

**West Plains United Church
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
Unified Board Meeting**

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

Call to Order - The meeting opened via Zoom at 7:07 p.m. followed by a prayer offered by Rev. Philip Gardner on behalf of Worship.

Previous Minutes and Correspondence:

A letter and cheque for \$200 came to the church from Anna Lewis, on behalf of the Around the Bay Road Race Committee. They had done some promotional bits with Lianne Tan featuring West Plains on their Facebook page. We appreciate the relationship we have developed with them and will be sending them a thank-you from the Board.

The minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2021 were presented to the Board. **Bev Biggley made a motion “to accept the minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2021 as presented.”** Seconded by Pat Mifflin. Carried.

Rental Committee Report – Judi Honsberger – no report

Faith Formation Committee Report – Shelley Gaylard

The Faith Formation Committee organized a four-week Lenten Book Study opportunity for the month of March. It was of course done virtually on Zoom and was “attended” by Rev. Philip Gardner, Darlene Groves, Deb Burford, Lynn Watson and myself. The book chosen was My Year of Living Spiritually by local author Anne Bokma. The author takes us on a personal year long journey to uncover various forms of “spiritual” practice. She is searching for answers to her personal struggles as related to her family upbringing, her church upbringing and the void she feels at middle age. Some of her experiences with various spiritual methods, people and spiritualism are hilarious, mystifying and courageous. She dives deeply into each with varied degrees of interest and commitment. These spiritual experiments, as revealed by Bokma throughout the book, educated us and resulted in much discussion, reflection, laughter and, in some instances, personal connections. Thanks to Rev. Philip for once again suggesting a thought-provoking book for our book study this Spring.

Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee Report – Pat Mifflin

Reverend Philip Gardner is on Study Leave this week, (April 12-18th). We want to thank Reverend Margot Feyerer ahead of time for being our Supply Minister on Sunday, April 18th while Reverend Philip finishes his well-deserved Study week.

M&P are pleased to welcome Reverend Margot Feyerer to our West Plains staff as Volunteer Associate Minister (V.A.M.) We look forward to working with Reverend Margot as part of our amazing staff here at West Plains.

Again, we are thrilled that Reverend Philip Gardner has accepted the call to West Plains United Church to be our full-time minister. We are truly blessed and words can't express enough how thankful we are that Reverend Philip will continue to guide us spiritually through his thought provoking services, amazing leadership and his caring ways. Wonderful to have some good news during these difficult times!

Social Justice Committee Report - Linda Sanderson – no report

Property Committee Report - Brian Hallas

Saturday, April 10th Property had a Clean-Up Day outside, during which we cleaned the hedges out, did leaf blowing, rock removal and transplanted Rose of Sharon to the East side of the front hedge.

Darlene Groves has done some work pertaining to our Fire Safety Plan, and Steve Burford will be working with her to develop an updated Fire Plan that is in compliance with the City Fire Regulations for a building being used for services.

Phil Groves and Ray Mifflin picked up 120 banquet hall chairs from The City of Barrie, and Peter Fox assisted getting them downstairs. Peter and Phil arranged with Ruby Brocke, of the organization MimiBoat, which donates to institutions like schools, orphanages and churches in Ghana, West Africa, to take the 119 older chairs. Phil and Ray delivered the older chairs and a couple of heavy wooden tables to MimiBoat, in North Toronto. Phil also acquired a dolly that will accommodate the new chairs to make moving them around easier.

Phil has also found a refurbished illuminated sign approximately 6' by 3' for \$1,000 to replace the existing 5' sign at the front of the church, which is in need of approximately \$500 in repairs. Phil has a contractor who will be installing the sign (price included). The new metal box would be waterproof, thus eliminating some of the electrical problems we have had with the older sign. The Board is supporting Property in their decisions regarding the purchase of the chairs and the sign. There will be photos taken of the chairs so that we can present them in the rental information on our webpage.

Worship Committee Report – Bev Robertson

Worship's next meeting will be next week. There was a good response to the Good Friday and Easter services. There were 26 people attending the Zoom Communion, including a member of West Plains who is now living in Calgary, Alberta.

Finance Committee Report – Bert Posedowski

This report was presented at our Annual Meeting. The predominant changes are in Additional Receipt - an additional \$10,000 from the Swire Trust, HST/GST shows \$2,000. As of the end of March, we are in a surplus position of \$1,422. We have \$31,500 in the bank. A \$5,000 loan taken for the General account was repaid to the Savings account. But an outstanding loan of \$50,000 from the Memorial Fund remains but we will be waiting to pay this down until we see how this year plays out.

Property will check to make sure we have received all the bills for this year from the snow removal people. Our contract with them is up as of the end of March 2021.

Stewardship Committee Report – no report

Trustees Committee Report – Peter Fox – no report

Minister's Report - Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

- I continue to be very grateful to our online worship team for the amazing work that they do. We've had about 360 views of our three Holy Week services, which is impressive for a modestly-sized congregation. I've also received a number of emails expressing gratitude from inside and outside the West Plains community. It may have been the vulnerability that people are feeling as the pandemic continues, but several of those messages focused on how helpful they found our Good Friday offering, especially the music. I had mentioned in the Palm Sunday sermon that Protestants don't pay as much attention to Good Friday as I think they ought; I will have to revise that opinion.
- I think the Zoom communion and online Annual Meeting both went smoothly. Thanks go to Peter, to Bev and to Bert for the excellence of the preparation that made such expediency possible. A huge vote of thanks must also go to Bev for the work that she put into the production of our Annual Report for 2020. The Annual Reports are important records of congregational life; this year's is a testament to the fortitude of people at West Plains in managing to adapt and carry on in highly challenging circumstances. Not every community of faith has fared as well.
- I'm not sure when we will be back in the building. Things are a little scary at the moment but one of the difficulties COVID has caused is that the acknowledgement of deaths has needed to be scaled back. Once we return to some semblance of normal, I think there will be a desire and need to acknowledge those losses, so I expect two or three very busy months in that regard.

- The next planned Zoom communion followed by coffee hour will take place at 11:00 a.m. Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, or at least that is what I will recommend to the Worship Committee when next we meet. I realize that it is the long weekend, but I suspect that the Victoria Day holiday may have less effect on attendance than it may have had in other years and circumstances.
- The Faith Formation Committee has concluded its Lenten book study of Anne Bokma's *My Year of Living Spiritually*. It was a smaller group than usual, I think, because Bokma identifies as SBNR (spiritual but not religious). As I told our group, however, the SBNR demographic is large and growing. If we are going to persuade them, either of the good news or the kind of community that we have on offer, then I think it's important to know what they are thinking. I am delighted to hear that Shelley Gaylard will be chairing Faith Formation. Much gratitude, Shelley!
- My teaching responsibilities at Emmanuel College will be over once I finish marking the students' end of term projects and I submit the final course grades next week. It was a big piece of work, and I am grateful to have had the support of West Plains (and the Property Committee who have managed very capably without my presence, for three months, at their Tuesday evening meetings). On balance, the teaching has been a very good experience, once I mastered the technology. Over these months, I have found those training for United Church ministry are fine, deep thinking and faithful. They will make a fine crop of new ministers.
- And finally, it was with some relief that I took note that there didn't seem to be very many horrified looks when it was announced that I had accepted the call to ministry at West Plains at the conclusion of our AGM last Sunday morning. I am grateful to all those who did the very considerable work of shepherding things through the new UCC system for matching ministry personnel to communities of faith on the ministry dating site otherwise known as Church Hub. I look forward to walking with you on what I sincerely hope will be the other side of a world-altering pandemic.

New Business


1. Shredding Fundraiser Event – Shelley Gaylard
After a brief discussion, the Board decided that we will stay with the date of September, 25th for our Shredding Fundraiser Event. As we don't know what Covid will bring, we will make the final decision when the date gets closer. The Board will talk about this again at our May 2021 meeting.
2. Revisit Hive Rental Proposal – This was presented again as an option to explore while no one is in the church and not many are around the property. Peter Fox is to talk to Denbigh Farms to have the request for a charitable donation receipt removed from the contract. This has been done and Peter Fox has signed the contract with Denbigh Farms. Phil Groves will put up a fence around the area that will house the hives to make sure that nobody inadvertently goes near the beehives.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Motion to adjourned at 8:46 p.m. was made by Pat Mifflin

Next meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Opening Prayer will be offered by **Social Justice** (if you are unable to offer prayer please let Darlene know ahead of the meeting).



Peter Fox, Co-Chair of Unified Board



Secretary

Appendix I

FINANCIAL REPORT
 March 31, 2021

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Givings				Expenses			
Loose	151	900	404	Property Maintenance			
Local	21,316	111,000	24,126	Building & Grounds	87	5,000	2,427
Benevolent	1,510	3,635	1,130	Heating	2,090	3,500	1,753
Outreach	1,055	2,025	520	Hydro	1,060	6,200	1,756
M&S Givings	1,800	10,300	2,070	Snow Removal	1,763	2,500	-
Additional Receipts	11,758	8,700	1,757	Maintenance, Lift	-	-	-
Subtotal	37,590	136,560	30,007	Subtotal	4,999	17,200	5,936
				Administration			
Other Revenue				Advertising	-	-	-
Investment Income	2,651	10,600	2,651	Bank Charges	151	-	112
Rentals- Sanctuary	-	-	-	Payroll Charge - ADP	68	920	69
Other Rooms	136	2,800	836	Office Supplies	21	270	646
TAP	-	-	-	Auditor	-	1,500	-
West Enders	-	-	55	Telephone/Internet	530	2,300	528
Fund Raising	20	8,200	5,210	Subtotal	770	4,990	1,355
HST/ GST Rebate	2,036	1,200	-				
Subtotal	4,843	22,800	8,752	Committee Expenses			
				Congregational Picnic	-	-	-
Salaries & Benefits				Faith Formation	-	-	-
Minister Salary	18,089	72,354	17,700	Music	54	745	147
Minister Housing	-	-	-	Sunday School	-	-	-
Secretary Salary	-	-	2,594	Youth Group	-	510	-
Sunday School Coordinatc	-	-	-	Worship	-	-	-
Youth Leader	-	-	-	Subtotal	54	1,255	147
UC Benefits Expense	3,216	12,130	2,870	General Expenses			
CPP/EI Expense	1,355	4,400	1,476	Benevolent	600	2,400	220
Minister- Travel Allowance	-	50	-	Outreach	450	2,025	450
- Study/Books/Phone	225	2,400	375	Insurance Expense	2,170	9,150	1,631
Custodian	1,140	4,635	1,235	M & S Givings	-	10,300	-
Custodian- Extra	-	-	-	Observer Subscription	-	125	(75)
Music Director	6,708	21,156	6,539	Other/Miscellaneous	-	5,164	-
Guest Musicians & Supply	-	2,000	90	Presbytery Dues	-	-	1,291
Supply Ministers	-	1,080	-	Subtotal	3,220	29,164	3,517
Subtotal	30,733	120,205	32,879				

Account Summary

Bank Balance 01/01/2021	-13,251
Total Revenue	41,198
Total Expenses	<u>39,776</u>
Surplus/Deficit	1,422
Transfers	-5,000
Loans	<u>50,000</u>
General Acct Balance	33,171
Reno Fund Surplus	-2,691
Accounts Payable	<u>1,086</u>
Bank Balance 03/31/2021	31,566

Notes:

Respectfully submitted,
 Finance Committee

FINANCIAL REPORT
 March 31, 2021

Savings Account			
Date	Debit	Credit	Debit
Jan 1	389.61		Kidz Club (Sunday School)
Mar 31	389.61		Total
Jan 1	223.37		Garden
Mar 31	223.37		Total
Jan 1	1,273.42		Wrap Around Aldershot
Mar 31	1,273.42		Total
Jan 1	6,697.72		Sabbatical Fund
Mar 31	6,697.72		Total
Jan 1	3,095.71		Youth Camping Fund
Mar 31	3,095.71		Total
Jan 1	1,744.68		Piano Fund
Mar 31	1,744.68		Total
Jan 1	1,672.54		Organ Fund
Mar 31	1,672.54		Total
Jan 1	-4,308.41		Interest
Mar 31	691.59		Total
	15,788.64		