

Orchard Valley United Church Council Meeting Nov. 29, 2023 Minutes

In-Person Meeting at OVUC

1) Call to order

- a) Present: Dave Murphy, Rev. Don Sellsted, Norma Mailman, Sheila Francis, Cheryl Sellsted, Joy Waterbury, Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte, Gary Dunfield, Sylvia Jacquard, Bill Simpson, Jane McDonald, Scott Sweatman, Cupido Daniels, Chris Seymour,
- b) Regrets: Thea Burton, Jane McDonald, Jean Millett, Dale McArthur

2) Opening Prayer/Reflection: Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk

3) Approval of Agenda as amended:

Moved: Chris Seymour; Seconded: Scott Sweatman

CARRIED

4) Approval of minutes, Oct 4, 2023. There was a question as to what exactly \$2,000,090 3% over budget meant exactly. Bill didn't have that answer at his fingertips. Moved: Norma Mailman; Seconded: Cupido Daniels

CARRIED

5) Business arising from the Minutes: None at this time.

6) Approval of actions of the Executive: None at this time.

- a) Affirming
- b) Communications
- c) Congregational Life
- d) Covenanter Committee
- e) Facilities Committee: This committee has completed its mandate and thus should be removed from reports.
- f) Fundy Food Bank: Sue Smith, who has moved, was one of our reps. Gary as treasurer is one but we are permitted to have more. He will try to report.
- g) Inter-church councils
 - i) Kentville/New Minas & Area Council
 - ii) WAICC
- h) Ministry & Personnel
- i) Outreach
- j) Region 15
- k) Property
- l) Pastoral Care
- m) Trustees
- n) UCM
- o) UCW
- p) Valley Food Grains Bank
- q) Worship – On Christmas Eve (Sunday) we will have a 4 p.m. service at Orchard Valley and an 11 p.m. service at Covenanter but no 10 a.m. Sunday service. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

7) Finance:

- a) Treasurer - Financial update – Budget worksheet. There was a deficit for the year of \$2000. We had budgeted for a loss up to the end of COVID for \$75,000. A bequest of \$50,000 has been received.

MOTION: To accept the report as presented.

Moved: Bill Simpson; Seconded: Dave Murphy.

Permission to transfer \$125,000 from our bank account to the trustees' investment account until it is needed.

MOTION: To accept the report as presented.

Moved: Gary Dunfield; Seconded: Bill Simpson.

CARRIED

The Draft budget was presented. Committee chairs were asked to take it back to their committees and talk to Gary if they have any questions. We will start using it in January but it won't be approved until the AGM. If changes need to be made, a revised version will be brought to the January meeting for final approval.

8) New Business:

- a) Treasurer position – Bill Simpson is stepping down in January but no one has stepped up yet. It is possible that the job description might need to be altered. Mindy's words of appreciation to Bill for his years of service met with applause.
- b) Washer/dryer – Jane has filled out and submitted paperwork for a Rotary grant requesting \$2700 to purchase a ventless up/down washer and dryer. The set will be located in the utility room and Doug's cleaning supplies will be in a renovated closet. Doug's computer is now in the coffee room off the parlour.
- c) NYE games night - It will be a finger food potluck. They still need a bartender. The Steeple Strummers will be providing the music and Cheryl Sellsted will bring a 500 piece puzzle.
- d) Senior's survey – It has been circulated.
- e) UCC Centennial project for Orchard Valley – The centennial year will run from June 2024 – June 2025. All communities of faith are being encouraged to do something. There might be funding for projects. There is a website with some ideas. We should start thinking about what we might want to do: a tranquillity garden? A space for the children? Each committee should brainstorm ideas. Seeds of Hope grants are due in May.
- f) Response to Remit 3 on the Autonomous Indigenous Church Must be done by March – So far only 11% of the communities of faith have responded so far. This decision doesn't have to be made by the congregation, it can be a decision made Council.
- g) Breeze training for Committee Chairs – Chairs should book a one-on-one time with Jane. They will have access to the People information part of the program.
(Sidebar – with a spate of spam emails supposedly coming from Don it was thought that a February speaker on Internet safety would be a good idea.)
- h) Light sources for Christmas Worship services: Feedback was given to the Worship Committee about the pros and cons of candles, battery operated tealights and glowsticks.
- i) Transfer of membership –
MOTION: To accept the transfer of memberships of Lois and David Tracy (Dave in absentia) from Kingsport and Dawn Boudreau from Woodlawn United.
Moved: Rev. Don Sellsted; Seconded: Sheila Francis. CARRIED
- j) Update from Visioning Committee (Jane McDonald, Scott Sweatman, Rev. Don, Irvin Nicholson, Norma Mailman and from the Worship Committee Mark Lipton. 1. The deadline to fill out the survey is tomorrow. The issue of security was mentioned a number of times in the surveys.
2. Logo – Communications received feedback from the chairs with the result being that we should have a suite of logos to match varying usages. Don would like to have another planning/visioning gathering like did last year and one of the breakout sessions could be on the logo. 3. Lighting for the front and back parking lots will be installed within the next two months. With LED lights the cost, which used to be around \$100 per month will just be \$30.
- k) Nominations – We need to start thinking about nominations to fill gaps on the various committees. Someone from each Committee speak to the congregation each Sunday. Jane will speak first.
- l) **Authority for Executive to conduct business on behalf of the Council between meetings.**
Moved: Scott Sweatman; Seconded: Cupido Daniels

9) Clergy Reports: –

- a) Don created a trifold brochure for the Christmas season events and other things about Orchard Valley which was put here and in some other places as well. Don is planning some activities. – MYF – speak to Don if you have a place – Activities – BNS

- b) Linda – still needs some people to take part in the pageant. The dress rehearsal will include the pizza party that had to be postponed from the fall.

10) Next Meeting: Jan 24, 2024

11) **Closing Prayer** – Rev. Don Sellsted

12) **Adjournment** – Cheryl Sellsted