

**Westworth United Church Council Meeting**  
**231<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting**  
**May 26, 2020**

**7:30 pm via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Pat Stephenson, Ron Bailey, Paul Chard, Keith Love, Eunice Pratt, Bruce Tefft, Barb Magarrell, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

**Regrets: None**

**1. Call to order:** at 7:35p.m. by Pat Stephenson

**2. Opening Prayer and Check in:** led by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

**3. Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION:** That the Agenda be approved.

**Moved by: Ron Bailey                      Seconded by: Keith Love**

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the April 28, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.

**Moved by: Bruce Tefft                      Seconded by: Ron Bailey**

**CARRIED**

**5. Correspondence:**

- Dianne Sjoberg as chair of CE: sent e-mail regarding summer programs for the children
- Ruth Wiwchar: sent e-mail indicating support for the Guaranteed basic Income.

**6. Old Business**

- Water Coolers: Sometime ago, the Outreach Ministry Team requested that our water cooler be removed. After some discussion about options, it was decided to ask the Property Ministry Team to contact the owners of the water cooler and ask for the removal of the cooler and all bottled water we still have in storage.

- During the discussion, we were reminded that it was suggested in an energy audit completed in the Fall, that the refrigerators in the kitchen downstairs were not as energy efficient as newer models and that their replacement should be considered.

**Eunice Pratt** will speak with Spencer Newton about the above two items.

- Leadership Meeting question regarding potential future redevelopment of Westworth: Discussion within the committee about the proposal will continue.

#### 7. Business Arising:

a) **Motion:** The Worship Team moves that the M&P Committee be given authority and funds to post and hire an audio-visual person responsible for the live streaming of services for 3 hrs a week.

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**TABLED**

Discussion was held and there were some concerns expressed at this point. It was decided to table the motion pending the receipt of further information including a position description to include the duration of this contract.

**Bruce Tefft** will speak with Olwyn Lewis about the need for this information.

b) **Motion:** The Outreach Team requests that Westworth Council support its appeal to The Prairie to Pine Region (Region 5) of the United Church of Canada to support the May 1<sup>st</sup> letter from the Bishops of the Lutheran and Anglican Churches calling on the Government of Canada to support a Guaranteed Basic Income for all Canadians.

**Motion by:** Barb Magarrell

**Seconded by:** Eunice Pratt

**CARRIED**

#### 8. New Business

- Re-opening of the church building. Worship is proposing opening the building for worship September 6 at the earliest.

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- A procedure for opening needs to be developed that is consistent for all groups and in line with guidelines.
- It was suggested that a congregational Zoom meeting be held in late August to up-date congregation members on new procedures
- Specific questions have been asked about the possibility of the library, gymnasium, and kitchen being used prior to the building officially opening for Vacation Bible School. Following much discussion, Council has re-stated that the building is closed until further notice.

As guidelines are changing often, the Christian Education Ministry Team is encouraged to develop an online Vacation Bible School for the children. **Bruce Tefft** will ask for a VBS plan for safety and sanitation measures they would arrange.

Leaders for Vacation Bible School may require some support to become comfortable with the technology they would be using.

In general, Council feels that it is very important to maintain virtual relationships and delivery of programming for our youth through this different time

**A final decision on Vacation Bible School will be delayed pending an acceptable plan and/or further opening of comparable programs by the Province.**

- Staff is allowed in the building. Social distancing will need to be maintained. If they are meeting together, masks would be highly recommended. M&P will speak with our staff to arrange when they will be back in the building.
- Ray McClelland has been performing with his group, on Sundays, for folks in the community, on the steps of the church. Approximately 30 people joined in, standing on the sidewalks, socially distancing.

**Loraine Mackenzie Shepherd** will speak with Ray to ask him to put a sign outside asking people to respect social distancing on the property, while encouraging him to continue offering church porch serenades.

- St. Andrews River Heights – Loraine Mackenzie Shepherd will speak with Rev. Karen Lumley to arrange coverage for services over the summer as per the original plan.
  - Question: Who would be responsible for recording the summer services at each church building?

### **Committee and Team Reports**

#### Ministry and Personnel

Custodial services – There are continuing conversations being held to smooth out custodial responsibilities.

#### Finance

Frank Wynes submitted a grant application to the Provincial Building Sustainable Communities Fund and has just heard that a grant for \$10,000 has been confirmed. These funds are allocated to the sanctuary window project.

The Rummage Sale and Bazaar will not be proceeding so there will be a loss of \$13,000, as a result. We will experience less rental income and lower open plate receipts so we will likely incur a \$34,000.00 to \$35,000.00 shortfall for 2020. 2021 may be a tougher year. It has been confirmed that we are receiving the 10% wage subsidy for 6 months from the Federal Government. The Canada Revenue Agency called to confirm a few details regarding the 75% subsidy application, so that is moving forward.

Ron Bailey informed us that churches are not eligible for the Federal Government loan program that we initially thought would be available to us.

### **9. Minister's Report-**

Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd has been following up with the churches that she visited last year to find out how they are dealing with the changes brought about by their change in circumstances. She found that they have been actively

encouraging groups to connect with each other and to consider how they will meet in as they start up again in September.

We need to ask our leaders if they would like to take advantage of the technology that is available to them, e.g. Zoom, to meet with each other and their groups, and what support they would require to become comfortable with the possibility.

**10. Discussion items:**

An internal discussion is continuing regarding any possible redevelopment as we consider a proposal that has come because of our earlier work with EDGE. Each Committee and Team leader will discuss the questions from the spring Leadership Team Retreat, including those regarding gym redevelopment, with their group and gather their responses. These will be discussed at our next Leadership Team retreat on September 19. An October Zoom meeting for congregants was proposed to follow the September Leadership Team retreat. It would allow us to share what we know and take questions and receive information. A request was made that the Committee get in touch with Barb Meyers and up-date her on our conversations.

Bruce Tefft will be in touch with Larry Strachan and Keith Love to arrange a Zoom meeting to discuss the conversation held at the Leadership Team retreat regarding this new proposal. A request was made for this group to choose a Chairperson.

**11: Next Meeting date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 7 p.m.

**12. Closing Prayer:** Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

**13. Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** That the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

**Moved by:** Keith Love

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Pat Stephenson, Chair of the Board

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Barb Magarrell, Secretary