**Westminster United Church Council Meeting**

**September 15, 2020 7:00 PM Westminster United Church Hall**

**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, Maxine Mesenchuk, Allison Sarauer, Carol Gossner, Murray Stevens, Willie Kosokowsky, Jacquelynn Souter-Elliott (joined by Zoom) Brenda Curtis, and April Kozar.

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

**Item 2: Call to order - Mary Ruthven called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM**

**Item3: Consent Agenda**

a) Minutes from August 11 and September 8, 2020 meeting

b) Minister's Report

c) Treasurer's Report

d) Property Report

**Item4: Motion for Consent Agenda –** Allison Sarauer/Carol Gossner, “To approve the consent agenda with the Minister’s report removed.” Carried.

**Item5: Items Removed from Consent Agenda –** Minister’s Report

1. Entry to church – We will change having people attending services enter in the back door and exit through the front.
2. Brithdir – Land has been sold and permission is needed from Living Skies to sell it.

Allison Sarauer/Carol Gossner, “That Westminster receive the remaining funds from the Brithdir United Church in order to expedite their closure process; and that these remaining funds be disbursed in the following way.

1. That any and all final costs related to the preparation of documents and transfer of title for the Brithdir United Church land parcel be dealt with
2. That 30% of the remaining money be disbursed as follows: 10% to Indigenous Ministry and Justice Work as per Call to the Church; 10% to Regional Council; 5% to Archives; 5% to Mission and Service
3. That 70% of the remaining money be held by Westminster until such time as the Brithdir community determines what it will do with it. Once this is determined that appropriate disbursements be made to satisfy the final wishes of the Brithdir United Church Congregation.
4. That the Westminster Treasurer (Elan Buan) determine how to best handle this in accordance with Westminster bookkeeping practices.”

Carried.

1. Baptisms-Murray Stevens/Carol Gossner, “To adapt the baptism policy to allow for the following COVID-19 safety protocols: Only 1 or 2 family members and 1 or 2 members of Church Council video taping them to show to the congregation on Sunday, parents have to hold the infant while the minister pours the water on their head, and all have to be wearing masks except for the infant/child because of the close proximity of the group around the baptismal font.

**Item6: Correspondence – The** Planning Giving committee emailed approval the request that $500 be used for the purchase of a new lawn mower. Murray Stevens/Carol Gossner, “That Planned Giving $500 for the purchase of the lawn mower.” Carried.

**Item7: Old Business**

1. Cleaning –Sherry Hogemann will do cleaning until a replacement is found for the Janitorial position. The office will put together a thank you gift for James.
2. Garage Sale – Brought in approximately $1000 the first weekend. Will be taking place again September 18 & 19.

c) Farewell Policy – Will be reviewed next month

d) Re-opening of church - We will encourage people to pre-register but it will not be a requirement. April Kozar will make signs for which pews can be used for seating in the sanctuary.

e) Jeffrey Straker Concert – October 16 @ 7:00PM-Brian Grest is trying to get confirmation in writing from the SHA COVID-19 protocols committee that we are able to proceed with the concert.

f) Moving of sanctuary T.V. – We will see if it is an issue that needs to be addressed

**Item8: New Business**

1. Ants – So far what Murray has been doing for treating the ants is working. Will continue to monitor

b) Fire Inspection Report – Murray Stevens has booked the fire alarm inspection to take place by December. He will do regular inspections twice a year – January 1 and July 1.

Murray Stevens, Allison Sarauer, “To authorize up to $600 to have the fire alarm inspection annually by a certified inspector and that it be made a budget line starting 2021.” Carried.

The office will assist Murray in developing a log binder for the various maintenance items that need to be addressed on a regular basis.

1. M&P Report- Rev. Brenda submitted a request for study leave Oct 19-26, November 16-22, Vacation October 26-Nov. 2 and November 23-30. Willie Kosokowsky/Allison Sarauer, “To approve Brenda’s request for vacation and study leave.” Carried.

d) Radio bingo Proposal – We will get more information and revisit this at the next Council Meeting

e) Fowl Supper – Murray is looking into having a fowl supper done as take-out/delivery. Murray will check with the kitchen committee as well as Melfort who is advertising a drive-through fall supper. General consensus is for Murray to look into how we could proceed with having a fowl supper in some manner. We will research our options and have a church council zoom meeting Thursday, Sept. 24. 7:00 PM to discuss if and how we can proceed.

 **Item 9: Emergent Issues**

**Item 10: Next Meeting Date –** To be determined

**Item 11: Adjournment –** 9:20 PM