

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

**MEETING:** No. 3 – 2023-2024

**DATE & LOCATION:** May 17<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:**

Nicole Beaudry	Norm Pound
Rev. Lorrie Lowes	David Stafford
Susan Young	Ross Mutton
Ellen Boynton	Will Wightman

**REGRETS:** Rev. Kim Vidal, Mark McDonald, Desna Sulway, Jordan Berard

**GUESTS:** N/A

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

• **Opening Remarks** Chair

• **Devotions** Ellen

Ellen spoke to us about how to be a flourishing church.

• **Accepting of Corresponding Members** Chair

No corresponding members.

• **Approval of Agenda** Chair

Norm moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Susan Seconded. Approved.

• **Approval of Minutes** Chair

Apr 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – it was noted that Ellen was not present at the April 19 meeting and her name was removed.

**Additional Business arising**

- Via e-mail change (Wording in section 7.1, Business Arising. Completed)
- Ross moved that the Minutes be approved as amended, Susan seconded. Approved.

• **Standing Reports**

• **Ministers’ Report (Pages 3-5)** Rev. Kim/ Rev. Lorrie

• Youth Co-ordinator has started - The Rev. Deacon Tamara Connors was hired by the Worship/CE Committee to work at reestablishing the activities of the Youth of the Church.

• Date is/has been finalized for the trip to Zambia to the first two weeks of Aug.

• Membership Role will need to be updated via e-mail.

- Ellen moved that the following new members by transfer be added to the roles at BCUC.  
Norm Seconded. Approved

- Dana Ducette
- Wayne Digby
- Maggie McGugan
- Chris Brown

- **Finance Report (Page 6)**

Ross

Ross spoke to us about the finances with the number running similar to last year.

- **M&P** David

There was no M&P report this month.

- **Business Arising**

- **Affirming Process**

- Contact has been made with Affirm United
- Gave permission to tell that we are embarking on that process.
- Susan would like to talk to the congregation on June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Work will be ongoing throughout the summer.

Susan made a motion to talk to the congregation on June 4<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Rev. Lorrie where she will talk about the process and what it is, and that we have begun that process.

- **New Business**

- **Draft Abuse Policy**

Rev. Lorrie

The Board will read up to page 22 for an in-depth discussion of the document Rev. Lorrie sent out.

- Some wrinkles are being ironed out.
- We need to review the document.
- It is suggested from Plan to Protect to review and update the document every year.
- The policy is being reviewed and we will continue to review it. It is looking positive.

- **Other Business**

- **Devotions:** for Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Chair

We volunteered Jordan if that works for him.

- **Chair:** for Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Chair

David will chair the next meeting.

- **Next Meetings:**

Chair

- **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

- **Closing Prayer**

- **Rev. Lorrie led closing prayers.**

Rev. Kim/Rev. Lorrie

- **Adjournment:** Having completed the agenda items, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM



## **Diaconal Minister's Report to the Board – May, 17 2023 – Rev. L.Lowes**

### **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. As of May 15, I will be leading worship each Sunday while Rev. Kim is on sabbatical. Pastor Victor Lujetic has kindly agreed to fill in for me if I need to be absent. This will happen on June 18 as I will be at Camp Otterdale for the OWECC Weekend Away with people from the neighbourhoods served by the chaplaincy. I will likely also be away for a couple of Sundays in August on a Partnership Visit to Chipembi, Zambia.

### **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 took part in the "Death Café" offered by the Pastoral & Spiritual care Committee on the evening of May 9. It was well attended by people from BCUC and the wider community – a great evening of open discussion!

I officiated the Celebration of Life for June McLean on May 15.

### **Christian Education**

Our Sunday School attendance continues to remain pretty steady Sue Morrison and Johanna Burrows have taken on the teaching of the classes on a regular basis on Sunday mornings. We are at the point now, however that we really need a teacher for the Preschool age group as the age spread from 4-10 is very difficult to keep engaged at the same time.

Our exciting news is that we have hired a Youth coordinator! The Rev. Deacon Tamara Connors began working with the UP Group on May 7 and has committed to being with us until September. She seems to already have them engaged – they plan to lead the service on Pentecost Sunday, May 28!

Regular Sunday School classes will continue until June 11, ending that week with an outdoor service and Sunday School Picnic. Tamara Connors has agreed to lead the one-room Sunday School program through the summer months.

I co-facilitate the weekly Lectionary Study with Rev. Kim and prepare the materials for the weeks that I will be leading worship. We plan to continue meeting through May and June with a final session at my home where we can use the labyrinth.

I continue to work with the Progressive Learning Circle in planning our learning event for October. We have two speakers from the Indigenous church of the UCC coming as guest Speakers: Rev. Tony Snow from Calgary, Alberta and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-

Cole from Glebe St. James here in Ottawa. Rev. Tony Snow has also offered to facilitate a Blanket Exercise on the Saturday afternoon.

I attended the Worship/CE committee meeting on May 3.

### **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 that was planned for May 6 has been postponed to the fall.

I facilitated a Plan to Protect Orientation Training for the Board of OWECC on May 1 Lynda Ward from BCUC joined us for that training. There are just a few more people that are in positions of trust at BCUC who have not yet completed the training.

I have created a draft Abuse Prevention Policy for BCUC which was sent to you last week. I hope we will find time to discuss this at tonight's meeting.

### **Outreach**

Zambia Partnership – Plans are now being firmed up for a Partnership Visit to Chipembi during the first two weeks of August. The purpose of the visit is two-fold: to celebrate the opening of the new building and to aid in the planning and implementation of Camp Chipembi, an annual day camp program facilitated by Young Adults from both Ottawa and Chipembi. All ages are welcome to join us on this visit and we hope to be able to include two young adults from BCUC to help with the day camp.

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. The AGM was held at BCUC on Sunday, April 23 and featured a speaker from the Carlington Community Chaplaincy. A "Weekend Away" for folks from the neighbourhoods we serve will take place at Camp Otterdale from Friday, June 16 to Sunday, June 18.

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

### **Other**

The Midrash Study with a group of Diaconal Ministers from the Ottawa area continues. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday morning. We will pause for the summer after our meeting on May 29.

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**

## **Quarterly Financial Report to BCUC Congregation – Quarter ending March 31, 2023**

As this is the end of the first quarter, the target numbers are at 25%. Thanks to the continued generosity of members of the church total revenue to the end of March was \$91,967 which represents 19% of budgeted revenue, slightly off target. Envelope givings are at 18% of projected, the same as last year. PAR givings sit at 24%. Rental income projection has been readjusted upward taking into consideration last years number, are doing well at 23%. Income does not include the Garage Sale which will be included in the next quarterly report.

The continued endeavour of committees to keep expenses at a minimum led to total expenses at 23% of target, so we are holding the line on our expenses as was the case last year. We continue to meet our commitments in support and service.

The budget for this year projected a \$20,000 deficit. I am confident that as was the case last year, we will be able to balance the budget by year end. Your continued support of BCUC is greatly appreciated and allows us to make a difference.

Ross Mutton, Treasurer