

APPROVED - BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: No. 11 – 2022-2023

DATE & LOCATION: Feb 15th, 2023 7:00 pm held virtually on Zoom

PURPOSE: To carry out the business of BCUC

Church Board CHAIR: David Stafford (for this meeting)

PRESENT:

Rev. Kim Vidal	Bill McGee
Norm Pound	David Stafford
Susan Young	Mark McDonald
Ellen Boynton	Will Wightman
Rev. Lorrie Lowes	Nicole Beaudry

REGRETS: Jordan Berard, Raven Miller, Desna Sulway

GUESTS: Ross Mutton

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Mar 22nd, 2023

1. **Opening Remarks** Chair
2. **Accepting of Corresponding Members** Chair
Bill made a motion to accept all corresponding members, Norm seconded. Approved.
3. **Approval of Agenda** Chair
Bill made a motion to approval the agenda, Ellen seconded. Approved.
4. **Devotions** Nicole
Nicole spoke to us about love and how it is here.
5. **Approval of Minutes** Chair
 - 5.1. Jan 18th, 2023
Bill made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended, Susan seconded. Approved.
6. **Standing Reports**
 - 6.1. **Ministers' Report (Pages 3-6)** Rev. Kim/ Rev. Lorrie
Kim made a motion under membership to remove Helen Jol from the historic roll due to death. Ellen Seconded. Approved.
Kim made a motion under membership to remove June Mclean from the historic roll due to death. Ellen Seconded. Approved.
 - 6.2. **Finance Report** Bill
Bill talked about the Business Continuity Plan and how we need a dry run.
 - 6.3. **M&P (Page 7)** David

Mark made a motion that the board agrees to the recommendations made by M&P regarding the proposed leaves. Ellen Seconded. Approved.

7. New Business

7.1. AGM Agenda

David shared the AGM Agenda for 2023.

7.2. Chair for AGM 2023

David will reach out to several people to find a chair.

7.3. Annual Report 2022

Ellen has just finished the annual report and will distribute.

7.4. Annual Plan 2023

Has been sent to the board and will be distributed via the office.

7.5. Nominations

Ellen is working on nominations for the different committees.

7.6. Significant Motions from 2022 Board

Ellen has put this together and that will be distributed.

7.7. Budget for 2023 AGM

Ross has a proposed budget and will refine it upon getting actual numbers from the auditor.

7.8. Minutes for 2022 AGM

The minutes were provided to the office.

7.9. Volunteer Associate Minister

Karen Boivin has completed the VAM form. The board approved renewal of the VAM for Karen Boivin for one year.

8. Other Business

8.1. Devotions: for Wednesday, Mar 22th, 2023

Will will do devotions.

Chair

8.2. Chair: for Wednesday, Mar 22nd, 2023

Ellen volunteered.

Chair

8.3. Secretary: for Wednesday, Mar 22nd, 2023

Since we moved the date Will can do it.

Chair

9. Next Meetings:

Chair

9.1. Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, Mar 22nd, 2023.

10. Closing Prayer

Rev. Kim/Rev. Lorrie

MINISTERS' REPORT
BCUC Board Meeting – February 15, 2023

Kim's Report:

Here are the highlights of my ministry from January 19 to February 15, 2023:

Worship:

We continue to offer an onsite worship service with live streaming every Sunday. I lead worship service on 3 of the 4 Sundays (4 on 5 Sundays), on which I prepare the weekly service with text and PowerPoint slides. Rev. Lorrie leads at least one service a month. Music is provided by the BCUC Choir, the CGS/Bell Canto and the BCUC Band with the leadership of Abe & Erin. It was wonderful to see the attendance grow week by week, particularly delighted to see the Sunday School slowly returning. There were new people and guests/visitors attending.

January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Rev. Lorrie led the worship service while I offered the story time.

- **January 29** – 4th Sunday after Epiphany / The Beatitudes
- **February 5** – 5th Sunday after Epiphany / Salt & Light
- **February 12** – 6th Sunday after Epiphany / Celebration Hymn-Sing Sunday with 16 hymns/songs requested. Reflection on the gospel hymn, "His Eye is On the Sparrow"

Christian Education:

- Facilitated the weekly onsite Lectionary Group in the Shalom Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 am on January 24, 31 and Feb 7.
- Attended the Worship/CE meeting on Wednesday, February 8 at 7 pm in-person.
- Submitted the Worship/CE Annual Activity Plan for 2023 duly approved by the committee.
- Prepared the Worship Planning for Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2023 duly approved by the committee.
- Prepared the study outline for the next Seekers Lent Study on Elaine Pagels' book, *Beyond belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas*. The Seekers will meet on Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 at 2 -4 pm in the Shalom Room.
- Taught the Intermediate Sunday School class on Jan 22.
- Attended the Progressive Learning Circle (PLC) meeting on Jan 25 and discussed the future of PLC.

Pastoral & Spiritual Care:

- I continue to offer pastoral and spiritual care to members and adherents through personal visits, phone calls, and emails. There were some people who dropped by the office occasionally for pastoral care. The coffee fellowship after the church service is also a good time to reach out and connect with people.
- I continue to participate in a weekly simultaneous virtual Prayer Circle every Wednesday at 8 pm from home.
- I inform Ronalie Abbey of people who need greeting cards (thinking of you, sympathy, get well soon, birthday, etc.) on behalf of BCUC.
- I led a Worship Service at Lynwood Lodge on January 19 and Stillwater Creek on Feb. 9.
- I officiated an emergency wedding service of Thomas Crowe and Valerie Weber at Queensway Carleton Hospital on Feb 1.

- Attended the Plan to Protect Session of the committee with Rev. Lorrie facilitating on Feb. 2.

Membership:

- Motion: To remove Helen Jol from the historic roll due to death.
- The baptismal request of Mikayla Froebel for her child Ozzy and herself is indefinitely postponed to another date due to some personal matters. I will inform the board and the Worship/CE Committee of the new date.

Stewardship:

- Prepared the information board on Adult Learning Faith Formation (Lectionary Group, The Seekers and PLC) which was used for the Committee Fair. Attended the fair after the service on Feb. 5.
- Assisted the Stewardship Team by providing sandwiches for the Soup & Sandwich Lunch.

Vacation, Study & Sabbatical Leave Update:

- I will be on Study Leave from May 15-21 to attend the Festival of Homiletics online.
- I will take my final vacation week to close the Pastoral Year Aug 1 2022- July 31, 2023 on May 22-28.
- My sabbatical leave will commence on May 29 until August 31, returning to work on September 3 as my first Sunday back.
- All Leave Forms were submitted to David Stafford, M&P Committee Chair duly signed and approved.

Other:

Attended the UCC Filipino Network Zoom meeting and learning event on January 17th.

Attended the UCC Asian Heritage Zoom Meeting on January 31st and discussed plans for the Asian Heritage Month in May.

I am currently on Study Leave from Feb. 13 to Feb. 20 and will report back to work on Feb 21st. Rev. Lorrie will lead the service on Feb. 19.

**Sincerely,
Rev. Kim**

Diaconal Minister's Report to the Board – February 15, 2023

Working in Ministry On-line and In Person

I continue to share in the planning, writing and recording of the weekly worship service, including the Children's Story. I led worship on January 22 and will do so again this Sunday (Feb 19) while Rev. Kim is on Study Leave.

Pastoral Care

I have been keeping in touch with people from the congregation by phone, email, Zoom and a few in-person visits, and I have taken part in our Wednesday night Prayer Circle. I

facilitated a Plan to Protect Training for the Pastoral and Spiritual Care committee on Feb. 2

Christian Education

Our Sunday School attendance continues to be good. I have been leaving with the children after the Time for the Young at Heart and taking the older kids when I was not leading worship. Thanks to Sue Morrison, Erin Berard and Jordan Berard for their assistance!

I co-facilitate the weekly Lectionary Study with Rev. Kim and prepare the materials for the weeks that I will be leading worship.

I met with the Youth Directors from Kanata United Church and Barrhaven United Church on Feb. 1 to share ideas and make plans for possible joint events.

I attended Worshiplude at Rideau Park UC on Saturday, Feb 4. This is an annual event that takes place during Winterlude here in Ottawa. Youth and Young Adult groups from churches in Ontario and Quebec gather here and are billeted in church halls or basements, or... They take part in the many activities of the winter festival during the day on Saturday and gather together for an upbeat worship service, pizza dinner, and games and activities for the evening, sleeping again in their host churches and heading home on Sunday. I wasn't able to entice any of our regular BCUC youth members but my 3 grandchildren and a friend accompanied Neil and I. It was a wonderful, fun evening – and so great to see so many young people worshipping together!

Other Committee and Community Work

I continue to be involved with the Interfaith Bridge Building and attended a meeting at the Jami Omar mosque on Feb 13. Plans are underway for an educational session about death and dying in our different faith traditions this spring. We will also gather a committee to look at ways to engage our youth and young adults (16-25) in some interfaith activities.

I attended the SOSA meeting on Jan 11 and will meet with them again on Feb 16. Each month, this committee offers a Minute for Social Action during the worship service. In January Clarke and Ellie Topp did a presentation on the Guaranteed Liveable Income. They are a wonderful resource to this committee and this congregation. The next Minute for Social Action is planned for Feb. 26.

It was amazing to see the commitment of BCUC to outreach and social action in the many displays at the committee fair. We can be proud of the efforts of this faith family to take the work of building God's Kin-dom out into the local and global community.

Outreach

Zambia Partnership – The death of Chipembi's matriarch and well-respected advocate for social justice globally, Omega Bula, was received on Jan 31 with much sorrow. It was announced at home with an African proverb, "a great tree has fallen". She was well-loved in her home country of Zambia and throughout both Africa and Canada. She worked on global justice here in Canada with the UCC General Council for three years where she made many strong partnerships and friendships. She will be greatly missed by people around the world.

In light of this news, we have postponed our travel to Chipembi for the opening of the

new building. We will travel later in the year. We continue to fundraise for this Partnership Visit. Our first fundraising event, Lunch and Trivia, was a success and fun for everyone. Our next event will be an art Journaling Workshop led by Meera Mukerjee on April 2. Stay tuned for more updates!

I created an information poster about our partnership for the Stewardship Committee Fair.

Other

The new Photo Directory is nearing completion! Thanks for the help of Ellen Boynton and others in the work involved in bringing this important project to fruition.

The Midrash Study with a group of Diaconal Ministers from the Ottawa area continues. We meet every 2nd Monday morning.

DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean) hold a prayer gathering on the first of each month, which I attend when possible. DOTAC is holding a meeting in August in Minneapolis that I have been encouraged to attend. However, this will take place when Rev. Kim is on vacation and is very close to the possible alternate visit to Chipembi, so I will pass on this opportunity.

DUCC (Diaconate of the United Church of Canada) our Regional gathering of the “River DUCCs (diaconal ministers in the Ottawa area) gathered at BCUC on February 8. The theme of this meeting was Spiritual Practices, led and facilitated by me and Rev. Susan Butler-Jones.

As always, thank you for your support and encouragement.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

Just a very short report. The M&P Committee recommends the following leaves be approved by the Board

Rev. Kim Vidal

Rev. Kim requested the following leaves:

February 13-20 for Lenten Study Group preparation (no in progress)

May 15-21 for attendance at the Festival of Homiletics

May 22-28 to use up the last of her 22/23 vacation leave.

May 29-Aug 31 for her sabbatical. She will return to preach September 3.

The Committee approved her requests and will seek concurrence of the Board..

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Rev. Lorrie requested March 13-26 for vacation – approved.

She will possibly take additional vacation time in August, but has yet to confirm.

The Committee approved her requests and will seek concurrence of the Board

Therefore, I request the Board consider the recommendations and agree to the proposed leaves. Since I am chairing the Board meeting, I further request that Board members move and second an appropriate motion

David Stafford
Chair, M&P Committee