

West Plains United Church
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Unified Board Meeting

Present: **Bev Biggley**, Peter Fox, **Shelley Gaylard**, **Judi Honsberger**, Rev. Philip Gardner, Darlene Groves, **Brian Hallas**, **Bev Robertson**, **Bert Posedowski**. (highlighted are voting members)

Regrets: Linda Sanderson and Carol Eydt

Call to Order - The meeting opened via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. followed by a prayer offered by Darlene Groves for the Rental Committee.

Previous Minutes and Correspondence:

The minutes of Wednesday, September 16, 2020 were presented to the Board. **Bev Biggley made the motion “to accept the minutes of Wednesday, September 16, 2020 as presented”.** **Seconded by Judi Honsberger.**

Rental Committee Report – Judi Honsberger

There are no new rentals. The Rental Committee will be contacting each rental group to make sure that government Covid Guidelines are being followed. TOPS is still just doing their weigh-ins in the Narthex but will need to figure out another arrangement as the weather becomes colder.

Faith Formation Committee Report – Darlene Groves

The Faith Formation committee met Thursday, October 8th and welcomed Shelley Gaylard as a new member. Lynn Watson will be stepping down from this committee due to a move. We thank her for her participation in the work of this committee. We are very happy that Carol Eydt has agreed to remain on this committee for now as we can meet via Zoom.

The committee is offering a discussion on the book “*Learning to Walk in the Dark*” by Barbara Brown Taylor. This discussion will be a four-part discussion held November 22nd, December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. We are asking anyone who wants a book to contact Debbie Burford ahead of time so that she can order them. They must be prepaid. Or participants can check at their local library for any free available copies. Those interested in participating need to contact Darlene Groves so their email address can be put on the Zoom list.

If you have any ideas for possible upcoming Faith Formation events please contact Carol Eydt, Debbie Burford, Darlene Groves or Shelley Gaylard.

Shelley Gaylard is looking into services offered by the Burlington Library and the Hamilton Library (door-to-door delivery, delivering books to shut-ins, etc.) and will report back to the Board next month.

Peter Fox and Darlene Groves will work to set up dial-in for the upcoming book discussion.

Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee Report – Bev Biggley

Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner will be attending the Horseshoe Falls Region meeting from November 12th – 15th. There will be no pulpit supply as the Region has asked the congregations to join them for the Ordination Service on Sunday, November 15th.

Social Justice Committee Report - presented by Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner for Linda Sanderson

Wesley Urban Ministries is in the midst of relocating from Ferguson Avenue to their new temporary location at 52 Catherine St North. They will continue to search for a permanent home once they have settled on Catherine Street which will happen by the end of October.

Linda will attend Wesley's Zoom meeting on Friday afternoon (October 16). The purpose is to establish Wesley's church contact Network. Linda does not feel she has time to be the church contact so she is negotiating with Carol and Philip on this subject.

Judi Honsberger presented information for Linda Sanderson about Grace United's bazaar,

Linda Sanderson attended the UCW meeting (Online) at Grace United. After much debate they decided NOT to have a bazaar this year. Only half of last year's vendor agreed to return Online. They will ask the congregation to contribute to the church in a different way. Everyone is to calculate what they normally would spend on the bazaar and contribute that amount to the church. (Add up all your craft purchases, your lunch cost, your Silent Auction purchases, your bake table purchases, as well as, your own costs for your contributions to all those tables), then give that amount to the church.

Property Committee Report - Brian Hallas

There was no formal meeting this month. John Barber has quoted the same price of \$1,898 (5 installments of \$474) for the snow plowing contract from December 1st, 2020 to the end of March 2021. Brian is to inquire if there would be any savings if we do not have the draw plowed.

Christine Buxton has been doing landscape trimming. The eaves troughs will be cleaned on Monday, October 19th.

Worship Committee Report – Bev Robertson

Rev. Joyce Pearce has been asked to speak on Anniversary Sunday. We will be combining All Saints Day and Anniversary Sunday on Sunday, November 1st.

The Horseshoe Falls Region has invited all congregations to join them on Sunday, November 15th for their Ordination service, as a result, Peter/Marilyn Fox, Lianne Tan, and Philip will have a break this weekend from preparing the on-line service. The question was asked as to what format Region is presenting this service, Rev. Philip will check this out and let us know. As far as donations the link will remain the same on our webpage.

Finance Committee Report – Bert Posedowski

Local givings is approximately \$6,000 higher than the same period last year while Rental and other revenue down by \$9900. Minister and Secretary salaries are down by \$6770. Overall, these changes have contributed to our predicted year end deficit to shrink to \$2225.

The reported bank balance is \$23,703. Accounting for the \$5,000 loan from Savings, \$507 in A/P and monies owed to UC assessment (\$1,291) and M&S (\$1,420), the available bank balance is \$15,485.

Stewardship Committee Report – none

Trustees Committee Report - none

Minister's Report - Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

I want first of all to give thanks to the Re-opening Committee who worked so diligently to make in-person worship possible in preparation for a possible in-person worship service on Thanksgiving Sunday. I know that it was disappointing that the Covid-19 infection rates began climbing so precipitously that we had to stand down on that particular offering. The extensive preparation work has not been wasted, however, and in terms of what we need to do to keep people safe, I believe we are well positioned for Remembrance Sunday (the next date on our autumn list of four occasions that we planned to offer a worship service in the sanctuary in addition to the weekly online service). We'll hope that the Second Wave soon shows signs of abating.

While we are on the subject of worship, Lianne and I met together in LaSalle Park a couple of weeks ago to do some planning and we tossed back and forth what we might provide for Anniversary Worship that would be especially meaningful for the West Plains congregation. As a result of our discussion, I have invited Joyce Pearce to be our anniversary guest preacher and I am truly delighted that she has accepted the invitation. The date that worked best for Joyce was November 1st which ties in beautifully with All Saints Day (wondrously on a Sunday in 2020). This

thematic combination seemed like a natural since both Anniversary Sunday and All Saints honour those who have contributed to the strength of our Community of Faith over the past years. I beg your flexible indulgence that Anniversary Sunday is going to be a moveable feast this year. As I said to Bev Robertson, if need be, we might be able to argue that as an innovation we have decided to celebrate Anniversary Sunday using the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian!

Linda Sanderson has been strategizing to keep the very successful mid-week lunch group going as the weather cools and meeting together outside becomes less practical. Tomorrow's lunch (October 15) is happening near her garage to provide shelter in case of bad weather. I'm not sure how best to keep the group somehow meeting together through the winter but it's important to try to find a safe solution.

Meetings with clergy colleagues continue throughout the fall. There are monthly gatherings of the Horseshoe Falls ministers and the Halton clergy group (which was meeting weekly up until the summer) has decided on a monthly schedule going forward. Both of these groups meet on Zoom.

The entire Horseshoe Falls Region will meet together virtually over four days in November (November 12 to 15th). Darlene Groves and I have both registered. The high point will be the Ordination Service on November 15th and, as Bev Biggley reported, our M&P Committee is recommending that we offer the Horseshoe Falls service as our West Plains worship on that Sunday which will allow us to worship with other congregations and as well will provide Lianne, the choir, Peter Fox and me a one-off sabbatical break from online worship before we turn toward Advent.

As noted in Darlene Grove's report, the Faith Formation folk have a book study planned for late November into December based on Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. It will take place on Sundays (which is the day that we had good response to our previous book study). As always, there is concern about whether people can adapt to the online forum and for people without the technology to join. My sense is that perhaps the pandemic is giving us not only a problem but also an opportunity to experiment with different ways of reaching people. Not every initiative is going to appeal to everyone, so I think it is important to imagine different offerings for different constituencies in the congregation (at least as we are able to do within the limitation of the resources we have). One of my observations about West Plains (and this is an observation, not by any means a judgment) is that the default response to any new initiative is immediately to set to work figuring out the reasons why it *won't* work. I wonder what might be possible if we were to turn that around and instead to begin by imagining ways an initiative *might* work!

New Business –

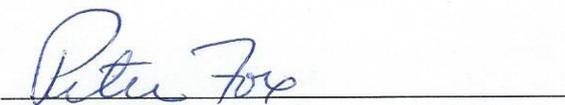
1. Nominating Committee – we are looking for a couple of volunteers to help out on this committee. Jan Hazelton is stepping down as the envelope Secretary. All Committee Chairs were asked to contact members of their committee to see who is staying and who is transferring to another committee. The Chairs need to contact the Board with any changes to their committees.
2. Budget - Bert requested that the Board look at the budget, Ministry & Personnel will have their 2021 wage updates in to Finance by the beginning of next month (November). With 2020 being a very different year financially it is difficult to gauge what our actual budget requirements will be for 2021. Finance plans to have the 2021 budget ready for our Annual Meeting in February 2021.
3. Fundraising – Shelley Gaylard attended the **shredding fundraiser** at Grace United Church. It was held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There were suggested prices i.e. \$5/bag with a receipt being given for any donation of \$20 or more. Shelley will look up the name of the shredding company and give it to Peter. Shelley will contact someone from Grace United to ask them more about this fundraising event and will report back to the Board on this.
Peter will also pull up the information on the **Gift Card Sales fundraiser** and get back to the Board.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Motion to adjourned at 8:17 p.m. was made by Bev Robertson

Next meeting – Wednesday, November 11, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Opening Prayer will be offered by the **Property Committee**.



Peter Fox, Co-Chair of Unified Board



Secretary

Appendix I

FINANCIAL REPORT
 September 30, 2020

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Givings				Expenses			
Loose	849	2,000	1,526	Property Maintenance			
Local	72,056	103,000	66,388	Building & Grounds	3,827	8,000	3,592
Benevolent	2,955	4,500	1,132	Heating	2,869	4,000	4,021
Outreach	1,630		-	Hydro	4,930	7,500	4,738
M&S Givings	5,570	9,000	5,810	Snow Removal	1,999	1,950	3,594
Additional Receipts	7,957	12,000	4,396	Maintenance, Lift	-	1,600	-
Subtotal	91,017	130,500	79,252	Subtotal	13,626	23,050	15,944
				Administration			
Other Revenue				Advertising	-	500	57
Investment Income	7,953	10,000	7,953	Bank Charges	616	350	153
Rentals- Sanctuary	-	500	-	Payroll Charge - ADP	205	360	238
Other Rooms	1,196	11,000	5,473	Office Supplies	1,484	3,600	2,796
TAP	1,000	6,500	3,500	Auditor	-		-
West Enders	55	1,300	1,250	Telephone/Internet	1,766	1,800	1,575
Fund Raising	5,695	8,000	5,745	Subtotal	4,072	6,610	4,819
HST/ GST Rebate	1,260	3,000	3,160				
Subtotal	17,160	40,300	27,081	Committee Expenses			
				Congregational Picnic	-	100	111
Salaries & Benefits				Faith Formation	-	100	15
Minister Salary	45,339	69,500	52,107	Music	510	1,000	684
Minister Housing	-	-	-	Sunday School	-	100	-
Secretary Salary	3,270	10,000	6,360	Youth Group	-		-
Sunday School Coordinatc	-		-	Worship	511	1,000	692
Youth Leader	-		-	Subtotal	1,021	2,300	1,502
UC Benefits Expense	8,611	9,980	8,303	General Expenses			
CPP/EI Expense	4,094	4,810	3,938	Benevolent	1,420	4,500	1,800
Minister- Travel Allowance	-	1,200	180	Outreach	1,295		-
- Study/Books/Phone	825	1,800	775	Insurance Expense	6,710	7,500	6,617
Custodian	3,495	5,500	3,510	M & S Givings	4,150	8,500	5,050
Custodian- Extra	-		150	Observer Subscription	125	600	425
Music Director	13,581	19,900	13,440	Other/Miscellaneous	-	800	289
Guest Musicians & Supply	1,590	1,500	1,875	Presbytery Dues	2,582	5,720	3,873
Supply Ministers	1,080	1,800	2,211	Subtotal	16,282	27,620	18,054
Subtotal	81,886	125,990	92,849				

Account Summary

Bank Balance 01/01/2019	-20,403
Total Revenue	108,177
Total Expenses	<u>116,886</u>
Surplus/Deficit	-8,709
Transfers	5,000
Loans	<u>50,000</u>
General Acct Balance	25,887
Reno Fund Surplus	-2,691
Accounts Payable	<u>507</u>
Bank Balance 09/30/2020	23,703

Notes:

Respectfully submitted,
 Finance Committee

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 September 30, 2020

Savings Account			
Date	Debit	Credit	Debit
Jan 1	389.61		Kidz Club (Sunday School)
Sept 30	389.61		Total
Jan 1	223.37		Garden
Sept 30	223.37		Total
Jan 1	1,273.42		Wrap Around Aldershot
Sept 30	1,273.42		Total
Jan 1	5,797.72		Sabbatical Fund
Sept 30	5,797.72		Total
Jan 1	3,095.71		Youth Camping Fund
Sept 30	3,095.71		Total
Jan 1	1,744.68		Piano Fund
Sept 30	1,744.68		Total
Jan 1	1,672.54		Organ Fund
Sept 30	1,672.54		Total
Jan 1	664.03		Interest
Sept 30	-4,335.97		Total
	9,861.08		

