

**West Plains United Church
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Unified Board Meeting**

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

Regrets: Brian Hallas

Call to Order - The meeting opened via Zoom at 7:03 p.m. followed by a prayer offered by Shelley Gaylard, Clerk of Session.

Previous Minutes and Correspondence:

The minutes of Wednesday, May 12, 2021 were presented to the Board. **Debbie Burford made a motion “to accept the minutes of Wednesday, May 12, 2021 as presented.”** Seconded by Bev Robertson. Carried.

Rental Committee Report – Judi Honsberger

1. The Rental Committee met with Elections Ontario on Tuesday, June 8th regarding elections on June 2, 2022. They will have their own people running the elevator and greeting at the door.
2. As per the request of June 2nd, 2021 from Irene Burns (Appendix I) regarding sharing the worship space with Fellowship Canadian Reformed Church. As their congregation is upwards of 250, we are not able to facilitate their numbers. Peter Fox and Bev Biggley will draft a response to them.
3. There is a production company looking to rent space for a television show. The committee replied to their request but has had no further communication with them. Peter Fox and Judi Honsberger will develop a pamphlet with room measurements and other specifics. Phil Groves is to stage and photograph some of the rooms.

Faith Formation Committee Report – Shelley Gaylard

The Faith Formation Committee has requested that the information regarding the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Summer Reading event - entitled *Summer Conversation on Anti-Racism*, be added to this week’s Midweek Update. There are eight books being discussed, starting on June 13 and going through to September 26th. The discussions will be held over Zoom. Darlene Groves sent us the information via email earlier this month and it includes the link to sign up. (See Appendix III)

The Faith Formation Committee will add another Midweek update for next week. We are asking for the West Plains congregation to submit good reads for our own summer reading list. These books can be any genre not necessarily religious in nature. We will add the books studied through our West Plains Book Club this past year as well. Shelley Gaylard will draw up this update and submit to Peter for next week.

Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee Report – Debbie Burford

Rev. Philip will be taking his annual vacation during the month of August. He will be away for 5 Sundays. Pulpit supply will be covered by Rev. Margot Feyerer – Aug. 1, 8, and 15 and Rev. Barbara Morrison – Aug. 22 and 29.

Rev. Philip will cover pastoral care for Rev. Barb Fullerton from East Plains for the month of July, and Rev. Fullerton will cover pastoral care at West Plains while Rev. Philip is away in August. Music supply will be covered by Mary Starodub – June 20, June 27 and Sept. 5th. Christy Lamphier will cover July and August.

Social Justice Committee Report - Linda Sanderson

St. Matthew on the Plains has requested continued donations for the Burlington Food Bank and the Compassion Society to be dropped off at their building on Wednesdays from 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Wesley Urban Ministries - **Case for Kids** is being held for the month of June. The congregation is asked to send any donations into the office during June and they will be turned over to Wesley.

Lunch in the Park will commence again Wednesday, June 16th and will be held every Wednesday, weather permitting.

Property Committee Report – Judi Honsberger on behalf of Brian Hallas

Brian Hallas contacted the eaves trough man. He has cleaned out the eaves troughs, with a spotter for safety. A thank you was extended to Phil Groves, Brain Hallas, Linda Sanderson, Darlene Groves, and Christine Buxton for their continued efforts in caring for the gardens and lawns around the church.

The new sign is being delivered on Tuesday, June 15th. The sign will be painted and put up all in one shot so that we are not without signage for any period of time.

Worship Committee Report – Bev Robertson

The Worship Committee had a meeting on Wednesday, June 9th. Communion was held on Sunday, May 23rd. Lianne Tan's last Sunday is June 12th which would have normally been the church picnic. We have been very fortunate because not only have we had a virtual choir but

Lianne had four musicians from the Dundas Symphony who have played with the choir on a number of occasions. The choir will send them a thank you card for their participation. Mary Starodaub has arranged music coverage for the summer: Music supply will be covered by Mary Starodub – June 20, June 27 and Sept. 5th. Christy Lamphier will cover July and August. Rev. Philip would like to have one more communion on Sunday, June 27th. The Worship Committee talked briefly about the two Covenanting services and also our 150th Anniversary celebration, possibly to be held in later October or early November. The Covenanting services and the Anniversary celebration would be separate services. Worship is exploring a special speaker for the Anniversary Sunday; the suggestion of Rev. Joyce Pearce was made.

Finance Committee Report – Bert Posedowski

We had \$25,800 in the bank at the end of the month so we are in good shape for June. (Appendix II)

Stewardship Committee Report – no report

Trustees Committee Report – no report

Minister's Report - Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

- The Worship Committee met today and plans for the last two weeks of June and then for the summer Sundays are in hand. Margot Feyerer and Barbara Morrison will be presiding during the month of August while I am on vacation. Mary Starodub and Christy Lamphier will be our musicians.
- The next Zoom communion to be followed by a virtual picnic is planned for June 27th (we'll picnic rain or shine).
- In terms of planning for the autumn, I am still hopeful that we will be able to resume in-person worship but it is early days in the re-opening of the province. I think we will need to be prepared, however, for the likelihood that it will take some of our folk a while to feel comfortable being together again after a year and a half of pandemic restrictions. Patience rather than panic is in order, I think.
- I have tentatively suggested late October/early November for a Covenanting service but that will need to be coordinated with Pat Gilmour (the regional representative in the pastoral relations process) and with the Horseshoe Falls Region. We also need to schedule the covenant between West Plains and the Region, but I think they can potentially both take place at the same worship service.
- Lois Lennon and Linda Sanderson are graciously willing to initiate the organizing of the lunches in LaSalle Park. The limit after Friday is 10 for an outdoor gathering, but if we call it a religious gathering the limit is the number of people who can remain two metres apart. I think if we say grace before we eat, it can count as religious in intent.

- I enjoyed attending the annual Festival of Homiletics online in May. The quality of the preaching was considerably higher than last year. And the interviews that took place in the afternoons were excellent. Interestingly, however, I think that the music offered during West Plains online worship is more varied and of higher quality than anything that I heard at the festival.
- The annual spring meeting of the Horseshoe Falls Region took place on May 27th and 29th. Darlene Groves and I both attended and I thought it was well organized. It ended early which is always a good sign. I find I am not particularly anxious to resume the annual lengthy trek to Port Elgin for an expensive weekend when the work can be accomplished this way with greater efficiency. It will be interesting to see what plans will emerge for 2022.
- You may have noticed the obituary in The Hamilton Spectator this past Saturday for Dorothy Smith who was 96 when she died. I conducted her funeral and burial service on Monday morning. I first met Dorothy during my time as Supply Minister at Olivet United Church. After Olivet closed Dorothy, along with several other people, for a variety of reasons, found it very difficult to affiliate with another community of faith. Dorothy had some mobility issues and she didn't drive, but she did find her way West Plains a few times before COVID shut things down. She felt very warmly welcomed and "at home" on those occasions and her gratitude for that welcome is reflected in her obituary where it asks that memorial donations be directed either to West Plains or to the Diabetes Association. At any rate, your kindness to Dorothy Smith was noticed and appreciated.

New Business

1. Shredding Fundraiser Event – Shelley Gaylard
Shelly Gaylard will give Peter Fox a new ad for the shredding event for next week. The Board will need to meet in August. Advertising will need to go to Jennifer Scenna in August. Shelly will make sure that Calvin Galbraith gets information on the Shredding event for his newsletter, and will also look into advertising costs of The Post paper.
2. August Meetings – the Re-Opening Committee will meet from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on August 18th, followed by the Board meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Motion to adjourned at 8:40 p.m. was made by Bev Robertson.

Next meeting – Wednesday, August 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Opening Prayer will be offered by **Darlene Groves, Board Secretary** (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

From: **Irene Burns** <ireneburns333@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 9:54 PM
Subject: Use of your Facility
To: <info@westplains.ca>

To Whom it may concern:

On behalf of Fellowship Church, we wanted to reach out to West Plains United Church to see if you may be open to the possibility of renting your facility to us.

Like West Plains, Fellowship has had a long commitment to sharing the message of Jesus Christ with those in the Aldershot/Burlington area. We desire to present the truth of Scripture in a way that is faithful, accessible, understandable and applicable. We also remain committed to promoting a culture of corporate worship that embraces both the classic psalms and hymns of Christianity alongside of beautiful contemporary Christian music. A place where members can bring their neighbors, colleagues, and friends to be introduced to Jesus Christ.

We are quite a young congregation – with our average age of around 35. Our membership is currently around 250 members (about 130 adults). However, the past number of years have been difficult for Fellowship. We were without a pastor for approximately three years and also lost the use of our rental facility last year due to Covid. While we do own property on Waterdown Rd., and have the necessary permits to build, we were hesitant to move ahead given the circumstances.

Thankfully, in February of this year, we received news that Hilmer Jagersma had accepted the call to serve as our pastor. Pastor Hilmer is passionate about the advance of the Gospel in Aldershot/Burlington, which has led to great deal of excitement at Fellowship and a renewed commitment to consider a new building.

However, before we move ahead with building a new facility we wanted to connect with a few churches from the Burlington/Aldershot area to see if there might be a possibility of working together with an existing church. If you feel that there may be an opportunity to rent your facility or to consider ways to work together, we would love to engage in that conversation.

Thanks for taking the time to consider our inquiry. Wishing you good things In Christ.

Irene Burns
Chair of Facility Committee
Fellowship Canadian Reformed Church

Appendix II

FINANCIAL REPORT
 May 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	36,290	111,000	39,628	Building & Grounds	995	5,000	3,027
Benevolent	1,720	3,635	2,560	Heating	2,904	3,500	2,602
Outreach	1,080	2,025	520	Hydro	1,804	6,200	2,859
M&S Givings	2,960	10,300	3,155	Snow Removal	1,763	2,500	1,999
Additional Receipts	12,210	8,700	7,093	Maintenance, Lift	-	-	-
Subtotal	54,411	136,560	53,360	Subtotal	7,466	17,200	10,487
				Administration			
Other Revenue				Advertising	-	-	-
Investment Income	4,419	10,600	4,419	Bank Charges	269	-	321
Rentals- Sanctuary	-	-	-	Payroll Charge - ADP	113	920	119
Other Rooms	336	2,800	836	Office Supplies	21	270	666
TAP	-	-	-	Auditor	-	1,500	-
West Enders	-	-	55	Telephone/Internet	884	2,300	1,059
Fund Raising	20	8,200	5,450	Subtotal	1,287	4,990	2,166
HST/ GST Rebate	2,036	1,200	-	Committee Expenses			
Subtotal	6,810	22,800	10,760	Congregational Picnic	-	-	-
				Faith Formation	-	-	-
Salaries & Benefits				Music	54	745	173
Minister Salary	23,876	72,354	28,336	Sunday School	-	-	-
Minister Housing	-	-	-	Youth Group	-	510	-
Secretary Salary	-	-	3,270	Worship	-	-	511
Sunday School Coordinatc	-	-	-	Subtotal	54	1,255	684
Youth Leader	-	-	-	General Expenses			
UC Benefits Expense	5,342	12,130	4,784	Benevolent	600	2,400	820
CPP/EI Expense	2,259	4,400	2,372	Outreach	450	2,025	450
Minister- Travel Allowance	-	50	-	Insurance Expense	3,617	9,150	2,718
- Study/Books/Phone	375	2,400	525	M & S Givings	1,800	10,300	-
Custodian	1,900	4,635	1,595	Observer Subscription	-	125	125
Custodian- Extra	-	-	-	Other/Miscellaneous	2	5,164	-
Music Director	11,352	21,156	12,072	Presbytery Dues	1,291	-	1,291
Guest Musicians & Supply	-	2,000	90	Subtotal	7,760	29,164	5,404
Supply Ministers	221	1,080	-				
Subtotal	45,325	120,205	53,044				

Account Summary

Bank Balance 01/01/2021	-13,251
Total Revenue	59,986
Total Expenses	<u>61,892</u>
Surplus/Deficit	-1,906
Transfers	-5,000
Loans	<u>50,000</u>
General Acct Balance	29,843
Reno Fund Surplus	-2,691
Accounts Payable	<u>190</u>
Bank Balance 05/31/2021	27,342

Notes:

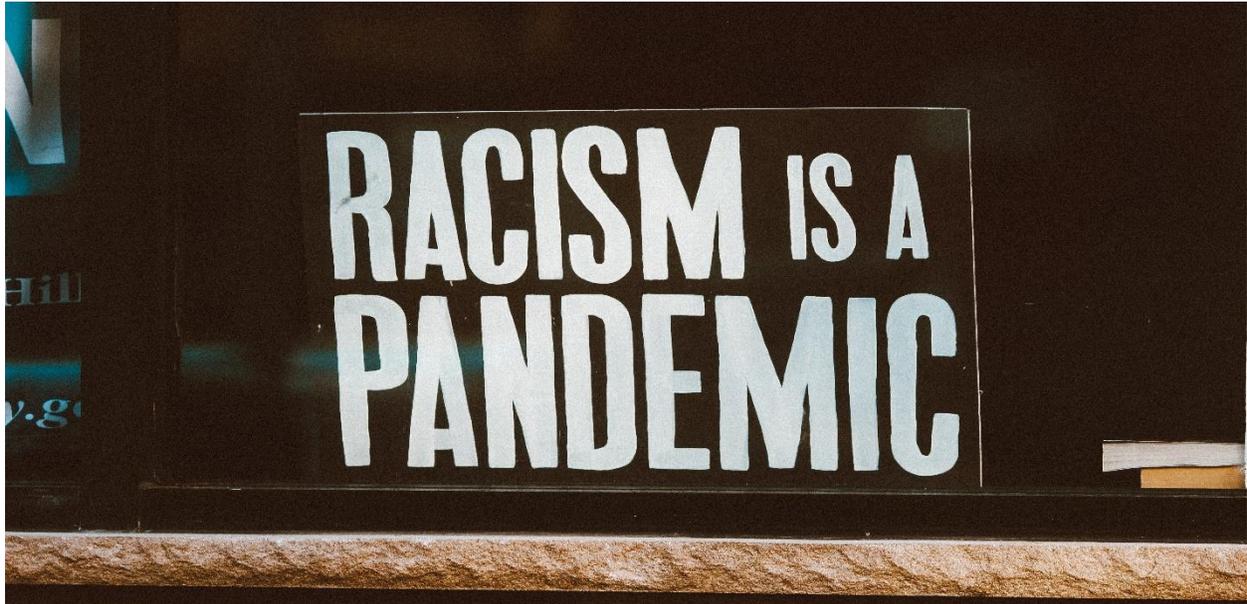
Respectfully submitted,
 Finance Committee

FINANCIAL REPORT
 May 31, 2021

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

Appendix III

Summer Conversation on Anti-Racism



Zoom Conversations will happen twice a month and will be Sunday nights at 7pm. You will be notified the week before the event with further instructions and the Zoom link. You can order your books through the Grand River Bookstore (grandriverbooks.ca). If you are a part of Horseshoe Falls Region, the Region will cover the cost of one book. Contact Deborah for more information: deborah@stpaulsoakville.com

Dates of book discussion:

June 13 - Poet Laureates Amanda Gorman and Randall Adjei
June 27 - Kindred - Book by Octavia Butler
July 11 - The Hate U Give - 2018 Film
July 25 - I'm Still Here - Book by Austin Channing Brown
August 15 - Podcast - The Last Man in Africville
August 22 - The Skin We're In - Book by Desmond Cole
September 12 - John Ware Reclaimed - Documentary
September 26 - Half Blood Blues - Book by Esi Edugyan

If you go to the registration link, it lists all the media we will be exploring: books, videos, podcasts...
Google Form Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/VpC9jyUMAAAnZRiLa6>