FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting

March 26, 2020 7:00 pm

**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:**

Kevin Hanna, Chair Sharyn Erne, Vice Chair

Annette Taylor, Minister Dwayne Barber, Building & Property

Marie Andrews, Worship & Music Charles Lotochinski, Stewardship/Treasurer

Maxine Olmsted, Ministry & Personnel Shirley Dyck, Ministry & Personnel

Fran Jackson, Membership & Pastoral Care Marie Andrews, Worship & Music

Donna Barber, UCW Linda Stumpf, Faith Formation

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary Patti McCleary, Outreach

Sharon Veer, Member at Large

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Reminder of Holy Manner #4: Strive for equal opportunity and encouragement of participation of all
3. Opening Devotion-Patti McCleary, Outreach: A Prayer During Times of COVID-19
4. Check-in.
5. Item added to the agenda

**Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Patti McCleary**

 **“To approve the agenda as amended” Carried.**

1. Acknowledgement of January 21 & March 17, 2020 Executive meeting minutes
2. Approval of the January 23, 2020 Church Council meeting minutes

**Motion: Fran Jackson/ Maxine Olmsted**

**“To approve the January 23, 2020 minutes.” Carried.**

1. Business arising from the minutes
2. Baptism

The following information should have been included in list of baptisms recorded in the January meeting minutes:

“Baptism of Ayden Paige Burnett son of Jeneen and Kent Burnett on January 13, 2019”

1. Annual General Meeting
* Policy Manual – could it be done electronically to speed up the process? Discuss at a future meeting
1. Correspondence - letter from Mel Friesen. He will be leaving First United Church and so is resigning from the committees he was part of.

**Motion: Fran Jackson/Charles Lotochinski**

**“That as per Mel’s request we remove his name from our membership list.” Carried.**

1. Minister’s Report (including Swift Current and Area Ministerial Association) – Annette Taylor
* Annette mentioned how COVID-19 has drastically changed things since our General Meeting.
1. Important Items from Reports
2. Building & Property
* Change in procedure suggested by Building & Property: “That all doors be locked by the office managers prior to leaving the building. Also that all groups using the church after regular hours be required to appoint one person to control the doors and restrict access to only their members.”

This suggestion was discussed and several concerns were expressed including the fact that the doors couldn’t be locked at 3:30pm on garage sale days or when a funeral was taking place. If this was to happen, a three month trial period was recommended. Alternatively, it was suggested that our custodian, Michael Orola, could lock up when he finishes work (between 8 and 9pm).

This item was tabled and the Council was asked to send additional ideas to Dwayne Barber before the next building & property meeting on April 8.

* The budget passed at the AGM included changes to Michael Orola’s contract hours. Hours reduced to 15 hours per week. He will be paid monthly.
1. Fundraising Committee

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fundraising Committee requested a decision about upcoming fundraising events in April, May and June.

**Motion: Marie Andrews/Patti McCleary**

**“That we cancel all in person events until the end of June.” Carried**

1. Stewardship
* The Stewardship Committee recommended that First United proceed with a $20 for 2020 fundraiser.

**Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Maxine Olmsted**

**“That we approve this fundraising idea of $20 for 2020.” Carried**

1. Faith Formation

**Motion: Linda Stump/Sharon Veer**

**“That the Creation Station become a working group under Faith Formation”**

Faith Formation has already created a description of the working group for the policy and procedures manual.

**Motion: Linda Stumpf/Charles Lotochinski**

**“That the idea of hiring a summer student for 6 weeks for 2021 through Canada Summer Jobs be explored.” Carried**

Peggy Worrell and Linda Stumpf will take this on.

1. Motion to accept written reports

**Motion: Marie Andrews/Charles Lotochinski**

**“That we accept all reports as written.” Carried.**

12. New Business

1. COVID-19 Response
* Recommendation from the Executive to continue salaries for all staff.

**Motion: Maxine Olmsted/Linda Stumpf**

**“That we continue paying all staff during this temporary suspension of worship.” Carried.**

* Church accessibility – church doors have been locked since Friday, March 19, 2020. Kevin Hanna will email the congregation to inform them that the church doors are locked and all in person church events until the end of June are cancelled.
* Mail delivery

**Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Fran Jackson**

**“That we spend up to $110 to have the church mail forwarded to Patti McCleary’s house for a month.” Budget Line: postage**. **Carried**

* The moderator of the United Church of Canada is recommending that all funerals be postponed until such time as it is safe for them to take place.
1. **Motion: Sharon Veer/Marie Andrews**

**“That we appoint the following: Maxine Olmsted and Shirley Dyck as Co-Chairs of Ministry and Personnel, Patti McCleary as Chair of Outreach . That we appoint Pat Dyck Bunkosky as Secretary of Council until the end of June.” Carried**

1. Volunteer manual and signed agreement
* Reminder that new volunteers need to sign volunteer agreements. Chairs of each committee are responsible to make their committee members aware of this requirement. If copies of the volunteer manual are needed they can be emailed out.

13. Opening Devotion and closing prayer for April – Living Skies Council Rep

14. Group norms – Sharon Veer

15. Reminder of action items – Sharon Veer

16. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

17. Closing prayer – Patti McCleary read The New Creed

**Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.**

**Upcoming Church Council Meeting – Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

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Kevin Hanna, Chair Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary