

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH
MEETING OF CHURCH COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

We, at First United Church, are called by the spirit to be a caring community of faith actively pursuing spiritual growth and compassionate outreach

Members Present:

Peggy Worrell, Acting Chair and Past Chair and Nominations

Annette Taylor, Minister

Mel Friesen, Stewardship

Rhonda Lotochinski, Secretary

Fran Jackson, Membership & Pastoral Care

Maxine Olmsted, Ministry & Personnel

Linda Stumpf, Faith Formation

Stacie Noble-Wiebe, guest

Marie Andrews, Worship & Music

Shirley Wilson, UCW

Melanie Davis, Member at Large

Ila Wilms, Building & Property

Barbara Foster, Trustee

Dixie Green, guest

1. **Call to order and Welcome:** Peggy Worrell called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. **Acknowledgement of Holy Manner #4**
3. **Opening Devotion** – Peggy Worrell
4. **Check in**
5. **A time for education and inspiration:** Shirley Wilson commented on the highlights of her journey with First United Church and how thankful she is for the many lifelong friendships she has found through the women within the church. She feels rewarded both socially and spiritually. She enjoys working through all the challenges that comes with being a church community.
6. **Additional items were added to the agenda**
7. **Approval of Agenda:**
Motion: Ila Wilms/Marie Andrews
“That the February 24, 2019 agenda be approved as amended.” Motion carried.
8. **Acknowledgment of January 22, 2019 Executive Meeting minutes.**
9. **Approval of January 24, 2019 Church Council meeting minutes:**
Amendments:
 - a. Under Old Business f) Staff hours add - Note: At this point our chair Rhonda Lotochinski left the room due to conflict of interest. Peggy Worrell stepped into the role of Chair for this item.

Motion: Melanie Davis/Barbara Foster

“That we accept the minutes as amended for the January 24, 2019 Council meeting.”

Motion Carried.

10. Business arising from the minutes

a) Staff hours:

- Maxine and Brian have calculated that Rhonda will need 41.5 additional hours over the course of the year in addition to what she is currently working to meet the requirement of 14 hours per week. These hours would be flexible.
- Maxine explained how Rhonda’s extra hours would be used.
- Brian has updated the budget based on the above amount.

b) Amended Budget:

- Mel reported that the budget has been amended with some minor changes.
- The budget in the Annual Report is the corrected final budget.
- Discussion took place regarding deficit.

c) \$500 from Chinook Presbytery for the support of seniors:

Motion: Linda Stumpf/Shirley Wilson

“That the \$500 from Chinook Presbytery that is to go to senior ministry be used for Increasing Accessibility.” Motion Carried.

11. Correspondence: none

12. Minister’s Report: (see attached)

- Annette commented that she has been busy concentrating on the Lent services and “Who is My Neighbor” conference coming up in April 5-6. It will start Friday night, and go all day Saturday with a supper and evening presentation. Rachelle Friesen will be here Sunday morning to speak to us. She has experience in connecting with and working with First Nations people.
- Chair of Region 4 Commission – ramping up to the regional meeting at end of May, Annette will be chairing the meeting.
- The Region 4 Annual Meeting will be held in Swift Current at the Iplex - May 31st to June 2nd. People will be attending from all over Saskatchewan. First United Church is responsible for making the local arrangements. The church service on Sunday will be held in our church. We are not responsible for this service.

13. Important items from reports

a) Affirming Ministry – Increasing Accessibility (see attached)

- Stacie Noble-Wiebe reported that the original plan to make the sanctuary more accessible for people with wheelchairs, walkers, crutches etc. was to shorten the pews in four places. It has since been brought to their attention that there is already an area for accessibility beside the sound operators. The

new proposal is create only two new accessible spaces at this time with the need for the next two to be reassessed at a future date.

- Cushions on the pews will need to be altered.

Motion: Ila Wilms/Mel Friesen

“That we proceed with the shortening of the pews as per the proposal given to Council from the Affirming Ministry committee.” Motion carried.

- Peggy thanked the members of the Affirming Ministry committee and Building & Property for all their work they put into this project.
- Stacie Noble-Wiebe will notify the congregation this Sunday, March 3, 2019 that we will be going ahead with a revised proposal.

b) Worship & Music

Motion: Marie Andrews/Fran Jackson

“That the monies to cover the Watoto Children’s Choir event on March 1 including \$359.64 for 3 hotel rooms and the costs for a meal and a bag lunch for 31 if required be taken from Planned Giving.” Motion Carried.

c) Nominations Working Group

- Peggy circulated a proposal for rotation of Chair for Council (see attached) which has been supported by the Executive.

Motion: Ila Wilms/Maxine Olmsted

“That if a Chair of Council is not elected at the AGM Sunday, March 3, 2019 that we will use the proposed chair rotation presented to Council by the Nominations Working Group.”

- We are required by the CRA to have a Treasurer. A person has been approached regarding the position of treasurer but we have not received an answer at this time.

d) Ministry & Personnel

Motion: Maxine Olmsted/Mel Friesen

“That Annette’s request for Vacation Time from April 24-30, 2019 and for Continuing Education leave from May 6-12, 2019, be approved.” Motion Carried.

“Motion: Shirley Wilson/Ila Wilms

“That we accept all written reports.” Motion carried.

14. New business

a) Fundraising ad hoc Committee responsible to Council

- Peggy stated that Executive has discussed creating an ad hoc Fundraising committee that would be responsible to Council. This committee would collect fundraising ideas and assess them.

Motion: Ila Wilms/Fran Jackson

“That we establish a Fundraising ad hoc Committee.” Motion carried.

- Rhonda will create an insert for the bulletin asking the congregation for fundraising ideas, and committee members.
- Fran agreed to be part of the committee.
- Ideas mentioned: Trivia night (2 x year), Movie nights etc.

b) Leadership Retreat

- Two volunteers are needed to plan the retreat.
- Two dates were suggested for the event – Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 31st. The event would go from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Council agreed to have the retreat in the church with a potluck lunch.
- Program ideas were discussed. It was suggested that we review the Policy and Procedure Manual at the retreat and participate in a get to know each other activity. It was also suggested to have music as part of the event.
- Peggy agreed to write a skit.
- Mel agreed to contact a person regarding music.
- Barb Foster will plan a get to know each other activity.
- Maxine and Annette will come up with a plan regarding the Policy & Procedure item.

c) Quilts in the Pews (see attached proposal)

- Peggy presented the proposal for a fundraising event called Quilts in the pews. Rose Lis, Peggy Worrell and Sharyn Erne have agreed to plan the activity.

Motion: Barbara Foster/Ila Wilms

“That we proceed with the proposal presented to go ahead with the Quilts in the Pews fundraising event.” Motion carried.

d) Volunteer appreciation

- On April 7th we will acknowledge the volunteers.
- Ila agreed to make arrangements for the cake.

e) Thank you to retiring Council members

- Retiring Council members were acknowledged – Donna Barber (UCW chair, Larry O’Donnell (Building & Property chair) and Brenda Gruetzner (Outreach chair).
- Peggy had a gift for each of the retiring members but none of the members were present. Rhonda will notify the retiring members and have them pick up their presents at up at the church office.

f) AGM Agenda (see attached)

- Charles Lotochinski will chair the Annual General Meeting Sunday, March 3, 2019.
- Council was asked to contact Charles if they have any additions to the agenda.

15. Opening devotion and closing prayer for March 28, 2019: Past Chair

16. Melanie Davis read Group Norms.

17. Reminder of Action Items: Melanie Davis

18. Peggy declared the meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.

19. Closing Prayer: Maxine Olmsted

20. Rotating Chair

January 25 – March 3: Past Chair, Peggy Worrell

March 3 – March 28: Ila Wilms

March 29 – April 25: _____

21. Upcoming Meetings

Annual General Meeting: Sunday, March 3, 2019 after church and potluck

Chair: Charles Lotochinski

Executive Meeting, March 26, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.

Council Meeting, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Peggy Worrell, Meeting Chairperson _____

Rhonda Lotochinski, Secretary _____