

**Minnedosa United Church Council Meeting**  
**Monday March 30, 2020 7:00 pm**  
**Online "Zoom" Video Meeting**

**2020 - 10**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Julie Hutton (Chair), Wilf Taylor (Past Chair), Carol Frost, Maxine Gray, Olive Cameron, Barb Kingdon, Lorna Hislop, Alf Iverson, Barry McNabb, Michelle Gunderson (Clerk/Treasurer), Kathy Platt (Minister & Host/Facilitator)

Quorum present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by host Kathy Platt

**"CHECK IN":** Each participant answered the question "Where are you finding your hope/strength during this time of corona virus pandemic and physical distancing?"

- Positive messages on social media
- Reaching out to family and friends by text or phone call (giving & receiving support)
- Good information from government officials and professionals
- Keeping busy at home
- Going outside for walks

**UPDATE OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS:** See APPENDIX K

Kathy provided a written summary of decisions made since the pandemic was announced (around March 12<sup>th</sup>), and ways the church has responded.

- a) Office and Church Building
- b) Worship and Connecting with our Community
- c) Easter Weekend
- d) Pastoral Care

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Barry McNabb

FS 20-01 AND FS 20-02

January and February both had deficit balances.

Bank balance at end of February: \$18,025.60

With the church building closed there is no income from facility use, and with no Worship Services donations are down. Staff are being paid regular wages.

We have regular PAR contributions coming in, and we have access to our Line of Credit, Capital Reserve & Legacy Funds if needed to meet expenses.

The UCC is hosting weekly webinars to guide Communities of Faith with financial decisions.

It is appropriate to encourage the congregation to continue with their offering (mail cheques, donate online through Canada Helps).

We may need to access programs offered by the federal government such as a wage subsidy or interest free loan.

It was decided that we would hold off with our annual Spring Appeal letter until we have a better sense of the situation.

**PROPERTY:** Alf reported that the Property Committee wondered if it would be a good time to go ahead with the planned painting of the church hallways now while the church is closed, rather than wait until the summer. After some discussion, it was decided to wait for two reasons: the closure is due to a government policy for non-essential services (so no activity is appropriate), and also we may have need to use those funds for meeting other more urgent expenses.

**OTHER:**

- Wilf had instructed our Care Taker, Hilton, to do a full cleaning/disinfecting of the facility once it had closed, and then not to return to the building. Wilf asked council if they felt it was necessary for Hilton to return for further cleaning or should he continue to avoid entering the building? It was decided since there are no activities taking place, other than office staff coming occasionally, that there is no need for further cleaning for the time being.
- Worship committee has a baptism to be approved.

**Motion: moved by Carol Frost and seconded by Wilf Taylor**

**"... That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the recommendation from the Worship Committee to approve the baptism of Leighton Michelle Cooper, daughter of Natasha and Mitchell Cooper which took place on March 8, 2020."**

**CARRIED**

- Any other questions or suggestions going forward? (None at this time)

Date for next online council meeting: Monday April 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Kathy shared a Closing Prayer.

**MOTION:** Moved by Olive C.

**"... That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 7:55 pm."**

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Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

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Julie Hutton, Chair

**APPENDIX K**

Update for Council – March 30, 2020

- a) Office and Church building
  - Our building is closed
  - Foodbank has moved for now
  - Michelle is going to the office Tuesday & Friday mornings, but we are not advertising that – we are not wanting visitors – she is using the office time to do whatever administrative tasks are needed (financial, checking for mail and checking voicemail messages)
  - Alf & Wilf are doing a visual check of the church a couple of other days a week for insurance purposes
  - I am going to the office on Tuesday mornings to check-in with Michelle (with 6 feet between us!) and to pick up any resources I need – I am not doing any visits during this time
  - I have spoken with the funeral home – although there have been no requests so far, I have made it clear that I will not do funerals in any buildings, but that I will do graveside services for family members only if that is requested
- b) Worship & connecting with our community
  - On Tuesdays, Michelle is sending out a congregational e-mail with a reflection written by one of our Lay Worship leaders – Carol Frost, Colleen Wallace &

Julie Hutton will alternate writing those reflections – a huge gift for all of us, including me

- Included on the Tuesday e-mail, for those who are not on Facebook, will be a link taking people to my visual Saturday Sabbath reflection
- On Wednesdays, I am sending out an on-line reflection/study. Participants read the reflection, and over the week, send in their comments to the group. Some are more silent observers, and some have been sharing heart-warming reflections – it has been a gift. At this point there are 19 participants.
- On Fridays, I will continue to write my Friday ponderings, mostly focussed on reflections about the past week.
- On Saturdays, I will do a Facebook video – basically a condensed sermon so that it feels like I have not given up on preaching during this social distancing reality!

c) Easter weekend

- I'm still working on the details and logistics, but here is what I am thinking....
- I will send out a zoom link for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday worship opportunities. Maundy Thursday will include a communion at your own kitchen table, and Good Friday will include a variety of voices taking part in the readings.
- Easter morning there will be lots of worship services on-line that will include music – I don't have the energy or the creativity to figure out how to do that. However, Art has agreed to help me with a Sunrise facebook video – he will be the one holding the device – I will be the one talking! Hugely curious how our salute to the Sun will turn out!!

d) Pastoral Care

- I am doing calls to a variety of people, but I knew that I needed to be creative with how to stay in touch with so many, so....
- 13 people have agreed to do regular phone calls to people who I believed could use the support – people living alone, people not "on-line", people who are living with sensitive issues who need to know they have a community of support around them
- At this point, those 13 people are making intentional "church" calls to 33 people. I know that many people are informally doing calls and to stay in touch with friends and family – I just needed to organize this so that I knew that some of our more isolated folk were not falling through the cracks, so to speak. The idea is that they call once a week or so, and that they make it clear that if more support is needed, I am only a phone call away. I hugely appreciate people who are stepping somewhat out of their comfort zone, and are doing this outreach on our behalf