

**Minnedosa United Church Council Meeting  
Monday August 31, 2020 7:00 pm  
Online "Zoom" Video Meeting**

**2020 - 25**

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

Regrets: Maxine Gray and Barb Kingdon

Quorum present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Julie Hutton

This Zoom meeting is being recorded.

It was agreed that our goal is to finish this meeting no later than 9 pm.

**OPENING WORSHIP:** Carol Frost did a reading based on Romans 12: 9-18.

Kathy followed with a prayer.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA / ADOPT AGENDA:** No additions.

**MOTION:** Moved by Wilf Taylor, seconded by Lorna Hislop

**"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church accept the agenda for the August 31, 2020 meeting as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes from the July 6, 2020 online meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Alf Iverson, seconded by Carol Frost

**"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes from the July 6, 2020 online Council meeting as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion on re-opening and plans for ongoing worship.

Refer to two documents circulated with the agenda:

- "UCC: Safety Considerations for Reopening During the Pandemic" (Appendix O),
- Questions for Discussion (Appendix P)
  - "Where is anxiety gathering?" (Responses from each participant.)
  - "How do we support others?"
    - increase efforts to maintain contact & connections with church family (phone calls, cards and letters, visits)
    - small group activities (less than 10 people) & committee work
    - resume recording worship services for Access 12 (Westman Cable TV) in addition to the online recordings through Zoom.
    - Kathy and Julie have prepared a survey to send out to the congregation looking for feedback and suggestions.
  - "What is our mission during this pandemic?"
    - keep health and safety a priority
    - ensure our church is visible & present for our congregation and community
    - continue to explore ways to nurture spiritual and mental health

**UPDATES:**

Julie mentioned that both the Food Bank and the Harm Reduction Clinics have resumed here at the church.

**REPORTS:**

**MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL:** Judy McFadden

The committee met to discuss current staffing needs in light of the ongoing restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. They will be in touch with the staff and bring any recommendations to the next Council meeting on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>.

- items to be considered are: what hours should the office be open, if our facility should be opened to small group activities (church groups or community groups?) & what protocols would need to be in place? What type/level of participation will the church Accompanist and Sunday School Coordinator have for the fall?

**FINANCE:**

See FS 20 – 06 and FS 20 - 07

The June and July Financial Statements had been circulated.

Year to date in 2020 we have a net deficit of –(\$19,416). Having started the year with a healthy surplus, our bank account is currently at +\$15,163. It was not necessary to transfer funds from other accounts to the General Fund over the summer months.

Barry gave a brief summary from the statements and an update on the status of the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers (handled for us by the ADP payroll company), and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

**MOTION:** Moved by Barry McNabb, seconded by Wilf Taylor

**"That we the Council of Minnedosa United Church accept the Financial Reports for the months of June and July 2020 as circulated, including the cheque register for each of the above months."**

**CARRIED**

IN REMEMBRANCE: Kathy took a moment to reflect on the passing of two of our faithful congregants this summer, then shared a closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7 pm.

**MOTION:** moved by Wilf Taylor

**".... that we the council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 8:58 pm."**

---

Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

---

Julie Hutton, Chair

APPENDIX O

UCC: SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR REOPENING DURING THE PANDEMIC

As of July 23, 2020

Over the past several weeks, we have learned so much about what it means to be church and how many ways there are to be church without gathering in person or making full use of our church buildings. Even as we do these things, we yearn for the time when we will be back together in community.

This page is intended to assist those responsible for making decisions in all parts of the church. **It is not a directive but is offered as guidance.** Updates will be offered as the situation develops, and your input is welcome.

**The Big Picture**

- The safety of staff, volunteers, church members, and all those we serve needs to guide our decisions about reopening any activities.
- It is likely that COVID-19 will continue to affect the ways we behave and the activities we take part in for at least the next year.
- Common guiding principles will be decided cooperatively by senior General Council and regional council staff. Regional councils and local communities of faith will implement these principles, bearing in mind regional and local variations in circumstances.
- Decisions about larger denomination-wide events will be made by the General Council Executive or senior leadership.

**Public Health Directives and Gradual Reopening**

- It is important to keep up to date on all government and public health directives and guidelines, and to adhere to them.
- Simply adhering to these directives and guidelines may not be enough. We need to keep in mind our context, including the types of activities we host, and the age and health demographics (health vulnerabilities) of participants.
- Do **not** look for ways to get around or bend the public health directives and guidelines. We need to work within both the rule and the spirit in which they are given.
- Although many things are not clear, one that is clear is that the return will not happen all at once. As with the general return in our communities, plan on a staged renewal of activities and with the adaptations necessary to protect safety. Consider "hybrid" plans: ones that allow for face-to-face gathering where it is necessary, but using distance gatherings (conference calling, online, etc.) where possible.
- In the various government plans being released across the country, moving to the next step depends on continued assessment of the progress of containing COVID-19. If a levelling off of new cases is followed by another wave, the movement toward reopening will be slowed down. The church needs to pay attention to these same considerations.

- Things may look different for a while or for a long while. Some things may even look different permanently, as there have been learnings from this pandemic time that we will want to remember later.
- Each community of faith should consider having a COVID-19 Reopening Committee that works with the governing body about actions specific to your pastoral charge and the regional council.

### **Moving through the Phases**

Some considerations for your governing body and Reopening Committee to think about before moving from one phase to another. You may need to give specific instructions or do certain things to help people understand that they will need to do some things differently when they first return to worshipping or otherwise gathering in the church building.

- What extra cleaning practices need to be implemented?
- What changes will you make in worship practices?
- How will you discourage hand-shaking or other physical contact?
- Do you hold a "coffee hour," and if so what does it look like, and then when to reopen gatherings with food?
- What protocols are needed for rental groups, and how will you work or communicate with them on these protocols?
- Will your practices on "return" be acceptable to your insurer?
- Having done things so differently during this time, what of the "differently" is there merit in continuing?
- If you moved study groups or daily devotionals online and liked it, is it sustainable in terms of ministry personnel time to continue to do it the new way and pick up how you had been doing it?

### APPENDIX P

August 31, 2020

Hello everyone,

Here we are getting ready to jump back into the business of church life hoping that things may have changed enough to think about reopening the church but with the COVID numbers going up, and the anxiety levels increasing again, we want to focus on how we stay connected to one another, remembering who we are as a community of faith. We would like you to give this document some real thought - maybe even make notes for yourselves, and for discussion, before our meeting. You can pass if you have nothing to say, but our hope is that everyone will give a shot at responding to each of the questions posed.

These are some questions I would like you to think about, and that will form a large part of the discussion at our meeting:

#### 1. **Where is anxiety gathering?**

a) It is important to practice self-awareness. Take a moment to think about your own emotional/spiritual space - where is anxiety gathering in your soul?

b) Think about our community of faith. Think about what you know about how we/they have dealt with stress in the past. Where do you think anxiety is gathering in our community of faith?

c) With both of those things in mind, where do you think we should be expending our energy to mitigate anxiety - both personal & collective?

**2. How do we support others?**

We need to remember that none of us carries this alone - we have the gift of an amazing collective wisdom in our group - "*together we can*" as they say! Our demographic, as we all know, is mainly in the high risk for infection category, and we must make faithful decisions according to the risks involved. How best can we offer support to our community? Phone tree? Newsletters? Zoom gatherings?

**3. What is our mission during this Pandemic?**

Are there things that we have missed doing that we should consider doing now? Are there things that we have been doing that should continue doing? Are there things that we have been doing that we should stop doing? Are there things that you think would offer support for the spiritual life of our community?

(consider the Tuesday e-mails from members of our congregation; the links to Kathy's Facebook videos; the Friday e-mails; the Thursday zoom coffee; the pre-pandemic things like Access TV worship; Minutes for mission education around the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church; etc....)