

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

**MEETING:** No. 4 – 2023-2024

**DATE & LOCATION:** June 21<sup>st</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:**

Bob Ferguson	Norm Pound
Rev. Lorrie Lowes	David Stafford
Susan Young	Ross Mutton
Ellen Boynton	Will Wightman
	Dan Lanoue (M&P)

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

**GUESTS:** Bob Ferguson

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

1. **Opening Remarks** Chair
2. **Devotions** Ellen  

Ellen talked about balance and harmony.
3. **Accepting of Corresponding Members** Chair  

Norm made a motion to accept corresponding members, Lorrie Seconded.
4. **Approval of Agenda** Chair  

David made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** Chair
  - 5.1. May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  

David made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Carried.
6. **Standing Reports**
  - 6.1. **Ministers' Report (Pages 3-5)** Rev. Kim/ Rev. Lorrie  

Discussion was had about Camp Chipembi, costs involved and whom was going.  
Norm moved that Rev. Lorrie, Wendy Morell, Alex Price, Kael Fowler are representing BCUC on the Aug Zambia partnership visit. Susan seconded. Approved.
  - 6.2. **Finance Report** Ross Mutton  

Finances are tracking the same as they were in March and are comparable to last year.
  - 6.3. **M&P (Page 6)** Dan on behalf of M&P

Dan Lanoue made a motion that the Board accepts the recommendations for leave and compensation. Norm seconded. Approved.

Discussion was had about the AV budget and how compensation should be addressed.

## 7. Business Arising

### 7.1. Affordable Housing

Bob Ferguson

Rev. Lorrie made a motion to receive the comments coming from the survey question. Dan seconded. Approved. 66% of respondents wanted to have a feasibility study committee to be formed. Bob will send his suggestions to the board's chair and people will be approached to be on the committee. Norm moves that we receive the report of the survey and that a committee be formed to investigate affordable housing and related uses for church property further. Ross Seconded. Carried.

### 7.2. Property Management (electronic sign)

Ross Mutton

The property management electronic sign has raised 50% of their fund raising goal. There has been some talk of purchasing the sign prior to the full amount being raised and taking a short term loan from the Stinson fund.

Ross made a motion, should Property Management wish to proceed with the installation of a new electronic sign prior to receiving full funding from directed funds, that the balance of costs be funded through a loan from the Stinson Fund. That loan is to be repaid as funds continue to be raised for the project. Rev. Lorrie seconded. Approved.

### 7.3. Expense Compensation for Regional Delegates: What is our policy?

David

David will write a policy and submit it to the board with approval.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Draft Abuse Policy

Rev. Lorrie

We reviewed the first 22 pages of the Draft Abuse Policy. It was decided that we read the document over the summer.

## 9. Other Business

### 9.1. Devotions: for Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair

Lorrie volunteered.

### 9.2. Chair: for Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair

David made a motion to have Jordan chair the meeting in Sept, Dan seconded. Carried.

## 10. Next Meetings:

Chair

### 10.1. Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 11. Closing Prayer

Rev. Kim/Rev. Lorrie

## **Diaconal Minister's Report to the Board – June 21 2023 – Rev. L. Lowes**

### **Leading Worship**

In the absence of Rev. Kim, I have been leading worship each Sunday following May 14 and will continue until her return in September. This involves creating the liturgy, including readings and prayers and choosing the hymns, finding folks to light the Christ Candle and to lead the Time for the Young at Heart, and creating the power point slides for the service – and Sunday morning. I have also been creating the Sunday School lessons up until our outdoor service and picnic on June 11. The May 28 Pentecost service was led by our amazing UP Group with leadership from Tamara Connors! I contributed by sharing resources, creating the slides and the full service text.

The June 11 service was conducted outdoors on the labyrinth with a focus on “Joy!” and was followed by a bbq and Sunday School picnic.

On June 18, the Rev. Dr. Victor Lujetic led the service as I was away at Camp Otterdale for the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy “Weekend Away”. I assisted Rev. Victor by preparing the liturgy, the full service text, and the slides for the service, while he offered the sermon and Prayers of the People. I am so grateful to have wonderfully capable people in our congregation who can help in times like this!

### **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 officiated the Celebration of Life for P. David Webster on June 16. Dave Webster was not a member of our congregation but I certainly enjoyed meeting with his family and learning about his incredible life. Her Excellency Mary Simon attended the service, along with her husband, as Mr. Webster was not only a recipient of the Order of Canada but also a long-time friend and they share grandchildren with David and Sally Webster. Other dignitaries in attendance were a retired senator and a retired MP from Nunavut. Susan Aglukark sent a personal video message to the family and sang Amazing Grace in Inuktituk for her long-time friend and mentor. It was an honour to officiate this service – and quite an exciting afternoon at BCUC!

### **Christian Education**

Our regular Sunday School classes ended for the summer with the June 11 service and we will switch to a one-room schoolhouse model for the summer. This will be coordinated by Tamara Connors using a program that we purchased a few years ago and will recycle for this year.

The Lectionary Study group held it's final regular Tuesday morning session yesterday. We will end the season with a meeting at my home for a Labyrinth Walk and pot luck picnic next Tuesday, June 27 and then break until the fall.

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 and will offer the sermon for our congregation that Sunday.

I attended the Worship/CE committee meeting on June 7.

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

I continue to be involved with the Interfaith Bridge Building committee. I attended a meeting of this committee on the evening of June 5 at Jami Omar. A learning event about how each faith deals with death and dying that was planned for May 6 has been postponed to the fall. Our Annual Interfaith dinner is planned for September 30 at Jami Omar.

I have created a draft Abuse Prevention Policy for BCUC which was sent to you last month. I hope we will find time to discuss the first section of the policy at tonight's meeting.

### **Outreach**

Zambia Partnership – Plans are now being firmed up for a Partnership Visit to Chipembi. Wendy Morrell, Alex Price and Kael Fowler, along with me, will represent BCUC on this visit. No delegates are going from Emmanuel UC this year. We will fly from Ottawa on August 3 and return on August 21. The purpose of the visit is three-fold: to celebrate the opening of the new building, to plan for next steps 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. Alex and Kael will be working with the local young adults to lead the camp. Wendy and I expect to be helping once the camp is in session and will also be meeting with the local committee of our partnership to plan future work together.

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. This past weekend, Camp Otterdale hosted 19 people from the social housing neighbourhoods from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, two families of 6 dropped out at the last minute and our numbers were not as high as expected, but all who attended had a wonderful experience. Bus transportation, all meals, accommodation, and programming were included. Thanks to generous donations from BCUC and other supporting churches, we were able to subsidize the costs greatly and charge the social housing folks just \$30/person or \$70/family. The meals, the activities – and even the weather – were spectacular! We are already planning for a return next summer.

I attend the monthly meetings of SOSA and help with planning the Minute for Social Action each month in addition to reporting on the outreach programs I am involved with.

### **Other**

I attended the spring meeting of EOORC on May 26 and 27 in Brockville. Also in attendance from BCUC were Nicole Beaudry, Desna Sulway, Dana Ducette, and Camille Lipsett. We were well represented! It was an invigorating meeting with Rev. Michael Blair, UCC General Secretary, and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole as keynote speakers. The Region voted unanimously at this meeting to become an Affirming Region. A vote was also taken in response to Remit 1 (Creating an autonomous governance of the Indigenous Church of the UCC) which was also passed with only one vote against the motion. These are two matters that BCUC will also be studying this year. A vote from our Board on Remit 1 is due in March of 2024 and we are reminded that failure to send in a vote counts as a vote **against** the remit.

I attended a one-day Clergy Retreat at Kitchissippi UC on Thursday, June 15. This retreat was coordinated by our own Rev. Kim Vidal and Rev. Jenni Leslie.

The Midrash Study with a group of Diaconal Ministers from the Ottawa area has paused 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.

As always, thank you for your support and encouragement.  
**Respectfully submitted, Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

The M&P Committee last met April 17, 2023

### **Leave:**

Both Ellen and Ruth have requested leave, and both are prepared to cover each other's absences.

Dates for Ellen are June 21; for Ruth October 2, 3, 9, &10

Rev Lorrie has requested an extension of her trip to Africa (Chipembi) to Sunday, August 20. It will allow her to accompany the main party on local excursions and will save on Air Fare. The Committee agreed.

Abe teGrotenhuis is expecting to take vacation in the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks in August. No firm dates are decided. He is working on finding music replacements for the Sundays he is away. The Committee has agreed to give him \$1,000 as part of the compensation for the added work he does on technical aspects of worship. Funds to be drawn from the M&P Directed Fund.

#### Replacement Minsters

During the August absence of the Rev. Lorrie Lowes, the Rev. Dr. Victor Lujetic will preach on August 6, the Rev Deacon Tamara Connors will preach on August 13, and hopefully, a former BCUC minister will preach on August 20.

#### Annual Staff Interviews

In May, the committee attended an EOR Regional workshop on annual interviews. All things considered, the group believes they are well prepared and versed in interviewing and have decided to make no changes to the process.

**Motion: (Dan Lanoue) that the Board accepts the recommendations for leave and compensation.**