

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

**MEETING:** No. 5 – 2023-2024

**DATE & LOCATION:** Sept 20<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:**

Bob Ferguson	Norm Pound
Rev. Lorrie Lowes	David Stafford
Susan Young	Ross Mutton
Ellen Boynton	Will Wightman
Rev. Kim Vidal	Nicole Beaudry
	Jordan Berard

**REGRETS:** Mark McDonald, Desna Sulway, Sue Morrison

**GUESTS:** Bob Ferguson

1. **Opening Remarks** Chair

2. **Devotions** Rev. Lorrie

Lorrie spoke to us on what makes a church session work.

3. **Accepting of Corresponding Members** Chair

Norm made a motion to accept Bob Ferguson as a corresponding member, David Seconded.  
Approved.

4. **Approval of Agenda** Chair

Lorrie made a motion to approve the Agenda and David seconded. Approved.

5. **Approval of Minutes** Chair

5.1. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Kim would like to have an update on the affirming ministry next month as a standing report.

Ellen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Rev. Lorrie.

Approved.

6. **Standing Reports**

6.1. **Ministers' Report (Pages 4-10)** Rev. Kim/ Rev. Lorrie

MOTION 1: Moved by Rev. Kim, seconded by Ellen, to remove Ida Blackwell and Doug Noble from the historic roll due to death. Approved.

MOTION 2: Moved by Rev. Kim, seconded by Ellen to remove Joan and Brian Hicks from the historic roll due to membership transfer to St. Paul's in Perth, ON. Approved.

**6.2. Finance Report**

Ross

**Quarterly Financial Report to BCUC Congregation – Quarter ending June 30, 2023**

As this is the end of the second quarter, the target numbers are at 50%. Thanks to the continued generosity of members of the church total revenue to the end of June was \$137,750 which represents 41% of budgeted revenue, slightly off target. Envelope givings are at 33% of projected, similar to last year, PAR givings sit at 49%. Rental income continues to do well at 50%. The garage sale achieved 80% of targeted revenue – thanks to all involved. Even though we have no one on Sundays selling Loblaws and other gift cards, that income has already reached 90% of goal.

The continued endeavour of committees to keep expenses at a minimum led to total expenses at 47% 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 electronic sign fund has reached a donation point of \$20,640 which is approximately 66% of anticipated cost.

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

**6.3. M&P (Page 11)**

David

**7. Business Arising**

**7.1. Draft Abuse Policy**

Rev. Lorrie

Reminder to read Pages 23 to the end of the document and provide feedback.

Rev. Lorrie would like to get a small subcommittee to review and update the document and bring it back to the board. Susan and Norm will join Lorrie to do this work. It was mentioned that Sue Morrison might help out as well if she was asked.

**7.2. Nominations**

Ellen

Ellen nominates Bev Graham in joining the SOSA Committee. Rev. Lorrie seconded. Approved.

**8. New Business**

**8.1. FAMSAC benefit concert**

Rev. Kim

The St. Martin Knights of Columbus will proceed with a FAMSAC benefit concert this Nov. 25 at 7:15 p.m. with the Hogtown Brass Quintet. All proceeds after expenses are going to FAMSAC, our local food bank. St. Martin de Porres sanctuary has been booked for this event, as well as that church's parish hall. This will be the week after the Christmas bazaars and will make an ideal time to stage a Christmas/Advent themed concert. We are working on getting the quintet to play 5 local schools on Thursday and Friday (both Catholic and public) as a way to supplement their income while they are here.

They are looking for BCUC to show willingness to promote this event and sell tickets. Last year's concert drew people from all three parishes as well as local schools and the wider community. It's a great opportunity to make a difference for FAMSAC as they settle into their

new home next door to CCBC and Our Lady of Peace School. The board is pleased to endorse and approves.

**8.2. Review other Policies**

David

The policies are very much out of date and need to be updated. The work in updating the dates on the policies will be done soon.

**8.3. Remit on the Indigenous Church**

Nicole

<https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>

This remit was proposed by the 44th General Council and needs to be voted on by members. This vote needs to be submitted by March.

**8.4. Feasibility of using BCUC land for housing**

Bob

Bob has recruited members (Sally Lujetic, Dan Lanoue, Bob Wright, Camille Lipsett, Harold Yule, Angela Starchuk, Larry Ryan, Bob Ferguson, Rev. Lorrie Lowes) to form the committee to study the use of BCUC land for housing.

**Motion:** Rev. Lorrie moves to approve the members of the Church Land Use Study Committee. Seconded by Susan. Approved.

**8.5. French Ministry**

Nicole

Nicole spoke to us about a new magazine which has been launched. <https://moncredo.org/>

**9. Other Business**

9.1. **Devotions:** for Wednesday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair

Ross volunteered to do the devotions for the next meeting.

9.2. **Chair:** for Wednesday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair

Jordan will take on the Chair for the next meeting.

**10. Next Meetings:**

Chair

10.1. **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023.

We will attempt a hybrid model for the next board meeting.

**11. Closing Prayer**

Rev. Kim/Rev. Lorrie

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

**Kim's Report:**

**Sabbatical Leave Update:**

Dates: May 15 – August 29, 2023

The sabbatical time gave me the space needed for self-rest, self-care and self-engagement in rich and meaningful ways. It also gave me the opportunity to reflect on my role as BCUC's minister with a refreshed way of looking at my vocational call. It made me intentionally conscious of self-care and wellness. I viewed the sabbatical period as pulling off into a "rest area"—a time to pause and stop for a while as we continue the journey of our ministry together--a journey that has now continued for ten years.

Here are some events/programs that I have attended during my Sabbatical Leave:

**Learning Events / Professional Development:**

**Festival of Homiletics – May 15-20, 2023 (Online)**

The Festival of Homiletics is a weeklong annual conference that brings together clergy and lay participants to listen and be inspired by a wide variety of outstanding preachers, theologians and professors of Homiletics (art of preaching). The theme for this year's festival was "Preaching Hope for A Weary World".

**reVITALize Conference – June 7-9, 2023, St. Andrew's United Church, Halifax NS**

reVITALize is an annual gathering for ministry leaders and lay people to get together, refresh, learn some new things, be supported, build a community, and get inspired.

**Self-Care / Spiritual Development:**

**Day Clergy Retreat: Healing Connections, June 15, 2023, Kitchissippi UC**

I assisted Rev. Jenni Leslie (Kitchissippi UC) in putting together a one-day clergy retreat. The program included worship and music, reflections, embodied prayers, conversations, a meal and a guided forest meditation led by Andrea Pramowzski. It was attended by 14 clergy, including Rev. Lorrie.

**Clergy Renewal Retreat Week – July 29-August 5, 2023, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY – Hosted by the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons (IOKDS)**

Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit, 750-acre community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State, 45 minutes from Buffalo and 2 hours from Rochester. I attended the retreat with Ken. We were given free accommodation at Bonnie Hall, owned by IOKDS, breakfast and lunch, and a pass to attend the programs.

Chautauqua Institution is dedicated to the exploration of the best in human values and the enrichment of life through a weekly program that explores the important religious, social and political issues of our times; stimulates provocative, thoughtful involvement of individuals and families in creative response to such issues; and promotes excellence and creativity in the appreciation, performance and teaching of the arts. We were there on Week 6 and the theme for the week was "Life of Literature". The whole experience was phenomenal! And the place was magical! I will speak more about our experience at the Asian Dinner on Sept 22.

**WORSHIP LIFE**

Visiting other churches gave me the opportunity to sit in the pew as a worshiper and outside BCUC. It also gave me the opportunity to learn what ministries each church was doing that were different from BCUC. It was fascinating to observe how I was treated as a visitor, how effective or ineffective they were in their communication and publicity, and the value of a spacious parking lot. I also observed how many showed up in

summer services and the resources they used for worship.

Attended Sunday Worship Services at: Knox, Stittsville, Riverside, Emmanuel

Tuned in to the BCUC Worship Service by Livestream

Various worship services at Chautauqua Institution, the Festival of Homiletics, revitalize Conference and the Clergy Day Retreat.

### **TRAVEL / FAMILY TIME**

Aside from personal time at home, the Kim Family managed to travel to some places in the US.

**June 20-28** We visited family and friends in California - Los Angeles, San Diego, San Pedro, Anaheim, Redondo Beach, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach and Poway.

**July 29 – August 5** – Attended the Clergy Renewal Week in New York – Chautauqua, Buffalo, Rochester

**August 6** - Visited the City of Boston, MA while waiting for our flight to Fort Lauderdale.

**August 7-10** – Visited family in Florida – Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale, Miami

### **PERSONAL LIFE**

Most valuable of all was simply the chance to slow down, and rest, and listen/feel for God's presence in myriad ways. I had rich and unrushed times of prayer, morning devotions, readings, some writing and focusing on daily health & wellness through gardening, walking, running the treadmill, Tai-Chi and a daily napping time!

Finally, I would like to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the BCUC congregation for the gift of sabbatical for helping me achieve my goals. Also, my gratitude goes to Rev. Lorrie for leading the congregation during my absence and to several pulpit supply ministers: Rev. Victor Lujetic, Rev. Tamara Connors and Rev. Brian Copeland.

I reported back to work on August 29 and here are the highlights of my ministry from Sept 1-20, 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.

- **September 3** – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / First Sunday back
- **September 10** – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Creation Time 1
- **September 17** – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Creation Time 2

Bells Corners Union Cemetery Memorial Service @ 2 pm held at the Christ Church Chapel.

### **Christian Education:**

- Facilitated the weekly Lectionary Group in the Shalom Room on Tuesday at 10:30 am on Sept. 12.
- Attended the in-person Worship/CE meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 pm.
- Attended the Progressive Learning Circle (PLC) meeting on Sept. 7.

**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.
- Attended the Pastoral & Spiritual Care Meeting on Sept 19.

**BCUC Events:**

- Attended the talk on Affordable Housing with College Ward Councillor, Laine Johnson on Sept. 12 at 7 pm. This was hosted by the BCUC Men's Club.
- Attended the UCW Potluck Meeting on Sept. 13, 6 pm with Alison Bridgewater as guest speaker. She shared her dragon boat experience in New Zealand. Marion Dugas was awarded a pin for lifetime membership.
- Organizing an Asian Dinner on Sept 22 at 6:30 pm in the Main Hall. I will share the highlights of my sabbatical leave during that gathering.

**Other:**

- My annual review was held on Sept 18 with M&P Committee reps, Dan Lanoue and Johanna Burrows.
- Joined a Clergy Lunch and Meet Up on Sept 13.

Very truly yours,  
**Rev. Kim**

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**Diaconal Minister's Report to the Board – September 20, 2023**

**Leading Worship**

In the absence of Rev. Kim, I led worship each Sunday from May 15 until her return in September. This involved 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 officiating Sunday morning.

### **Pastoral Care**

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

I prepared the Celebration of Life service for Ida Blackwell. Rev. Don McLean officiated on August 3 as this was the day we left for the Zambia Partnership visit.

I will facilitate a workshop on Compassionate Listening next Tuesday evening, September 26.

### **Christian Education**

I continued to work with the Progressive Learning Circle in planning our learning event for October coordinating with the two speakers from the Indigenous church of the UCC Rev. Tony Snow from Calgary, Alberta and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole from Glebe St. James here in Ottawa.

I served as chaplain for Camp Awesome from July 10 to 14 when it was offered here at BCUC. This involves leading the staff in morning devotions each day and being a presence during the camp activities.

I attended the Worship/CE committee meeting on September 6.

I have created the Sunday School lessons up until our outdoor service and picnic on June 11. Throughout the summer, Tamara Connors and I created programming for a “one-room school” approach to include all children attending. We have resumed regular Sunday School and Youth Group as of September 10. We have some wonderful volunteers but certainly need more. At present we have two Sunday School classes (Beginners and Junior/Intermediate) and the UP Group. I write the curriculum for these classes and prepare the materials for Sunday morning. Tamara Connors has now resumed her work with the Anglican Church and so we are seeking someone to lead the UP Group. In the meantime, I am leading that group. There is interest as well in forming a Young Adult group, but at present have had no one come forward to lead it.

Registration forms are coming in (slowly). I will plan for a Plan to Protect Workshop for new teachers and others who require the training in the near future.

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

I continue to be involved with the Interfaith Bridge Building committee. I attended meetings of this committee on the evenings of July 17 and September 14 by Zoom with the main agenda item being the Interfaith Dinner which will be held at the mosque on September 30.

Tickets for this event are available from the church office or through Alison Bridgewater. After 6 years of service, Alison has stepped down as chair and recording secretary for the Interfaith Bridgebuilding Committee.

I have created a draft Abuse Prevention Policy for BCUC which was sent to you in the spring. I am wondering if the best way to revise and get this policy document ready for Board Approval would be to strike a sub-committee rather than trying to deal with the document as a whole board at this stage. We are also in need of someone to volunteer to take over the administrative part of this portfolio – keeping files up to date, etc.

### **Outreach**

Zambia Partnership – Wendy Morrell, Alex Price and Kael Fowler, along with me, represented BCUC on the visit to Chipembi from August 3 to 21. We will be reporting on, and celebrating, this visit in the worship service on September 24. Our flight left Ottawa in the early morning hours of Thursday, August 3 and we landed in Lusaka in the early afternoon of the following day. We spent Saturday acclimating to the time change and getting settled at Makumba Farm. We attended church on Sunday morning, and then the Zambian Young Adult Leaders for Camp Chipembi moved in to the farm that evening to begin the planning for camp. Wendy and I, plus 2 “grandmothers” who were brought in from Lusaka on Sunday, were part of the planning team over the next 3 days. It was an amazing process! Omega has taught them well over the 10 years that Camp Chipembi has been happening.

On Tuesday, I was asked to officiate a memorial service for Omega at the family burial plot in the centre of the 3 family farms.

On Wednesday morning, the visiting team from Canada and the two women from Lusaka had an audience with Chief Chamuka at his Palace. He was pleased to share with us the projects that he is working on for the people of his region. He is a very hardworking, wise and compassionate Tribal Chief. We delivered medical supplies donated by the Carleton Place IDA Pharmacy and an organization called “Not Just Tourists” to the Medical Clinic in Chipembe. (Four suitcases of supplies in total.)

Camp started Thursday morning. On Wednesday it was discovered that they had over 200 registrations for 105 planned spots. After many calls to families offering regrets, 120 children ended up being welcomed through the door on Thursday morning. Wendy and I accompanied the party who were returning the grandmothers to Lusaka to shop for more food, dishes, and other supplies to accommodate the extra children. It is a three hour drive each way, so it was a full day excursion! We were able to see a bit more of the capital city in our travels including teeming markets and slum districts as well as the more modern government buildings in the downtown area.

On the rest of the camp days, Wendy and I assisted with the groups, helped serve the lunch, and with the clean-up afterward – which included washing dishes. No disposable cups and plates here!

On Friday, Wendy and I scoped out the new building.

Sunday’s camp activity included the worship service. I preached and served communion. Wendy led us in some movement/dance, Alex read the scripture... On Sunday afternoon/evening, Albert Chituka, the Director of the Chipembi Girls’ Secondary School treated us to a visit to the Chaminuka Game Reserve.



We finally met with the local Partnership Committee on Monday and got to the bottom of the unfinished state of the building. In short, the building is complete except for 5 interior doors, some drainage tile around the outside, and paint. We made arrangements for paint to be purchased the next morning and painters to do the work that day in preparation for the official opening of the building. One other point of discussion with the Partnership Committee was the feeling that we should forego another building project at this time but work on building the relationship amongst the 3 partner communities this year. We will be able to tell you more about that after meeting with the folks from Emmanuel UC. We also committed to purchasing a drum kit for the Young Adult “Praise Team” at the church, many of whom were also Camp Chipembi Leaders.

Tuesday was the last day of camp. The leaders all gathered once again at Makumba Farm for a debrief and celebration. Wendy and I attended the building opening.

On Wednesday morning, we left Makumba Farm before dawn for a 10-hour drive to Livingston with Mwai and Naomi Bula. On Thursday we took part in a boat excursion on the Zambezi River and a game drive in Botswana’s Chobe Park, and on Friday we visited Victoria Falls – amazing! – and enjoyed a sunset cruise. Saturday we made the long drive back to Lusaka where we stayed overnight. Sunday we began our long flight home, arriving back in Ottawa late Monday afternoon – tired, but inspired!

This is a brief report that really doesn’t do justice to the learning, the relationship building, and the global awareness we experienced in those two and a half weeks. You will be hearing stories for a long time to come. Camp Chipembi is offered on an annual basis. I hope to return next year and we are encouraging Kael Fowler to do so as well. It would not only be a great confidence building experience for him but he is a wonderful asset to the program itself. There has been interest expressed from a few other members of BCUC in taking part next summer as well. To this end, the “Wrap It Up” Vendor Market is in the planning stages and will take place at BCUC on December 16.

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 as a board on September 11. I helped facilitate a Sunday afternoon Prayer Circle at Regina Towers throughout the summer. I also helped with collecting and delivering school backpacks to Pinecrest Terrace just before Labour Day. A Christmas Concert Fundraiser for OWECC is planned for Sunday, Dec. 3 at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church featuring choirs from the churches that support OWECC, including ours from BCUC.

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.

On July 5, I represented our congregation at a vigil for LGBT2S+ youth at Kanata UC who had been threatened with a violent demonstration.

I marched in the Capital Pride Parade with other United Church folks from our region.

## **Other**

I will be officiating an off-site wedding for Gillian McKellar and Daniel McKenzie at the Mill of Kintail on September 29.

I will be officiating the wedding of Victoria Verbruggen and Markus Esnard at BCUC on October 21.

The Midrash Study with a group of Diaconal Ministers from the Ottawa area resumes on October 2.

DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean) hold a prayer gathering (zoom) 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**

## M&P Report to the BCUC Board September 20, 2023

### Leave:

The Committee agreed to Rev. Lorrie's request for leave from October 2-10 (includes an extra day for Thanksgiving Monday).

### Study Leave

Rev Kim October 16 to 22 to prepare Liturgy for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

### Reimbursement

The M&P Committee has approved reimbursement to the Rev. Lorrie for her EOORC meeting expenses for Hotel.

2023 Staff Interviews are underway with five staff members.

Ruth Timms will soon have 5 years of service, and her vacation pay will increase from 4% to 6% in 2024 under the Ontario Employment standards.

Rick Morrison will have 2024 budget numbers as soon as the UCC and RCCO publish its minimum scales.

### Sabbatical

Rev. Kim gave a detailed report on her recent Sabbatical, from which she has returned, energized and excited ...

Regarding the expected Sabbatical of the Rev. Lorrie Lowes, due to a miscalculation, it appears Lorie is not actually eligible until 2025 to take sabbatical next year as planned. Based on current UCC policy, Rev Lorrie was Commissioned in October 2020, so she has only acquired three-years of expedience as a Commissioned Minister. In spite of her vast experience as a Congregational Designated Minister and as a Student Minister, she is not eligible until 2025, unless the Congregations wishes to grant her time off to which I may speak at the next meeting

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David Stafford  
Chair