
DRAFT BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: No. 10 - 2019 – 2020

DATE & LOCATION: June 17th, 2020 7:00 pm held virtually on webex

PURPOSE: To carry out the business of BCUC Church Board

CHAIR: John MacFarlane.

PRESENT:

Rev. Kim Vidal	Norm Pound
Jordan Berard	Lyn Hall
Ellen Boynton	Desna Sulway
Bill Johnson	Will Wightman
John MacFarlane	

GUESTS: Jan P., Neville R., David S.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 15th, 2020

1. **Opening Remarks** Chair
2. **Devotions (C.S. Lewis - Part 2)** Will
3. **Accepting of Corresponding Members – John made a motion to accept all corresponding members and Bill Seconded. Approved.** Chair
4. **Approval of Agenda** Chair
 - 4.1. John made a motion to accept the agenda with the understanding that we will be meeting in July and August, and Ellen seconded. Approved.
5. **Approval of Minutes – May 20th, 2020** Chair
 - 5.1. **John made a motion to accept the minutes and Jordan seconded. Approved.**
6. **Standing Reports**
 - 6.1. **Ministers’ Report** Rev. Kim/Lorrie

Kims report was received.
 - 6.2. **Finance Report** Bill

Bill presented the financial report showing that we were in fair shape financially. He’d like to modify the Canada Helps announcement to mention the -4%. The bookkeeper contract was renewed on June 1st. Bill made a motion to accept the Financial statements, which Norm seconded. Approved.

There was mention of whom would be backups for key positions in the church in case of sickness. It was mentioned there were backups for many positions within the church. David Stafford would be the backup for Bill in Finances Case.
 - 6.3. **M & P Report** Lyn Hall

Lyn moved that the communications portion of each minister’s Call be raised to the Regional minimum, which is \$800 per annum. -Approved.

Lyn made a comment that she’ll look into getting the Church a zoom subscription.
7. **New Business** Chair
 - 7.1. **Building reopening subcommittee** Chair

~~John made a motion to allow the building reopening subcommittee to make decisions on~~
reopening the Church for July and August based on the guidelines that the committee has provided for certain outside users, including funerals and weddings, with limited attendance. Seconded by Desna. Approved.

7.1.1. EORCC Message (appendix B)

7.1.2. Building Access Procedures

7.1.3. Recommendations to accept until 31 Aug

- Preparing building for summer (signage, capacity)
- Schedule for use procedures to request use
- Events (survey, David's flowers)

John made a motion to accept the BCUC Reopening Subcommittee Report (dated June 15th) as guidelines to follow. Jordan Seconded. Approved.

7.1.4. Looking ahead to September (worship services, rentals)

Tabled for July, and suggested to have a survey of the congregation.

7.1.5 Jan gave an update on Insurance.

Jan

Rental liabilities – the groups insurance if exists would cover liability but if they do not have it there should be written commitment from the groups to abide by our guidelines.

Protecting the idle building. Inspections of the building should be done.

There are opportunities for services to be used via insurance and UCC for HR resources.

Other churches have asked for “covid relief” of insurance fees.

7.2. Memory Book publication finances

Jordan

The Memory Book is nearing completion and the editors are seeking estimates for publication of a physical book. Jordan asked if the Board had ideas for how the printing of the book could be funded. It was suggested that in order to avoid printing off more copies than needed, the editors could prioritize publishing a digital edition of the book that could be easily distributed in return for a donation. Physical copies can be ordered on demand.

7.3. Lorrie's letter to allow her to perform marriage ceremonies (appendix A) Lyn/Lorrie

Lyn made a motion that the board agreed to request licensing for officiating at weddings and sacraments by made on Laurie's behalf to be sent to Joel Miller and copy Whit Strong on church letter head and to be signed by John M. Seconded by Ellen. Approved.

7.4. Summer Student(s) – jobs and responsibilities.

Lyn stated that the summer student had a lot of ideas. She'll update us on what things the summer student will be doing over the summer. She'll be starting on Monday remotely.

Note: David S. wrote to me and stated this: “I believe Lyn indicated the name of the person to assume the role and feel there should have been a motion to accept the M&P recommendation to hire Victoria Ogden as the BCUC Summer Student. M&P needs to remember that they hold no decision making powers and only make recommendations to the governing body.”

7.5. Portico update

Chair

Neville spoke about the Portico project and noted that things will be happening soon. He also confirmed that this is not a Property Management project, but a separate project overseen by Ron Chuchryk. The Board is grateful to Ron for continuing to be responsible for this project. Ellen was volunteered to be Board contact to bring regular reports from Ron on the project's progress. If it is not completed before September there will need to be steps taken to ensure congregants can safely come and go.

7.6 Gym Floor

Neville reported that samples of flooring are being secured and the replacement will proceed as soon as appropriate flooring has been confirmed.

8. ~~Other Business~~

8.1. **Devotions:** for Wednesday, July 15th, 2020 Chair

9. **Next Meetings:** Chair

9.1. **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, July 15th, 2020.

10. **Closing Prayer** Rev. Kim

Appendix A: Lorrie's Letter:

Dear Members of the Board,

One of the things I was looking forward to as I reached this point of graduation and Commissioning was the permission or authority to expand my ministry at BCUC to include the sacraments and weddings. As Commissionings and Ordinations have been postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic response, granting of these licenses is also on hold.

I have been asked to officiate at the wedding of a former student that I taught when she was in Grade 2 or 3 - an honour that I was thrilled to accept! This wedding is scheduled to take place in October, off-site. Had events followed their normal path, things would have fallen into place in time for me to be licensed to do so.

Sacraments Licenses are granted to Diaconal Ministers upon Commissioning but the one for weddings includes an extra step of the Region submitting a request to the Province of Ontario for approval. The tentative new date for the EOORC meeting, which includes Celebrations of Ministry, is October 17, too late for all of this to happen in time for this young woman's wedding. One solution would be to have Rev. Kim on hand to do the "legal bits" and sign the Certificate of Marriage. However, I'm sure you can understand that it is important to the bride in this case that this is done by me.

Candidates for Ministry can be granted these licenses if warranted. This is the case, for instance, when a student minister is in solo ministry in a Pastoral Charge. This has not been necessary here at BCUC, as Rev. Kim covers those things.

Under today's unusual circumstances, I respectfully request that the Board consider appealing to the Region to grant these licenses to me now in anticipation of my Commissioning which has already been approved by the Region. At the request of M&P, I include some possible wording for such an appeal below.

Yours in Faith,

Lorrie

In anticipation of the Commissioning of Lorrie Lowes, which has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic response, Bells Corners United Church respectfully requests that she be approved for licensing to officiate at weddings and sacraments. She has completed her required courses of study and has been approved for Commissioning by the Candidacy Board. As she has already assumed the responsibilities of the Diaconal Minister position as laid out in her Call to BCUC, we feel confident that she is well prepared to take this next step now rather than wait for a time when Commissionings and Ordinations are possible again. We acknowledge that, unlike Sacraments, the license to officiate at weddings is not automatically granted on Commissioning but we consider it to be a part of her ministry role. The Board of Bells Corners United Church feels that having this process completed now is an important step to assist us in our planning as we move forward.

Appendix B:

EORCC Motions:

2020-06-11_068 MOTION (L Stronski/L. Suddaby) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive;

a) strongly recommend that no churches reopen for public worship before Labour Day weekend;

- b) ~~expects that every Community of Faith prepare guidelines for reopening and submit their plan to the Regional Council (wstrong@united-church.ca), two weeks prior to their proposed opening date;~~
- c) agrees to post and circulate the information and resources pertaining to safely reopening Communities of Faith;
- d) strongly encourage Communities of faith to be in touch with their local health units;
- e) expects that every Community of Faith create a separate plan with guidelines for reopening building to rentals and community activities or Community groups; and
- f) Continue to provide information, as developments require. **Carried**