**Westminster United Church Council Meeting**

**April 22, 2020 7:00 PM via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

***Mission Statement***

*Westminster United Church is a community called by God, guided by the teachings of Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a spiritual, caring and open community of faith. We work towards growth and sustainability in all that we do.*

***Acknowledgement***

* For thousands of years Indigenous peoples have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives. As we open our meeting today, we acknowledge that we are gathered in the traditional territory of the Cree, Salteaux, and Assiniboine First Nations – in the area most recently defined as Treaty 6, and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

**Present:** Mary Ruthven, Murray Stevens, Maxine Mesenchuk, Ruth Mostowy, Renee MacKenzie, Allison Sarauer, Willie Kosokowsky, Elan Buan, Brenda Curtis, and April Kozar

**Regrets:** Jacquelynn Souter-Elliott, Carol Gossner, Tyler Skogen, and Sarah Miller

**Item 1: Welcome/Centering Prayer –** Rev. Brenda opened with a prayer

**Item 2: Call to order:** Chair Mary Ruthven called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

**Item 3: Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from March 18 and 31, 2020 meeting
2. Minister’s Report
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Financial statement

**Item 4: Motion for Consent Agenda-** Elan Buan/Murray Steven’s, “ To remove treasurer’s report from the consent agenda.” Carried.

**Item 5: Items removed from consent agenda - Treasurer’s Report**

* We need to reach out to our congregation for donations
* Others Options:
  + When needed request to increase our line of credit at Conexus
  + Could use manse account money if needed as per regional council
  + We could suspend putting the $250/mth we put away from the operating account to the building account
  + Apply for 10% wage rebate available through the government
  + Still looking if we qualify for the 75% wage subsidy if our 15% revenues drop by 15%

Murray Stevens/Renee MacKenize, “To inquire about increasing our line of credit to $20,000 at Conexus Credit Union.” Carried.

Ruth Mostowy/Maxine Mesenchuk, “That the stewardship committee develop a letter to go out to the congregation and be posted on facebook and website.” Carried.

Elan Buan/Maxine Mesenchuk, “To suspend putting the $250/mth we put away from the operating account to the building account for the months of April and May.” Carried.

**Item 6: Correspondence:**

1. People with Disabilities Speak Out Radio Program – Asking for Westminster’s help to promote this program. Council members will listen to the program to see what it is about and this will be discussed again at the May meeting.

**Item 7: Old BUSINESS**

1. Baptism Policy changes – Tabled until May meeting
2. M&P Update – James Folster and April Kozar have been paid out for 2019 and 2020 vacation pay.

Willie Kosokowsky/Allison Sarauer, “That we pay 2013-2018 vacation back pay to our 2 p/t staff out of the manse funds, pending approval from Regional Council.” Carried. Murray Stevens abstained.

1. Hall ceiling repair update – Drywaller started Monday. Hope to finish painting the ceiling next week
2. Zoom subscription renewal – Still using it for meetings and services. Maxine Mesenchuk/Willie Kosokowsky to renew Zoom for 2 months at $20/mth.” Carried.
3. Healing Pathway space use – Some discussion regarding the back room and how the space will be used. Brenda will send out the notes from the meeting that took place in January.
4. Motion regarding quilt for Regional Gathering Speaker – Allison Sarauer/Murray Stevens, “That we gift the quilt to Cathy Coates for her contribution as Chaplain in the hospital in Saskatoon.” Carried. Mary Ruthven will contact Carol Oleksyn and make arrangement to get the quilt to Cathy Coates.

**Item 8: NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Church Closure** – Allison Sarauer/Maxine Mesenchuk, “That church services be suspended until May 21 subject to provincial recommendations.” Carried. There is a wedding scheduled to take place on June 6 at the church. Rev. Brenda will follow up with them and see if they are still planning on going ahead or postponing.

b) **Church Services for Quill Plains Pastoral Charge** – Will continue to include them

c) **Stewardship Committee** – Will plan a meeting for next week.

d) **Bulletin Boards and use of tape on walls**- Remind all our renters/ users groups to not use tape or staples on the walls. Sticky tack can be used. Mary Ruthven will draft a letter that will be sent out to the congregation with the announcements.

f) **Break-in at the church**- The backdoor was a bit damaged and RONA is in the process of repairing it. Safe was broken into and beyond repair. The records of the church need to be kept in a fire protected place. To replace the safe is approx $250-$350. Brenda will look into other options such as fire proof bags and will report back at next meeting. RCMP suggested security cameras. We will revisit security cameras another time.

**Item 9: Emergent Issues –**

* Rev. Brenda will look into if there are any United Churches in Nova Scotia that we could send a card to regarding the tragedy.
* Murray Stevens priced out bulbs for the lights in sanctuary $10.20/ for regular bulbs. $80/bulb for LED bulbs. Willie Kosokowsky mentioned that there are bulbs in the basement and some have already been changed in the sanctuary. There is a map with the bulbs in the basement that indicate which bulbs have been changed.
* 10 windows need to be caulked at the church. Midland Glass will do it for $20/window.
* Murray Stevens/Renee Mackenzie, “That we pay $1000 of the water heater invoice from the building account freeing budget dollars for property improvements.” Carried.
* Mary Ruthven will contact Carol Oleksyn regarding planned givings fund distribution for the year.

**Item 10*:* Next meeting date - May 20, 2020**

**Item 11: Adjournment – 9:13 PM**