**Westminster United Church Council**

**Thursday, September 8th, 2022 @ 7:00 PM at Westminster UC**

**MEETING 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.

...Check in as we gather...

**Item 1: Welcome, Call to Order; Attendance & Regrets**

Present: Brenda Curtis, Renee Mackenzie, Willie Kosokowsky, Linda Johnson, Carol Gossner,

Maxine Mesenchuk, Jacqueline Souter-Elliott, Doug Berger, Elan Buan, Kevin Ackerman

Regrets: Allison Sarauer, Amber McDougall

**Item 2: Reading Territory Acknowledgment** (Carol Gossner) **& WUC Mission Statement** (Jacqueline Souter-Elliott)

**Item 3: Opening Devotional/Prayer**

Brenda read from – To Work for Change. We grieve for the state of our world and ask God for hope and courage to create change.

**Item 4: Additions/deletions to the agenda**

**A series of email motions originating from the Search and Selection Committee took place between Council meetings with the resulting motions and approvals below:**

* Moved by Linda Johnson Seconded by Carol Gossner

That Ruth Mostowy’s resignation from the office administration position effective Sept 1, 2022 be accepted. Carried

* Moved by Linda Johnson Seconded by Jacqueline Souter-Elliott

That Ruth Mostowy be granted permission to work a combination of remote hours and Saturday office hours up to a total of 6 hours per week until a suitable

replacement can be found. Carried

* Moved by Jacqueline Souter-Elliott Seconded by Carol Gossner

That the M&P committee be appointed as the Search and Selection Committee

to find a suitable candidate for the office administration position. Carried

**Motion to accept the agenda as circulated and the addition of the email motions. Doug Berger/Carol Gossner Carried**

**Item 5: Consent Agenda**

* Council Minutes- June 2022
* Minister Report
* Christian Education (CE) Report
* Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Report
* Affirm Report
* Worship & Membership (W&M) Report
* Property Report
* Estate Committee Report
* Rental Committee Report
* Email Motion: Request for free use of sanctuary
* Treasurer Report Financials: *(July are the key ones to look at)*
  + May P&L
  + May Balance Sheet
  + June P&L
  + June Balance Sheet
  + July P&L Previous Year Comparison
  + July Balance Sheet

**Item 6: Motion to approve Consent Agenda**

**Carol Gossner/Doug Berger**

**Item 7: Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None

**Item 8: Correspondence**

* + Camp Christopher: Thank you
  + Welcome Wagon request

Allison Sarauer will create a brochure about Westminster United Church to put in the welcome packages

* + GS111 (Pandemic Amendment) Has Expired: Effective July 1, 2022, communities of faith are required to revert to The Manual bylaws relating to pastoral relations and annual meetings.

**Item 10: Old Business**

1. Update Self-Assessment priorities for Regional Council

Council reviewed what has been completed and what still needs to be addressed

1. Needs Assessment Packages

Linda Johnson gave a brief overview and it was determined that Church Council set up an external to council committee to start working on this process

**Item 11: New Business**

1. M&P: In Camera
2. Donald Hill Estate Committee

* Our committee recommends to Council that we accept Donald Hill’s generous gift of his estate including his house and contents
* Our committee recommends that once we have the title to Don’s home, we prepare to list it for sale.
* After considering different options, our committee recommends having a garage sale at the house to liquidate the remaining contents in order to prepare for listing.
* We recommend striking up a committee to organize the garage sale (date, pricing, pricing, set up and running the sale)
* Our committee recommends that we make an announcement to our congregation, both on our Sept 11th church service and in our written announcements, that we are the beneficiary of Don’s estate. With this announcement we will ask for volunteers for a garage sale committee.
* Our committee recommends that we set up a separate bank account for estate funds.

**Elan Buan made a motion that the recommendations from the Estate Committee be accepted. Seconded by Doug Berger Carried**

1. Property

React bins are now in place on our property

Back door needs to be painted. Kevin will look after that

Kevin had a discussion with a couple of people about where to place the ramp going up to the piano area. Talked about placing it on the north end of the raised area so it was out of the way. Kevin will get estimates

Talked about snow removal and Kevin will also get an estimate from Jason Holtvogt

Ceiling plug ins are not working so Kevin has taken them out. Extension cords will have to be used.

The ant problem seems to be under control in the kitchen.

1. Fowl Supper

The date is set for Nov 6th. Maxine Mesenchuk and Renee Mackenzie will co-chair and will make the decision on whether the supper is in-person or delivery only.

1. Diabetes Bin

We had an email from a church member about her concern for having the bins on our property. After discussion about who benefits from the profit Elan Buan and Brenda Curtis will collaborate to send this person a reply

1. Rental Committee

Moving forward the committee made several suggestions.

The biggest concern is allowing groups to use our church for free. Criteria for reduced pricing or free use of the facility needs to be developed. There also needs to be criteria around signage. Both issues tabled until next meeting

1. Kairos Blanket Exercise

We designated funds received from a shared service which was prepared with assistance from St. Andrews Anglican Church and Quill Plains Pastoral Charge for a Blanket exercise. Brenda suggested that we could use it this winter for the Blanket Exercise… perhaps in person or virtual. Brenda Curtis will look into it and return with possibilities.

**Item 12: Emergent Issues**

**Carol Gossner made a motion for the baptism of Myelle Florence Moore on Sept 25.**

**Seconded by Doug Berger. Carried**

**Item 13: Announcements & Encouragements**

**Item 14: Next Meeting Date** (in person at WUC): October 5

Please have all reports and agenda items into the church office by Sept 30

**Item 15: Adjournment**

**NOTE: WUC Self Assessment Goals**

1. Post Council Meeting Minutes on website and keep copies on hand for access by congregation and in hard copy form in the church office. A process has been established to have this disbursal of the Church Council minutes looked after monthly by the church office/administrator. **COMPLETED by Linda Johnson**
2. Gather and post publicly supporting policies and documents such as: Workplace Discrimination, Harassment & Violence Prevention Response Policy and Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response Policy **COMPLETED by Linda Johnson**
3. Worship & Membership Committee to define what it means to be an adherent of the Community of Faith; recommend to Church Council for approval IN PROCESS
4. Continue to actively search for Stewardship Committee members IN PROCESS
5. Set privacy policy & confidentiality agreement IN PROCESS
6. Upload current congregational profiles on Church Hub IN PROCESS
7. Locate Church Deed/Title and keep it in the secure firesafe bag in church office IN PROCESS