

Minnedosa United Church Council Meeting
Monday April 27, 2020 7:00 pm
Online "Zoom" Video Meeting

2020 - 13

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 7:11 pm by Chair Julie Hutton

"CHECK IN": Each participant answered the question "Please share anything you are worried about or could use support for, either at home or around the community."

- Several people said that while things were very different from normal, they are doing well and keeping busy around home, enjoying warmer spring temperatures.
- Others mentioned that as time goes on it is becoming more difficult staying at home feeling helpless to help others. Some felt it is difficult to get motivated while isolated at home.
- Those who are getting out to work or going to Brandon for specific needs expressed increased levels of anxiety when interacting with the public – feeling concern about safety around exposure to the Covid corona virus.
- Most continue to be grateful to be connected over the internet – finding new ways to communicate with family from afar. All are thrilled with Kathy's work offering many online options to worship and stay linked with their church family.
- Farmers are preparing to finish last fall's harvest and begin spring seeding – not difficult to socially isolate on the farm.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

MOTION: Moved by Lorna Hislop, seconded Wilf Taylor

"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes from the March 30, 2020 online Council meeting as circulated."

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

The painting project of the corridors has been put on hold. Alf will contact Liz once they decide to go ahead.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Wilf mentioned that our Care Taker Hilton is now cleaning the church weekly since there are staff in on Tuesdays and a group in to facilitate online worship on Sundays.

Alf plans to check on the filters in the roof top units sometime soon.

UPDATE OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS: APPENDIX L

Kathy provided a written summary of thoughts and activities since the last Council meeting.

- a) Use of Zoom for live online gatherings: Council Meetings, Sunday Worship, Coffee Chats
- b) Connecting with our Community: three weekly emails, study group via email, phone tree for those not on the internet

Kathy mentioned that she has been on a huge learning curve, since she is not trained as a technology technician! She also encouraged everyone to be gentle with ourselves and others – we are all holding lots of emotions under the surface.

She will be performing a graveside service this coming week – ensuring social distancing is observed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Barry McNabb

See FS 20 - 03

The March financial statement has been circulated.

Motion: by Barry McNabb, seconded by Alf Iverson

"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church accept the March 2020 Financial Statement including the Cheque Register, as circulated."

Carried

- Barry, Michelle and Elaine continue to participate in the weekly webinars hosted by the UCC with Erik Mathieson, with information and recommendations from the national UC. We are signed up to participate in the 10% Federal wage subsidy. We are not eligible for the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for the month of March.
- We will continue to monitor our financial status, and bring information to the council as decisions become necessary.
- It was agreed that a letter to the congregation will be composed by Julie as Council Chair, and it will include information to encourage & inform people around continued financial support during the closure.

MOTION: by Barry McNabb, seconded by Wilf Taylor

"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church agree to close the Building Account (#1002575), transfer the balance from that account to the Capital Reserve Account (#04254) and rename the Capital Reserve Account as the new Building Account."

Carried.

STAFFING:

The staff are being paid regular wages for the month of April.

MOTION: by Wilf Taylor, seconded by Maxine Gray

"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church agree that our staff will be paid regular wages for the month of May 2020."

Carried

Julie thanked the council for their support for the staff and encouraged them to continue with positive feedback as the staff cope with unusual work conditions.

PASTORAL CARE:

Olive mentioned that there are opportunities in the hospitals and care homes to send well wishes to patients via email.

Julie suggested that Council continue with monthly online meetings during the church closure. Date for next online council meeting: Monday May 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Kathy shared a Closing Prayer.

MOTION: Moved by Carol F.

"... That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 8:16 pm."

APPENDIX L Report from Kathy Platt – April 22, 2020

I continue to do what I can to use Zoom in effective ways to keep us all connected to one another. We seem to have a few new people joining all the time, which is a good thing.

It may be that we could eventually involve more people in the music/worship, but for now we are going to keep it as simple as we can, and work on improving the quality of what is offered. So Jim Comrie, Mary Dalton and I will be the worship team in the sanctuary, along with Clark McNabb on sound management. Various people will be contacted to help with the readings - but those people will all do the readings from their own homes - it will only be 4 of us in the sanctuary, and we will be practicing social distancing. I am hopeful that people will continue to sign in for the live Sunday morning worship even though we are recording it and sending it out to be watched later. It makes a huge difference to our energy level on Sunday mornings to see the faces of our community on the screen in front of us. Colleen Wallace and Carol Frost will alternate being the co-host of the Zoom worship times so that I have some support with the technical parts of the call.

Since there is now a regular group of us going into the sanctuary each week, we have asked that Hilton come in once a week to sanitize the offices and the sanctuary.

Michelle has the congregational church lists as a group in her computer e-mail, so it is easiest if she continues to be the one to send out the 3 weekly e-mails - on Sunday we will send the link to the recorded worship service, on Tuesday we will send one that has reflections written by a variety of congregational members as well as the zoom link for the Thursday coffee zoom chat, and on Friday we will send my usual Friday ponderings, including the link to the Sunday morning zoom worship. My worry is that people will feel overwhelmed with e-mails coming to their inbox, but I have been getting positive feedback, so for now we will continue with those 3 weekly e-mails.

I will do the regular Thursday morning zoom coffee chats - an informal way for people to have conversation with one another. I will keep doing it as long as there is a group that joins me. If no one signs up, I will know that it is no longer a need.

Michelle and I both go to the church on Tuesdays. It is good for us to have some time to check in with each other face to face. Plus I can drop off and pick up new resources for whatever I am doing over the next week. Michelle is likely only going to go to the office on Fridays when she needs to be doing tasks related to payroll - other than that, she will work from home. She is using Natasha's old laptop, which is a little easier to read than doing everything on her phone.

I continue to do a weekly on-line conversational study group on Wednesdays. There are 20 people participating in that, and their feedback is that it is a helpful thing for them to be involved in. I have been very touched by the responses they have been sending along - one more way to deepen our connection with one another. When we have completed this 4 week study, I will send out an invitation again to see if there is anyone else who would like to join us - this one will go until May 6th.

People continue to be in touch with me if they know of someone who could use a phone call from me. The phone tree I set up at the beginning of this reality continues to be working, so the most vulnerable of our congregation are getting somewhat regular calls, which is a good thing. At this point, there have been no calls for funerals - and if there were, it would be a graveside burial only.

I continue to be as informed as possible about wider church policies and practices - there are regular webinars or zoom check-ins that I can take part in when I need to. I am also doing my best to walk away from my devices when it all seems to be overwhelming - I am taking good care of myself.