

**DRAFT - BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING:** No. 2 – 2023-2024

**DATE & LOCATION:** Apr 19<sup>th</sup>, 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	Norm Pound
Jordan Berard	David Stafford
Susan Young	Ross Mutton
Ellen Boynton	Will Wightman
Sue Morrison (signed in at one point)	Dan Lanoue (M&P)
Bob Ferguson	Rev. Lorrie Lowes

**REGRETS:** Mark McDonald, Desna Sulway, Nicole Beaudry

**GUESTS:** Bob Ferguson

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 1. Opening Remarks** Chair  
David indicated that Dan Langue, a member of the M&P Committee would sit in for him as a voting member to give the M&P report.
- 2. Devotions** David  
  
David spoke to us about the environment.
- 3. Accepting of Corresponding Members** Chair  
Norm made a motion that Bob Ferguson be made a corresponding member for this meeting.  
Approved
- 4. Approval of Agenda** Chair  
David made a motion to accept the agenda be adopted as circulated, Norm seconded. Approved.
- 5. Approval of Minutes** Chair  
5.1. Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- 6. Standing Reports**
  - 6.1. Ministers' Report** (Pages 4-7) Rev. Kim/ Rev. Lorrie  
Rev. Kim made note of her activities since the April meeting, that included:
    - Worship preparation; facilitation of the Lectionary Group and the Seekers Lenten Study group;
    - other CE activities; Pastoral Care to several bereaved BCUC families, with notes on past and

upcoming funerals. She described some of the events and programs to be taken during her Sabbatical Leave starting mid May. The report is attached.

Rev. Lorrie gave an update on her activities, including Pastoral Care, CE, Lectionary study and planning the next Progressive Learning Circle, and facilitating Plan to Protect Training, and outreach fundraising. She mentioned the Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Westend Community Chaplaincy that is being hosted by BCUC April 23 at 2:00 in the afternoon. The report is also attached.

### **Removal from The Historical Role**

**Motion:** Rev. Kim made a motion that the names of Bill Wilson, Betty Bentley; and Margaret Creates be removed from the historic roll due to death. Norm Seconded.

**Approved**

### **6.2. Finance Report (Not included, I'll attach separately)**

Ross Mutton

Ross gave an overview of the budget to the end of February, indicating that a full first quarter report will be made after the Bookkeeper gives the end of March numbers. He mentioned that National Church is working on a method of make available a code for all church members to access and direct givings to various recipients. More later ...

### **6.3. M&P (Page 8)**

David

Dan Lanoue gave the M&P Report, indicating the group will take raining on conducting Staff reviews May 17 – thus the 2023 reviews will be delayed this year; and the absence of the Rev. Lorrie Lowes June 18, attending the OWECC retreat, and Rev Kim will be on sabbatical. The Rev. Victor Lujetic has agreed to act as a Visiting Minister.

**Motion:** Dan made a motion that the M&P recommendation for the absence of the Rev. Lorrie Lowes on June 18, attending the OWECC retreat, while the Rev Kim is on sabbatical and the Rev. Victor Lujetic acting as Visiting Minister be approved. Approved

## **7. Business Arising**

### **7.1. Affirming Process**

Susan

Last meeting, the Board had begun to discuss the “Affirming Process” as outlined in the document “Open Hearts” and agreed to further discuss it at this month’s meeting. See here: :

<https://affirmunited.ause.ca/announcing-a-new-revised-edition-of-our-open-hearts-resource/>

Some of the point raised during discussion included:

- BCUC has been working for a long time to be a welcoming presence in the community
- It was time to expand the welcome to others – to be fully inclusive
- To demonstrate that BCUC is a safe place for all
- That BCUC does not perpetuate the hurt that has been in play (in society) for many years
- Be more explicit in our welcome and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people.

**It was agreed** that Susan Young will take the lead in forming an interest/exploration committee to contact Affirm United and begin working on an Affirming process for BCUC for reflection and study.

Jordan Berard moves that the Board approve and give its blessing to initiating the "Affirming Process" as outlined in the document "Open Hearts". David Seconded.

## 8. New Business

8.1. Advocation of letter promoting GLI to be sent to City Councilor Laine Johnson Will  
Will read a letter of support from Rideau Park UC addressed to their City Councilor for a guaranteed livable Income, with encouragement to other Congregations to follow suite to their own city Councilors.

**It was agreed** that the Secretary (Will) format a letter from the BCUC Board following the Rideau Park example, to be sent to College Ward Councilor Laine Johnson as a sign of our support for GLI.

Jordan made a motion to send a letter promoting GLI to City Councillor Laine Johnson. Will Seconded. Approved.

8.2. Housing on the BCUC property. Bob Ferguson

Bob Ferguson was welcomed by the Board and presented a quick description of the issue of rent to income housing, based partly on previous activities of church committees, recent presentations conducted by the Men's Club over dinner in October 2022, and the current activities in the City of Ottawa by various groups. How might BCUC participate? He agreed to form a small person committee to research the level of interest in the church.

Jordan made a motion that the BCUC Board establish a committee of 3 members to determine if there is enough interest in the church membership to look into using some of the church lands to develop affordable housing and related uses, and that one of our Ministers be on this committee if possible. Rev. Lorrie Lowes showed interest in being that minister. Seconded by Norm. Approved.

## 9. Other Business

9.1. **Devotions:** for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Chair

Jordan offered to do devotion May 17.

9.2. **Chair:** for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Chair

Jordan made the motion and was seconded by Norm that David Stafford Chair the May and June meetings for continuity. **Approved**

10. **Next Meetings:** Chair

10.1. **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

11. **Closing Prayer** Rev. Kim/Rev. Lorrie

12. **Adjournment:** Having completed the approved agenda, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

**MINISTERS' REPORT**  
**BCUC Board Meeting – April 19, 2023**

**Kim's Report:**

Here are the highlights of my ministry from March 23 to April 19, 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.

- **March 26** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent / Lazarus (John)
- **April 2** – Palm Sunday All-Ages Service / Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem (Matthew)
- **April 9** – Easter Sunday / Communion Service / Resurrection of Jesus in Matthew
- **April 16** – 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter – Rev. Lorrie led the service/ Rev. Kim did the Children's Time and Sunday School with Intermediate kids.

**Christian Education:**

- Facilitated the weekly Lectionary Group in the Shalom Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 am on March 28, April 4, and 18.
- Attended the in-person Worship/CE meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm.
- Facilitated the Seekers Lent Study on Elaine Pagels' book, *Beyond belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas* on Mondays, March 27 and April 3.
- Attended the Progressive Learning Circle (PLC) meeting on March 30.
- Engaged the children at worship as storyteller on April 16 and taught Sunday School with the intermediate kids.

**Pastoral & Spiritual Care:**

- I continue to offer pastoral and spiritual care to members and adherents through personal and hospital 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 Communion Service at Stillwater Creek on April 1.
- Attended the Pastoral & Spiritual Care Meeting on April 11.
- Several members and adherents at BCUC have passed away in the last couple of weeks and I met with the bereaved families to plan the service:

- 1- Anne Walker & Family – March 23 planning for Jim Walker's service. It was held on April 1 at BCUC.

- 2- Ian & Ruth Howes – March 28 planning for Alan MacDonald’s service. It was held on April 3 at 11 am in the Shalom Room.
- 3- Andrew & Doug MacNeill – April 5 planning for Bridget MacNeill’s service.
- 4- Wilson Family – April 8 planning for Bill Wilson’s Service. It was held on April 12 at Pinecrest Chapel.
- 5- Alan Bentley & Family – April 13 planning for Betty Bentley’s service. It was held today, April 19 at HPM West Chapel.

**Membership:**

- Motion: To remove Bill Wilson, Betty Bentley & Margaret Creates from the historic roll due to death.

**Other:**

- Attended the EOORC Ministry Personnel Peer Support Group Meeting on March 23 at Fallowfield United Church.

**Sabbatical Leave Update:**

Here are some events/programs that I am attending during my Sabbatical Leave:

Festival of Homiletics – May 15-20, 2023 (Online)  
ReVITALize Conference – June 7-9, 2023, St. Andrew’s United Church, Halifax NS  
Clergy Renewal Retreat Week – July 29-August 5, 2023, Chautauqua, NY

Sincerely,  
**Rev. Kim**

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**Diaconal Minister’s Report to the Board – April 19, 2023**

**Working in Ministry On-line and In Person**

I continue to share in the planning, writing and officiating of the weekly worship service, including the Children’s Story. I led worship on April 16, Easter 2 on the theme of Doubting Thomas.

**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 attended the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Committee on January 17. While on vacation in Edmonton I was able to visit with long-time BCUC member, Catherine Waddell in her new home in Chartwell St. Albert. She sends warm greetings to us all.

I took part in the meeting of the Pastoral and Spiritual care committee on April 11. A “Death Café” is planned for the evening of May 9.

**Christian Education**

Our Sunday School attendance continues to remain pretty steady, with our highest attendance on the Sundays where the CGs and Bell Canto are singing.. 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. This is, of course, unsustainable when Rev. Kim is away and I am leading worship. Johanna Burrows has kindly volunteered to take the older class when she is available. I continue to search for a Youth Coordinator but have had no response from our job posting. Tamara Connors, an ordained Anglican Deacon formerly serving at Christ Church Bells Corners and working some hours as co chaplain with me at OWECC has expressed some interest. She is currently looking for full-time employment but might be able to commit to this position until September. She would be an ideal candidate but needs more hours/ remuneration to help support her family.

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

I continue to work with the Progressive Learning Circle in planning our learning event for October. I am still working on finding a local indigenous presenter to give us the perspective in this part of Canada.

I attended the Worship/CE committee meeting on April 12.

### **Other Committee and Community Work**

I continue to be involved with the Interfaith Bridge Building committee. A learning event about how each faith deals with death and dying is being prepared for May 6 at the Jami Omar mosque.

I facilitated a Plan to Protect Orientation Training for the Property Committee, Nursery folks and Erin as a Sunday School teacher and children's choir director, on May 3. I will be offering this training again on the evening of May 1 for the Board of OWECC and invite any BCUC folks who still require it and those who are interested to join us. At this point training has been completed for the Board and Trustees, M&P, Pastoral and Spiritual Care, Sunday School & Nursery, Property Committee, and most staff. I am now in the process of creating or amending the forms required and working on our Duty of care policy and procedures documents.

### **Outreach**

Zambia Partnership - We continue to organize fundraising (Mission Exposure Fund) for a delegation from BCUC to travel to Zambia to celebrate the opening of the building. We held two successful fundraising events on Sunday, April 2 with a Dessert Auction during Fellowship Time after the service and an Art Journaling Workshop in the afternoon. A total of \$850 was raised that day.

I continue to serve on the Board of Directors for OWECC both as a volunteer and with five hours a week as a paid chaplain. We met on April 12. The AGM will be held at BCUC on Sunday, April 23 and will feature a speaker from the Carlington community Chaplaincy. All are welcome

I attend the monthly meetings of SOSA and help with planning the Minute for Socail Action each month as well as other projects.

### **Other**

I am on Study Leave April 17-30 to attend a meeting and study session of DUCC (Diaconate of the United Church of Canada) Ontario members in Paris, Ontario on April 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> and to work on the Plan to Protect projects. I will be on vacation the following week.

The Midrash Study with a group of Diaconal Ministers from the Ottawa area has resumed. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday morning. We also gathered on Friday, April 14 to view and discuss the movie, “Women Talking” from a social justice

Our local River DUCCs met on the evening of March 30 to virtually attend the AGM of the Centre for Christian Studies.

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 Sabbatical and is very close to the possible alternate visit to Chipembi, so I will pass on this opportunity.

As always, thank you for your support and encouragement.

**Respectfully submitted, Rev. Lorrie Lowes**



**M&P Report to the Board April 20, 2023**

The M&P Committee last met April 12, 2023.

**Training:** M&P members will attend a EOOR Training course on performing Staff Reviews on May 17. Consequently, BCUC Staff Reviews will be conducted over the summer/early fall.

**Leaves:** The Rev Lorrie will be away June 18, attending the OWECC retreat, and Rev Kim will be on sabbatical. The Rev. Victor Lujetic has agreed to act as a Visiting Minister for that Sunday. Worship/CE Committee has been apprised.

Ellen Boynton has requested leave for April 26 and May 24 thru June 4. Ruth Timms will cover during her absences.

A reminder that the Rev. Kim will commence her Leave/Sabbatical May 15, returning September 3, 2023

Motion: The M&P Committee recommends the absences of the Rev Lorrie Lowes on June 18 be approved.

David Stafford,  
Chair