

**Minnedosa United Church Council Meeting
Wednesday April 6, 2022 7:00 pm**

**2022 - 7
United Church Multipurpose Room**

PRESENT: Julie Hutton, Ray Orr, Colleen Wallace, Heather Currie, Barb Kingdon, Alf Iverson, Maxine Gray, Barry McNabb, Lorna Hislop, Michelle Gunderson, and Kathy Platt

REGRETS: none

Quorum present.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by Past Chair Julie Hutton.

REFLECTION: Worship, Learning & Membership Next Meeting: Property

Colleen W. shared a story from the book "100 Wisdom Stories from Around the World" by Margaret Silf. The story is called "Only the Seed" and the source is unknown. It talks about a Pilgrim who meets a Shopkeeper, who can supply "seeds" to grow your wishes. Colleen felt that our recent Council workshop demonstrated how many seeds we have as a church, to grow.

HOLY MANNERS

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Gardening in front of church this year. Add to Property.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Agenda for this April 6, 2022 meeting.

Motion: moved by Lorna Hislop and seconded by Heather Currie

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Agenda for the April 6, 2022 meeting as amended."

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: no errors or omissions.

Minutes from the January 19, 2022 online Zoom Council meeting.

Motion: moved by Ray Orr and seconded by Barry McNabb

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting as circulated."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- COUNCIL WORKSHOP: held March 19th, Council members and Committee members were invited to participate.
Council members are asked to review the Summary (APPENDIX G) that was circulated, to think about the items, chat about your ideas with others, and then plan to discuss it again at the next Council meeting.
- ANNUAL MEETING: on March 6th.
Council members were asked to reflect on how they felt about combining the meeting with the Worship service. Several mentioned that there was decreased opportunity/comfort to enter into discussion. Also, the few who joined via Zoom did not feel it was effective.

CORRESPONDENCE

- none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Update of current Covid regulations and MUC's current policy:
Council members each expressed their thoughts and concerns around whether to continue requiring that masks be worn in the facility for all church services/activities.

Motion: moved by Lorna Hislop and seconded by Alf Iverson

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve a policy, effective immediately, in which use of face masks is now welcome and recommended, but not longer required."

CARRIED (1 opposed)

- Updates to Policies Document: Tabled until next Council meeting.
- Office hours over the summer: see M&P report

REPORTS:

OFFICE: Michelle G.
APPENDIX H

*Circulate the sign-up sheet for volunteers to count offering.

FINANCIALS: FS 22-01 and 22-02

Barry Mc reviewed the statements for January and February 2022.

Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Barb Kingdon

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church accept the Financial Reports for the months of January and February 2022 as circulated, including the cheque register for the above months."

CARRIED

REGION 5 (PRAIRIE TO PINE): Barb Kingdon

Annual Meeting May 6-7, 2022 (online).

Barb shared some highlights from the P2P Weekly News

FUNDRAISING:

- Spring Smorg:
Lorna shared details about the supper planned for Sunday May 1st from 5-7pm. Will prepare for ~175+ meals, at \$15 per person. All items will be cooked/prepared in-house. Take-out and delivery options will be available. Sign-up sheets and advertising to come out soon.

NOMINATIONS:

- Considering a plan on how to approach recruitment

COMING EVENTS:

- Kathy's Easter letter listed the upcoming Easter services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

MINISTER: Kathy

- We need to focus on finding some additional volunteers to help in the sound booth during Sunday services - to run the PowerPoint for the projector and operate the video camera (to record for Access TV and use to make the YouTube video).
- Kathy is looking forward to having children join her on Palm Sunday for the "walk-through" of the Easter Story.
- There are a couple of funerals booked in April so far, and Kathy has been asked to do a couple of graveside services in May & June.
- Kathy has been doing quite a bit of intensive Pastoral Care recently, with frequent hospital visits.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL: Maxine G.

APPENDIX I

Stacey Wilson will be removed from ADP Payroll, as the position of Sunday School Coordinator is not required at this time.

The meeting went "in-camera" for confidential discussion.
Maxine presented the M&P Committee's recommendation.

Motion: moved by Maxine Gray and seconded by Ray Orr

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve the recommendation from the Ministry and Personnel Committee, to increase the Care Taker's wages to a monthly salary of \$666.50, based on an average of 43 hours per month, effective January 1st, 2022."

CARRIED (1 opposed)

FINANCE and STEWARDSHIP: Barry Mc.

APPENDIX J

It was agreed that the changes proposed to the Legacy Fund application (See Appendix J) are acceptable.

Motion: moved by Barry McNabb and seconded by Maxine Gray

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve the recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Committee to select the option of a three-year contract renewal of the copier lease with Gold Business Solutions when it comes due this summer."

CARRIED

PASTORAL CARE: Heather C.

APPENDIX K

CHURCH LIFE AND OUTREACH: Lorna H.

APPENDIX L

Banner Project: Lorna shared some images of the proposed structure. Alan Dalrymple has volunteered to weld a frame to support interchangeable banners (one being the Affirming logo). In addition, the suggestion is that he weld the outline of the "old" church building and attach it to the side of the banner frame. The committee also wondered about including a container to create a time capsule to be sealed. The committee proposed that the structure could be placed at the front of the church beside the shrubs. Costs of the structure and the banners are not yet clear. An application to the Legacy Fund could be made if needed.

Motion: moved by Lorna Hislop and seconded by Maxine Gray

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve the recommendation from the Church Life and Outreach Committee to go ahead with plans for a Banner structure."

CARRIED

Bird Houses: The Lion's Club has partnered with the Men's Shed to create 60 birdhouse kits. Their proposal is that the United Church partner with them as well, by providing the use of the church hall and kitchen for an afternoon. The plan is to invite families from the community to come in and assemble their own birdhouse, for free, with assistance from members of the participating organizations. A representative from the Bluebird Society has been invited to attend. Tentative date is May 7th, 2022.

Motion: moved by Lorna Hislop and seconded by Colleen Wallace

"...That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church approve the recommendation from the Church Life and Outreach committee to offer the use of the church hall and kitchen for the birdhouse project on May 7th, at no charge."

CARRIED

WORSHIP, LEARNING AND MEMBERSHIP: Colleen W.
APPENDIX M

PROPERTY: Alf I.
APPENDIX N

The Iverson's (Betty and Alf) are "resigning" from overseeing care of the plants and shrubs at the front of the church, so the council will need to arrange for someone else to take on those responsibilities.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: June 15, 2022 at 7pm

HOLY MOMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER by Kathy

Motion: moved by Alf Iverson (in the absence of Wilf Taylor!)

"That we, the Council of the Minnedosa United Church adjourn this meeting at 9:19 pm."

Michelle Gunderson, Clerk

Julie Hutton, Chair

APPENDIX G WORKSHOP ON MARCH 19, 2022 (Council and Committee Members)

TimeLine:

- People started here anywhere from 1939 (baptism), to 2010
- Therefore, everyone on Council & committees has a relatively long history with this place

Personal Memories

- Music was often what drew people here – the Senior Choir, Bell Choir and a huge draw was Jean Stephenson's Choir
- Large Sunday School participation/kid's activities
- Finding community & friendships here
- Comfort – a relaxed atmosphere
- Other than some children adopted from other countries, we are a pretty white culture

Communal Memories

- Pancake suppers & homemade pies drew wider community people into our building
- FIRE in 2006 – lots of memories/grief are still fresh for people who were here
- Partnership with the Catholic Church – felt welcomed and supported by them – went both ways
- Hospitality – people feel welcomed into our events
- Choir-outreach – our choir gets asked to be at a variety of community events
- Building used for community events – musical and other
- Nursery school used to be housed here

- Foodbank – was included in the original plans for the rebuilding of this place
- Conflicts with former ministers (ie: Chris & Dick Swaren; and Shawn Ankenmann) – lingering effects of the conflicts still evident in conversations with people both in and out of the church community
- Throughout those conflicts, the support of the Wider Church (Presbytery & Conference) was hugely appreciated
- How helpful it was to have Lynette Miller here
- 1988 actions in the Wider Church around human sexuality was a bold step – welcomed by some and hugely resented by others
- All of this “stuff” can trigger memories in our congregation – both positive and negative
- We have grown & changed – church today is not the same as it was in our childhood, and we might make different decisions today than we did back in the day
- Lynette helped us find our way again after being rather discombobulated – working on the policy documents and governance brought us back together in many ways
- Declining membership is a reality – fewer people to draw on for activities and limited financial support

COVID

A) Losses

- Sunday School – missing having the kids with us
- Face-face connection with community
- Celebration of significant events (weddings/funerals)
- Communal singing
- Pastoral care – face-to-face
- Missing people – no visits in PCH, physical decline in people, deaths, missing out on 2 years in a child’s life is a big deal!

B) Gains

- Zoom – coffee parties, social times, wider connections, outreach with other churches – comfort for some; flexibility
- Facebook – more people connecting to it/liking it
- New ways of providing info & learning – relationship
- Appreciate what we have, knowing what we lost – not taking things for granted
- Learned we could do things differently, and can be involved in different ways
- We are still here!!!
- Finances are ok – and no staff lost
- Even have some new members

Our Vision for moving forward

- Youth activities (open to all) – not limited to Sunday School on a Sunday morning – outreach, safe and fun
- Bring back communal meals
 - creative
 - a new way of doing, following new protocols
 - encourage participation
 - building community
 - fundraising
 - being patient throughout this whole process
- Community Garden
 - start small
 - visibility/community building
 - outreach/cost effective
- Opportunity to make changes, especially with technology
 - invest time and money to explore options

- Take advantage of this break from the normal routine
 - this is a good opportunity to look at how to do things differently
- Explore option of having a paid staff position for communication (ie: website, newsletter, Instagram, social media etc.)
- Perhaps livestream for churches from other communities who don't have a paid full-time minister.
- Attending regional events in person – creating networks, bringing people together in different ways
- Prepare for the next generation
 - support in different ways
 - support causes outside of our own church
- Building: sanctuary has some wasted space
 - perhaps look at the floor and options for removing the slope?

APPENDIX H

OFFICE ADMIN REPORT TO COUNCIL APRIL 2022

SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 19th:

- Sent tax receipts (by email for the first time) on Feb 1st, and mailed a few
- Prepared Annual Report booklet, print and disperse
- Attend monthly UCC Treasurer Webinars
- Submit GST rebate applications for 2021 (rebate received)
- Completed UCC Statistics for 2021 year, submitted on March 4th
- Unlocked the front door again on March 2nd!! (Provincial vaccine mandate ended March 1st – therefore not scanning for proof of vaccination). Amended signage.
Will continue to wear masks beyond March 15th, when the provincial mandate ends.
- Attend Finance Committee meeting, help prepare Spring Appeal Letter then print, fold'n stuff
- Have been using the Credit Card for several annual renewals: One License, Gathering, "Donation" program, Zoom and Go Daddy.
- Participated in the Church Council Workshop on March 19th and served as clerk for the Annual Meeting on March 20th (typed Minutes).

COPIER LEASE: the five-year lease ends in July 2022.

I spoke with Rick Walker from Gold Business Solutions in Brandon (where we got this copier from).

He suggested we have three options for when our lease is finished this summer:

- "Buy-Out" the current copier
- Lease a new copier
- Renew for a three-year contract with the same copier (recommended)

All three options would cost less than the amount we are currently paying.

All three options would also involve a service contract (i.e. 2.5 cents per page copied) which includes toner supply and service.

FACILITY USE:

CUPE (month of January and on March 19), Expressions Concert March 5, and Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on March 16.

APPENDIX I

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 6, 2022

M&P have met 4 times since the last Council meeting.

VACATION

Kathy has requested vacation time from August 7 to September 7, 2022 returning to the office on September 8, 2022.

Michelle has requested vacation time of July 12-15, 2022 and August 16-19, 2022. This will mean that both Kathy and Michelle will be gone for one week in August. We recommend closing the church office for those 4 days. This will require that the voice messaging advise who to contact for urgent needs and that the funeral home be advised of same.

Hilton has requested June 26 to July 14, 2022 as vacation time.

The position of Sunday School Co-Ordinator had been filled by Stacey Wilson. Prior to the pandemic, Stacey stepped back from this due to other demands on her time. Then the pandemic happened which changed how programming to children was offered. Stacey is not able to resume these responsibilities. The Worship, Learning and Membership Committee have decided to approach programming for children in a new way and therefore the position of Sunday School Co-Ordinator is no longer necessary.

M&P received a letter from Hilton, which required follow-up by M&P and a recommendation will be presented to Council regarding this matter.

Submitted by Maxine Gray

For Ministry & Personnel (Linda Bertram, Judy McFadden, Maxine Gray)

APPENDIX J

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Michelle Gunderson, Elaine Thomson, Kathy Platt and Barry McNabb were present. Lorraine Sleep, Jean Garbolinsky & Lloyd Babcock regrets.

Reviewed the January & February financial statements. Our bank balance is a positive \$31,610.19 at the end of February.

LEGACY FUND

Legacy Fund Application: No applications at this time.

Finance committee discussed the current wording on the Legacy Giving Application Form and felt there needed to be some updates.

"You are encouraged to contact a member of the committee" be changed to "contact the church office"

"Committee Members: Barry McNabb, Phyllis Graham & Harold Gilleshammer" be taken off the application form.

On the second side of the form, the list of committees will be removed under the line "Church Committee Involved".

*Finance Committee recommends to Council these changes to Legacy Giving Application Form.

OFFICE PHOTOCOPIER LEASE comes due this June, 2022. Michelle did some inquiring about options of machine.

Option A): Buy out current machine for \$800.00 - \$1,000.00. (Plus Service Contract)

Option B): 3 year renewal contract \$45.00/month (Plus Service Contract: 2 ½ cents/page)

Option C): New machine lease ~60-70/mo (vs \$102.00/month now) (Plus Service Contract)

*Finance Committee recommends to Council on the office photocopier to go with option B): 3yr lease renewal \$45.00/month + 2 ½ cents/page Service Contract.

CREDIT CARD

Discussed the use of the Minnedosa United Church Credit Card for annual renewals.

*Finance Committee recommends to Council that the credit card be used for payment of annual renewals such as: One License, Gathering, Carbonite, Donation Program, Zoom and Go Daddy to mention a few.

Elaine Thomson, Michelle Gunderson & Barry McNabb from finance committee planning to attend Council workshop Saturday, March 19th, 2022.

Finance committee worked on the final wording of the Spring Appeal letter with the plan to have it in the mail Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 8th, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by Barry McNabb

APPENDIX K

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR APRIL 6, 2022

Due to an outbreak of Covid at the Personal Care Home, we have been unable to visit.

Susan has sent cards on behalf of the congregation.

Prayer Shawls are given to those needing spiritual and emotional support.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Currie

APPENDIX L

CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

Committee met on Tuesday, Feb 15, 2022

We discussed the current situation in Haiti regarding Little Bouquet Home. The consensus of the Committee was that we would recommend that the Minnedosa United Church discontinue our commitment to Little Bouquet Children's Home and look at other options to support our Outreach commitment. Information will be shared by Julie Hutton at our AGM.

Affirming Banner:

The Committee approved the banner concept that was presented and will recommend to Council that we move forward with this project.

Spring Supper: Date has been set for Sunday, May 1, 2022. Project is being co-chaired by Linda Bertram and Lorna Hislop. We are going to be adding a "take out" option for the supper.

Hat & Mitten Tree: It was well received this year! We have had to fill it several times. It has been put away until Winter 2022.

Submitted by Lorna Hislop

APPENDIX M

WORSHIP AND LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT

As of our last Worship and Learning Meeting on March 24:

~ Pianists are arranged for every Sunday until Jun 26

~Sunday School - creation story with a focus on birds. Bags have been delivered centered around birding, with supplies, information, and activities. A hike at the beach is planned for May 15th with special hiking guests who will share more birding information with us. Packages have been excitedly received by children as well as parents.

Palm Sunday will see any children who attend worship receiving bags of activities to take home focused on the Easter walk they will experience during the service.

This will likely be all we do until the fall. We will be talking and examining what "Sunday School" may look like, different formats, different times, maybe a combination of familiar format and new ways depending on leadership available and attendance possibilities. Possibly some intergenerational opportunities.

~We all agreed that we stop Zoom Services for the time being. Part of the problem is finding people who are comfortable to operate the laptop in the sanctuary for the Zoom service, as well as the continued struggle with the sound and dwindling numbers joining on Zoom. We will watch and listen for people who feel the need to continue with Zoom and address this possibility as it arises.

Sunday Services will still be available in person, and on Tuesday when a link is sent out to watch online, or on Access TV the following Sunday.

~ Greeters are still being recruited. Feeling it is important to have someone welcoming people and helping if any questions.

~ Offering plates will continue to sit just inside the door as congregation arrives or they can leave donations as they leave. The committee felt comfortable with continuing this and it was felt that this helps in the structure of the service as it does take a good bit of time away from worship.

~ We continue to work on finding pulpit supply for Aug. 7,14,21, 28 and Sept. 4.

Colleen Wallace

Worship and Learning Committee Chair

APPENDIX N

PROPERTY COMMITTEE APRIL 2022

Major snowfall accumulation on the church roof has allowed for some minor water leakage in the choir/multipurpose room along the north wall. We looked into the removal of the snow but the dollar amount was higher than anticipated.

FYI: The Sunday sound system will require some help for May 15-22-29 and perhaps the first Sunday in June. Alf will be away in British Columbia.

I will be meeting with a painter person to discuss possible painting/decorating for the current year.

Repairs were made to four armchairs (wooden handles). This is not a major issue but is required in an ongoing issue.

The in-floor heating system has been out of service for a short time .This does not affect the overall heating and Hillside Plumbing has been contacted.

Church Caretaking ; I reviewed the position guide for the caretaking in our church and have been in touch with our caretaker. It is my opinion that he has and is continuing to do a very good job and is more than meeting all requirements.