

MINUTES – Special Meeting -Woodlawn United Church Council

October 20th, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Helen Dixon, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring WUC follows the recommendations of our federal, provincial and municipal leadership to refrain from public gatherings and meetings, Peter Woods coordinated a video conference so we may continue the work of Woodlawn United Church.

IN ATTENDANCE VIA VIDEO: Barry Zwicker, Bob Watt, Brian Moors, Cathy Kay, Helen Dixon, Jim Allen, Kelly MacNeil, Kerri Graham, Keith Musselman, Rev Mary Lynne Whyte, Paul Whyte.

GUESTS – Fay Gunter, Maarten Kramers, Jamie Masse, Jerry Jackson

OPENING PRAYER: Mary Lynne led the meeting in an opening prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Helen indicated that this was a special, one agenda meeting of council called to receive the draft report from the CoFP Team. Helen called on Barry, as chair of the CoFP Team to present. Barry began by thanking members of the CoFP Team for their diligent work over a period of time that included working through the restrictions created by covid 19. Barry quickly summarized the process followed, the congregation interviews and input. He indicated this was a 'draft' report promised to be completed by the end of September and was circulated to council on September 26th. Barry noted that the normal process would be to present a final report to Council, the congregation and then the Region. However, the Team had an opportunity to meet with David Hewitt and Linda Yates (Region representatives) and presented the draft to them at that time. Barry indicated the meeting with the Region representatives was congenial and optimistic and he was hopeful there was a way forward. They received a couple of recommendations from the Region which would be incorporated into the next draft. Barry also noted that the draft recommended no changes in the number of staff positions and that they felt they had covered all of the congregations wish list received during the interview process.

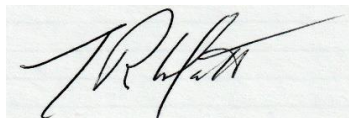
Council made a couple of suggestions around presentation of the financial information and had discussion around the term 'lead' minister.

Going forward, Barry suggested that after a final report is received and accepted by Council, Congregation and Region, that it may be wise to spend time in fostering and developing a volunteer base which would form the basis for any recommended programs, before embarking on a search for staff. He again spoke of an apparent change in attitude and cooperation from Region. He suggested that there was the recognition that the process may take up to 18 months before the staff can be in place to implement, with the volunteers the programs recommended in a final report. In the meantime, the CoFP Team sees the need for ministerial help, not for conflict resolution, for the period until permanent staff is in place. The CoFP Team will be working on identifying the needs/wants etc. of a supply/interim before the next meeting, November 2nd. When the next draft is completed it will be presented to Council for acceptance then there will be the need to find a way/method to present to the Congregation during the period of Covid.

CLOSING PRAYER – Brian Moors offered a closing Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT – Helen adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Helen Dixon



Chair of Meeting – Helen Dixon

Submitted by – J. Robert Watt