of Nominations: update presented by Jane McDonald
 - i) Communications and Property could use a couple more people.
 - b) Review of M&P request for Part time Admin Assistant: Discussion points
 - i) Concern expressed this was not a good time to be cutting back hours due to the pandemic. Finance committee put forward a motion to maintain fulltime hours and pay for now.
 - ii) Request from Pastoral Care to adjust job description to include maintenance of some of the confidential lists and church database
 - iii) Most committee work the Admin Assistant has been helping with has been able to revert back to the committees, but some work using church information still makes sense to be part of Admin Assistant’s job.
 - iv) We can acknowledge that the job does not require full time hours, but also decide to maintain full time employment for now for compassionate reasons.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moves that the office administrator’s fulltime salary should continue for the current year, since the cost of a full -time salary is included in the approved 2021 budget, which reflects the good financial position of the church. This is not the time to reduce a worker’s income due to lack of work hours caused by COVID-19.

Moved: Gary Dunfield; Seconded: Sue Smith

Discussion:

- lack of work hours is not due to COVID-19;
- friendly amendment to remove “due to lack of work hours caused by COVID-19.”
- friendly amendment, change final sentence to Due to challenges presented by COVID-19, this is not the time to reduce a worker’s income.
- Rewording agreed by mover.

FINAL MOTION:

Due to the challenges presented from COVID-19, it is not the time to reduce a worker's income. As the full-time salary for the office administrator has been proposed for the 2021 budget, which reflects the good financial position of the church, the Finance Committee moves that the office administrator's fulltime salary be continue for the current year.

CARRIED

*Action: M&P will communicate this change to Office Administrator, and then Jane McDonald will communicate this change to the congregation.

6) Approval of actions of the Executive: None made

7) Committee Reports

- a) Affirming Committee: Currently working on March 14th service, National Pi day. Efforts to be an affirming and welcoming congregation need to be Public, Intentional and Explicit. Information to be shared with Valley youth project, Valley Pride, Grapevine, Facebook page.
 - b) Christian Development: Andy Pitter will do Storage room weeding out prior to the March 3rd meeting.
 - c) Communications: Beginning work on the newsletter. \$300 dollar budgeted for upgrade of website. Work will continue and be added to next year's budget.
 - d) Congregational Life
 - a. Calendar: Committees would re-create Movie scenes for each month to be used as a fundraiser in the Fall. This will be discussed at the March 7th meeting.
 - b. Expenses for the cancelled Pancake Supper are being reimbursed. Costs to come out of the Worship Budget.
 - e) Covenanter
 - a. Steeple and roofing work moving forward, and will be brought to council for approval.
 - f) Facilities Committee
 - a. Approval of Next Steps Committee
 - i. Gary Dunfield – Chair
 - ii. Jane McDonald – Secretary
 - iii. Tommy Duggan
 - iv. Brooke Anderson
 - v. Dave Murphy
 - vi. Harvey Gilmour – As needed
 - 1. Ex-officio: Susan Cater (Council Chair) & Don Sellsted (Minister)
- Moved: Gary Dunfield; Seconded: Harvey Gilmour** **CARRIED**
- b. Approval of Fund Raising committee: Tabled to future meeting
 - i. Nancy Handrigan
 - ii. Harvey Gilmour
 - iii. Members to be added as needed
- g) Finance:
 - a. Treasurer - Financial update:
 - i. Statements approved by Finance committee. \$700 more revenue than budgeted. \$617 less expenses than budgeted for January.

- h) Inter-church councils
 - a. Kentville/New Minas, Valley Food Grains Bank, Food Bank
 - b. WAICC-Special needs committee planning on adding foot care to their clients in the Wolfville catchment area, and showing financial need.
- i) Ministry & Personnel
- j) Outreach:
 - a. Needs for Meet your Feet – Pending donation from Mud Creek Rotary. How can we make this work? No information yet. This discussion to be tabled until. Any suggestions can be sent to Outreach. Removal of carpet and improved ventilation has been requested. Property and Outreach will coordinate.
- k) Region 14/15:
 - a. Ecological Justice Working Group- inviting us to join the March 11 Interfaith Day of Climate Action.
 - b. Rev. Don interested in coordinating a ZOOM meeting to view a TED Talk and then continue a discussion after. Jane McDonald and Rev. Don to organize.
 - c. Invitation to join the March 21 ZOOM meeting to share and celebrate dreams, and commit to actions.
- l) Property
 - a. This is John Foote’s last meeting. Thank you John for your work.
- m) Pastoral Care
 - a. 4 people on You’ve Got a Friend will update the lists every 6 months.
 - b. Prayer Shawl Report: We had 6 shawls go out during February.
 - c. There is an abundance of wool in the attic that could be used.
- n) Stewardship
- o) Trustees
- p) UCM
- q) UCW
- r) Worship

MOTION: To approve committee and financial reports as presented

Moved: Cynthia Bruce; Seconded: Joy Waterbury

CARRIED

8) New Business

- a) Date of ACM: April 11th. Gary and Don will investigate a hybrid approach to broadcasting the meeting.
- b) Approval of land Transfer from BD Stevens to OVUC: Moving forward. Approval Tabled
- c) Request Approval to spend up to \$150,00 for next steps in facilities drawings and specifications.: Moving Forward. Approval Tabled
- d) Bursary Requests: Email from Rhonda Schofield. Forwarded to Finance for consideration. Last year’s support was donated by an individual, however we had approved the support to come from the Trustees. Tabled to next meeting.
- e) Information form for Region: Jane McDonald and Rev. Don will determine who best to complete

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

Moved: Harvey Gilmour; Seconded: Andy Pitter

CARRIED

- 10) **Clergy's Report:** ☺ It has been a sad month with a number of members passing. Gratitude for staff and volunteers who supported through the funerals. Live streaming was well received. 478 viewers joined for Peter Dekker's celebration of life. As people have been coming into the church, they have been asking for the Ash Wednesday cards. Each card has actual ash from last year's palms. He has more for anyone interested.
- 11) **Next Meeting: March 24th*** **This is a week earlier than normal due to Holy Week being the last week of the month.**
- 12) **Closing Prayer: Rev. Don Sellsted**
- 13) **Adjournment 9:07pm. Moved by Andy Pitter**