**Westminster United Church Council Meeting**

**May 19, 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, Elan Buan, Sarah Miller, Jacquelynn Souter-Elliott, Willie Kosokowsky, Allison Sarauer, Ruth Mostowy, Maxine Mesenchuk, Carol Gossner, Murray Stevens, Rev. Brenda Curtis, and April Kozar.

**Regrets:** Renee MacKenzie and Tyler Skogen.

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

**Item 2: Call to order -** Chair Mary Ruthven called the meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

**Item 3: Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from April 22, 2020 meeting
2. Minister’s Report
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Financial statement

**Item 4: Motion for Consent Agenda-**Elan Buan/Maxine Mesenchuk, “To remove the treasurer’s report and financial statements from the consent agenda.” Carried.

**Item 5: Items removed from consent agenda -** Treasurer’s Report – Questions were answered. Elan Buan/Allison Sarauer, “To accept the treasurer’s report as presented.” Carried.

**Item 6: Correspondence:**

1. Thank you letter from Cathy Coates for the gift of the quilt
2. Letter from Rev. Martin Reid from Nova Scotia – Receipt of thank you card

**Item 7: Old BUSINESS**

1. Baptism Policy changes – Elan Buan/Willie Kosokowsky, “To accept the changes made to the baptism policy.” Carried.
2. Zoom – Subscription is extended until end of June
3. Planned Giving- $1600 is available from planned giving this year.

Murray Stevens/Carol Gossner, “That Murray Stevens will write a proposal to Planned Giving requesting 1/3 of the $1600 to go towards the repairs made on the hall ceiling.” Carried.

1. Fire Safe Box- Since the church safe was destroyed in the break-in, we need to find a fire proof place for church records, etc. It is suggested that we purchase 2 fire proof/water proof bags, one for church records and one for flash drives. The cost is approximately $76. Currently deposits are being done by night deposit. A policy will be derived at a later date how cash and deposits will be handled.

**Item 8: NEW BUSINESS**

1. Church Closure - Update from COVID-19 Committee
   * Webinar held by General Council that April Kozar, Mary Ruthven and Brenda Curtis attended.
   * Provincial Re-opening – At present it looks like it might be awhile before we will be able to gather again. The current limit is gathering of 10. Religious groups are currently not listed in any of the phase re-openings
   * A letter has been sent to the Premier by a group of faith leaders of all different denominations requesting a meeting with the province to determine a re-opening plan for places of worship
   * Removal of hymn books, bibles, etc – It was suggested that we make hymns books available for members of our congregation to sign-out so they can follow the hymns in our online service. Mary Ruthven offered to clean the hymn books and package them. April Kozar will put in the announcements that hymn books may be signed out during office hours.
   * It was suggested that we survey our congregation to see what they are valuing in how we are currently doing our online services.
   * Suggested that the stewardship committee will come up with a list of questions to ask and touch base with the phone list.
2. Cleaning of Church – Don & Sherry Hogemann have been cleaning the floors and windows. Willie Kosokowsky will talk with James about cutting the church grass when needed and bank these hours until he can return to work when the church re-opens.

Murray Stevens/Willie Kosokowsky, “That James Folster be asked to cut the church grass and bank his hours until he is able to return to work at the church.” Carried.

1. Affirm Worship June 7 – June 7 worship service will be done in partnership with Michael Webster. Westminster is also partnering in a workshop taking place that afternoon from 1:00-2:00 PM. Information is going out in the announcements.
2. Facebook response- Allison Sarauer gave a brief report as to how many people view our you tube and facebook posts/online services.
3. Adjustments to online church services, and other zoom meetings – Sunday School will wrap up at the end of May. Possibly will do something for VBS through Zoom. Will be going to a summer bulletin format for worship services sometime in June.
4. Stewardship – Murray Stevens/Ruth Mostowy, “To approve the first video for the stewardship campaign.” Carried. Ruth Mostowy will email the stewardship letter out for Council’s approval.
5. Newsletter/ongoing communication – If any Council members have announcements to share of things they would like the congregation to know, please sent them to the office.
   * Mary Ruthven will write on cards to sent to Nova Scotia and the replies received and gifting of the quilt to Cathy Coates.
   * Murray Stevens will provide announcement on the work/maintenance currently being done in the church
   * Jacquelynn Souter-Elliott will provide write-up on sidewalk chalk project at the church
6. Connection to St. Andrew’s Anglican Church & Quill Plains Pastoral Charge- Mary Ruthven will touch base with St. Andrew’s and Quill Plains.

**Item 9: Emergent Issues -** None

**Item 10*:* Next meeting date -** Tuesday, June 23, 2020

**Item 11: Adjournment –** Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm