

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church - Nov 12, 2020

In attendance via ZOOM: Bob Crowley, Chris Young, Sally Allanach, Sue King, Rev. Steve Longmoore, Una Wilson, Barb McBean, Brion Crossman, Bruce Amey, Dan Forret, Stu Baker, Bill Whittaker, John Hill.

Bob Crowley opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Rev. Steve offered a prayer. Bob acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Sue King 2nd. Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Bill Whittaker moved approval of the revised minutes from Oct 14, 2020, Sue King 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion presented the financial statement for Oct 2020. Year to date givings are about \$1,000 less than they were in 2019. Seventeen members on PAR have increased their monthly donations since the announcement of the new minister. This brings the PAR donations to about \$100,000 per year. Our budget is about \$160,000. Brion and Stu will discuss ideas about how to increase the givings. The monthly loan repayments have ended. The annual congregational assessment from the Region is \$7,700. The surplus year to date is almost \$20,000. Sally noted that M&S giving are less than expected and we may not reach our \$12,000 target for the first time in many years. The pandemic has increased the need for services provided through M&S. The Trustees will put a note in the bulletin about M&S. Brion moved acceptance of the report, Chris Young 2nd. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

- 1) **Ministerial Search Committee**– Sally reported that Rev. Richard Bowley has been at the church. Rev. Richard is making a family video to introduce himself and his family to the congregation. He will also write a note in the Christmas letter. Questions about a “meet & greet” via Zoom or a reception line in the sanctuary before Christmas were answered by Rev Steve, reminding us that Richard is still on contract with his church and it would not be fair to ask him to do this while still employed elsewhere.
- 2) **Choir Director Search** – no report
- 3) **Safe Church Committee** – Bill reported that the body temperature thermometer arrived. There has been a wedding and a funeral in the sanctuary. The signage is up directing persons to use the side door. The Safe Church handbook is complete. A copy is kept in the Narthex and another outside the office. A sign-in book is kept by the entrance. Attendance was 40+ in the sanctuary at the last service. Plexiglass has been installed on the 2nd lectern. Face shields are available to use as needed. Nov 27 and 28 are designated dates to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. The deadline to register to attend the Christmas Eve service is Dec 10. Sue is working on a plan to include children in the Advent services. Audrey will preside over the Longest Night service on Dec 21. The Provincial regulations about visitors to NB during the pandemic will be posted on our website and Facebook page.
- 4) **Tech team update** - Dan discussed the progress of arranging for cabling and installation of additional electrical outlet for the sound board and cameras and talked about computers and speaker changes. The team is also investigating the benefits of a new overhead projector.
- 5) **Fundraiser** – Dan reported that 57 orders for salmon were placed.

Correspondence: None

New Business:

- 1) **Year end / AGM reports** - Brion reported that he could prepare a budget proposal for the next council meeting.

Committee Reports:

- 1) *Christian Life & Growth* – Una has invited the children to participate in decorating the sanctuary on Nov 28. She has contacted the Sunday school families by email. The committee is looking at options for Sunday school in 2021
- 2) *Worship Committee* – Sally reviewed the upcoming events planned for the remainder of 2020. The service on Dec 27 may be a Regional service. There is an outdoor children’s service planned for Christmas Eve. A second service with communion will be held in the sanctuary. Wednesday evening Zoom Advent services will begin Dec 2. Sue reported that the theme for Advent will be FAMILY. Sue elaborated on the early Christmas Eve service. She hopes it will build community. The indoor service will be 45 minutes later. Sue needs volunteers to help with the early service.
- 3) *Property Maintenance* – Bill reported that the heating coils on the roof have been installed. The section of roof over the office is in need of repair. The committee noticed that someone has been taking their dog behind the church to defecate, making a walking hazard. It will be cleaned up before the Christmas Eve outdoor service.
- 4) *UCWs* – no report
- 5) *Social Committee* – no report
- 6) *Outreach* – Barb McBean reported that the committee will be buying gift cards for the Christmas families. The “water bottle” drive in support of Romero House is coming up on Saturday.
- 7) *Pastoral Care* – Sue provided this report - A list of cards to be sent out to families who may have experienced illness hardship or grief is being compiled. The children will decorate these on November 28th, and these will be sent for Christmas. Visits - phone calls have continued.
- 8) *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – Sally reported meeting with Rev. Richard.
- 9) *Finance & Trustee* – no report
- 10) *Youth Representative* – no report.
- 11) *Affirming Committee* – The committee has not met for months but communicate by email about how to include marginalized persons in Services of worship. This week’s service focuses on Children and praying for their needs in our congregation and worldwide. December 6th will be a service that commemorates more discussion on reconciliation and commemorating the Montreal act of violence towards women.

Of note:

Region 14 Annual General Meeting passed a remit; “That persons may choose the gender that they wish to be identified as for ordination fir ministry and it is not longer limited to male or female but “She” “He” “They “”.

The Horizon Health Network have issued a statement that they recognize the important of sacred traditions and medicine specific to indigenous persons and people may request an elder administer these - eg burning of sage , sweat cleansing etc . Indigenous elders will now be respected and welcomed as part of the team of care.

- 12) *Regional Representative* – Bob reported that info from Region is shared to various committees as needed
- 13) *Minister’s report* – no report

Next online council meeting **Wednesday** Dec 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Bill Whittaker moved adjournment at 9:13 PM. Rev Steve closed the meeting with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Steve Longmoore