



## Huron Shores United Church COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday April 23rd 2020 – 4:00pm

*Sanctuary*

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### Members Present

Janice Sinker (Chair); Bryan Beattie (Finance/Treasurer); Virginia Scott (Christian Development); Charles MacDonald (Ministry and Personnel); Debbie Procter (Property Management Co-Chair); Peter Challen (Property Management Co-Chair); Ruth Ann Eagleson (WOW); Rosalind MacDonald (WOW); Bob Illman (Board of Trustees/WOW); Wilma Harris (Worship); the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford (Minister)

### Regrets

Christine Bregman (Minute Secretary/Accessibility). Lynne Desjardine (Mission and Outreach). Peter Challen is to be Secretary for this meeting.

### Guests

Rev. Elise Feltrin (Community Wellness Coordinator)

### Agenda

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Janice Sinker at 4:12 pm. Quorum was present.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY:** All present read aloud the acknowledgment of territory.

**3. OPENING PRAYER:** The opening prayer was led by Rev. Kate Crawford.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** That the agenda be approved. Moved. Seconded. Carried.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

a. Letter from Regional Council (WOW) – Submitted with agenda, it outlines the concerns for staff and congregations, and offers assurance. Discussion evolved regarding HSUC's relatively strong

position with Ministerial leadership – Kate and Elise, strong support staff, and strong volunteer leadership in comparison to some congregations which are struggling, though none in crisis that we know of. Congregations are encouraged to pass on coping ideas.

b. Letter from Susan Daum: Re: CanadaHelps website – HSUC contact information requires updating to this online portal that facilitates donations to charities. The Canada Revenue Agency number is required for this update. It is unlikely that donations received through CanadaHelps would adversely affect any ability to apply for the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy from the federal government. Bryan Beattie will update the CanadaHelps portal as we are still listed as the Grand Bend Pastoral Charge. He will have this changed so that we are listed as Huron Shores United Church.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

a. The minutes from the April 2nd Council meeting were reviewed. There was one correction in 9i: “Community Health Coordinator” should be “Community Wellness Coordinator”.

**MOTION:** That the minutes from April 2, 2020 be approved as amended. Moved. Seconded. Carried.

b. Business arising: Nil

## **7. FINANCIAL REPORT, UP-DATE & DISCUSSION (Bryan Beattie)**

a. Finance Team emailed two reports to Council, including the financial figures, and a descriptive interpretation of the figures. One concern is that foodbanks need funds as soon as possible. Bryan clarified that the restricted fund, “Food bank receipts” can be allowed to build rather than be forwarded in small amounts to the foodbanks. The amount indicated (\$170) is to be forwarded to the foodbanks by April 30.

b. New Horizons Seniors Grant funds were received for the completion of the Queens Ave front entrance railing, \$17,515, is to be held on a short term basis to offset income shortfalls. These funds are not absorbed into the operational budget. Eventually, these funds will be used to construct the railing, when it is safe to build.

c. Canada Emergency Business Account: The Finance Team, in conjunction with the Trustees, have been working on securing a \$40,000 interest free loan from the Federal government's CEBA to support operations (heat, water,

etc). \$10,000 becomes a grant if \$30,000 is repaid by Dec 31, 2022. After that date, the interest is 7%. A series of eligibility requirements became evident between the Regional Council (WOW) and HSUC. Currently, it appears that HSUC is eligible for these funds. Ethical and practical questions are as follows: Do we really need it? Should we be saving this fund for others? Are we taking advantage of a generous government in a time of crisis? Could we pay it back sooner if we find we don't need it? What if we find we need it and the government cancels the program? Would it affect our revenue and impact our ability to apply for the 75% wage subsidy? Evidently, it would not, as this is a loan and not revenue. Only the \$10,000 grant would count as revenue. Our event fundraising and GBP revenue for this budget year is anticipated to be zero. If we do not need it we can always give it to someone who does. Who should be applying for this, the Trustees or the Council? The Trustees have already met and approved this application. Bryan Beattie will do the paperwork. Bob Illman will inform WOW (John Neff) of our application to CEBA.

**Motion:** That the HSUC Council direct the Trustees to apply for a \$40,000 loan from Canada Emergency Business Account for operational expenses – for immediate action. Regional Council shall be informed as soon as possible. Moved. Seconded. Carried.

d. Appeal Finance Team emailed to the congregation on behalf of Council: A letter, “Huron Shores UC needs your help”, indicating financial concern and ways to assist, and a bar graph (courtesy of Steve and Melodie Northey) comparing March 2020 to March 2019 regarding the status of the operational budget and the building debt retirement. Volunteers are available to pick up donations, cheques (non-contact). PAR donors are increasing slightly. Some congregants are still wary of PAR. Bryan Beattie will research “E” transfers for the next communication to the congregation.

## **8. COVID-19 Discussion: Where are we now?**

a. So far, no one in our immediate congregational circle appears to have been affected by Covid – 19. There is a connection to the tragedy in Nova Scotia. Kate knows families of victims. Kate's father continues with health challenges. Kate is grateful for the opportunity to lead in the “middle of a vortex”. Sunday, April 26 should have been the last worship before Sabbatical, and a touch of grumpiness – that won't last.

b. Kate's and Elise's letters were extremely well received and are expanding into “Letters of Hope”, now including letters from others in the

congregation: David Kai (Voluntary Associate Minister), and Rosalind MacDonald (Congregational Visitor). These are “expanding voices forming a big circle of hope around the congregation”.

## **9. FUTURE WORSHIP PLANS**

- a. Zoom meetings: These may be a good thing to come out of this Covid - 19. There has been Zoom Bible Study, Zoom choir practice and Zoom Council. Bob Illman and Wilma Harris are assisting in the planning of Zoom Worship, May 3.
- b. Virtual House Church: Intended to connect the few people who have requested increased contact, specifically those not on-line. Very small uptake. Rosalind MacDonald and Kate Crawford are putting this in place, with assistance from Elise Feltrin, and phone calls by Dorothy Donley, Lynne Desjardine, Lynda Holmes and Ruth Ann Eagleson.

## **10: TEAM & WORKING GROUP REPORTS** (full reports included in agenda)

- a. Minister: Nomination Working Group is not active having been unable to find Chairs for the Congregational Care Team, and the Affirm Team. This has been reported at least as far back as January with a request that it be discussed at Council. Questions raised regarding Accessibility Team having representation at Council, as the Chair is also Minute Secretary. All teams should be aware of accessibility issues affecting their teams. Bob Illman will draft a series of questions to be distributed prior to the next Council meeting, to guide a discussion on the May agenda.

Rev Elise Feltrin left the meeting at 5:34 pm.

- b. Property Management: To park in either of the two designated accessibility spaces in the Queens Ave parking lot, vehicles must have an accessibility permit visible on the dashboard. Permit holders must have been in the vehicle in order to park in one of these accessible parking spaces. Failure to comply is liable under the law. Property Management, and Accessibility Teams.
- c. Construction WG: The corrected grant received for the exterior ramp railing is \$17,515 (incorrect amount shown in team report). The sanctuary window project is on hold because of the Covid-19 impact on finances.

d. Ministry & Personnel: Kudos to Kate and Janna; the building is closed; the church is open; Bees, Hives, overtime abound (an appreciative reference to Janna's image in *Shorelines* of being as busy as a bee)!

e. Grand Bend Place WG: During the COVID-19 shutdown policies are being honed. The Working Group is preparing a new income/expense document for 2020 to present to the Finance Team, based on the new assumption that no gatherings will be held in our building in 2020. Work on the 2021 lineup is under way.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

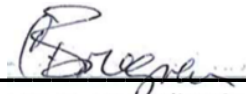
a. Tourist Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO): A free membership is available which appears advantageous to HSUC; Janice Sinker will follow-up.

b. Loonies for Lent: Charles MacDonald will collect donations (porch pick up), his email and phone number are to be placed in *Shorelines*. If a name and address is attached, a tax receipt will be issued under "special envelopes". Janice Sinker will facilitate *Shorelines* announcement. Kate will celebrate the amount raised with the congregation.

12. ADJOURNMENT: 5:48 pm.

13. **NEXT MEETING DATE: May 14, 2020 at 4 PM via ZOOM**

  
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Janice Sinker/Chair

  
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Christine Bregman/Secretary