

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – April 12, 2023

In attendance via ZOOM: Chris Young, Bob Crowley, Diane Tonge, Barb McBean, Brion Crossman, Una Wilson, Sue King, Bill Whittaker, John Hill, Rev. Richard Bowley, Leslie Reid, Hally and Carolyn Kimball Bruce Amey, Cindy Millican, Sally Allanach, Don and Marilyn Robertson

Chris Young opened the meeting at 7:33 PM. Rev Bowley offered a prayer.
Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Barb McBean 2nd. Carried.
Chris acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Approval of Minutes – Rev. Richard moved approval of the minutes from Mar 8, 2023. Diane Tonge 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report - Brion presented the March 2023 treasurer’s report. General and special offering were higher than expected and include a donation from the Hughes family for the reception following the funeral for Betty Hughes. Expenses are higher than average, partially due to staff salary increases, power bill and snow removal. Outreach expenditures are higher than average due to the annual donations to local charities of choice. YTD deficit is about \$4,800. **Brion Crossman moved acceptance of the treasurer’s report. Bob Crowley 2nd. Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Safe Church Committee update – No report

Reality Check on Governance – Una announced Heather MacDonald as a new member to CL&G

Where to from here discussion – *see new business*

Church Directory – Rev Richard presented a letter to be included in the directory

Afghani Refugee Family – Chris reported that a letter was sent to St Andrews and Saint David’s offering our support

AED Training – *see property maintenance report*

Correspondence: none

New Business:

Change in Pastoral relations – Rev. Richard provided a “high level” overview of changes to processes when searching for a new minister. JNAC becomes a living faith document. Presbytery Rep is now a Regional Rep. Chris will review the previous JNAC to see how much can be put forward as a Living Faith Document. Discussion followed about when the congregation needs to be gathered for input. Brion suggested taking time for a deep reflection and time to develop a number of options. Cindy agreed whole heartedly. Sue pointed out how far we have come on our journey to becoming a progressive community of faith. Barb suggested announcing to the congregation immediately that we are looking for input and to send out the old JNAC by email for people to reflect on directions that we may take. Brion urged that we avoid using the words “search committee” to the congregation to prevent pre-conceived ideas of simply finding a replacement minister. **Cindy Millican moved that a congregational meeting be held on April 30, 2023 to begin the discussion. Bob Crowley 2nd. Carried**

Topics to keep in mind for future discussion...UCC Social and Ecological Justice initiatives, 5-year plan (*potential request from Region*), physical accessibility to the church

Committee Reports:

1. *Christian Life & Growth* – *see attached report.*
2. *Worship* – *see attached report* Sue King reviewed the report.

3. *Property Maintenance* – see attached report - Bill Whittaker suggested individual training for AED could be via YouTube or group sessions. Barb McBean will find a suitable video to send to council members prior to the next council meeting. Sally suggested Bill check with KidZone to find out if they have a trainer. Bill reviewed information about accessibility options. A stair lift could be in excess of \$13,000 plus thousands each year for inspection. Three level elevators start at \$40,000 plus renovations.
4. *Social Committee* – no report
5. *UCW* – no report
6. *Outreach* – see attached report - Barb McBean will speak on Sunday about available affordable housing options.
7. *Pastoral Care* – see attached report
8. *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – see attached report
9. *Finance & Trustee* – Brion reported the mulch sale will proceed. Possible date is May 12.
10. *Youth Representative* – no report
11. *Affirming Committee* – Sue King reviewed the (attached) report.
12. *Region* – Bob reported on the Regional annual meeting May 11, 2023. Youth are invited to attend, with Home Mission Council paying the costs.

Minister's report – Rev. Richard referred to the (attached) report and made the following two motions.

Motion: **That the baptism of Benjamin James Tiberius Haché be approved for May 7th, 2023. Sally Allanach 2nd. Carried**

Motion: **That we ratify the executive approval of new members by proclamation Adele, Doug, and Heather McDonald. Barb McBean 2nd. Carried**

Next online council meeting is Wednesday May 10, 2023, at 7:30 PM

Rev. Bowley closed with a prayer. Brion Crossman moved adjournment at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship Committee

Easter services went very well. Maundy Thursday was enormous success. All services had increased attendance. Zooming from McDonald Hall not so easy- 3 people online.

Upcoming Services:

Baptism of Benjamin Haché is taking place on May 7th. A Jammers recording may be included on this day.

Mother's Day is May 14th, and The Valley Woodwinds Quintet will be present to play multiple pieces.

May 21st Affirming Committee is doing service in Rev Richard's absence.

May 28th Rev Richard in regional meeting Rev. Audrey Louder is filling in pulpit. Jammers? offering music ministry same day.

June 4th Trinity Sunday -Communion

June 11th Celebrate Affirming Birthday -Worship Service and cake downstairs.

Summer schedule suggestions to be brought forth next Council meeting.

Discussion about the

"Lord's Prayer" Open to suggestions...to sing different tunes-Find inclusive options to use on occasions.

Property Maintenance report - March 2023

Continued research on accessibility to the church. Doug and Sue have expressed an interest in assisting. 4 roof heater wires have been shut off.

YouTube has some excellent training videos on CPR and AED by the Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and others. The American Red Cross site has a written-out step by step check list for using the AED by going to "Steps to Use an AED".

Outreach Committee

Carolyn Kimball delivered several bags of socks and underwear to St. Vincent de Paul on Waterloo, as well as to Hestia House for Women. All were gratefully accepted. The project was supported so well by the congregation!

We've loaded 66 Welcome Bags to this point in 2023. We are revisiting the cost per bag in an attempt to reduce it further. Every time I deliver bags, the topic of housing comes up. We are in desperate need of more federally funded low income housing.

I expect our in-house Romero team will be declaring another water/juice run in support for Romero, sometime in April.

Pastoral Care Committee

Visits continue.

Celebration of Life for Betty Hughes recently was a congregational event with attendance by many current and past members. Family really appreciated the service.

Ministry & Personnel Committee -

M&P met has now with all 4 of our staff for initial 2023 interviews. Nothing of concern to note and good interviews overall.

We were surprised by Rev. Richard's notice to leave QUC but understand his reasons.

M&P will work with Council as we decide out steps forward.

We are always open for feedback on staff, but any concerns must be in writing but will be kept "Confidential".

Christian Life & Growth -

CLG is trying to increase the enrolment in Sunday School by creating a poster inviting the children from Kid Zone. On June 11 CLG and Worship are planning a Summer Kick Off, Sunday School closing, and Affirming celebration for the morning service and a social after lunch. All to be held at Hammond River Angling Association building.

Affirming Committee

A banner is being prepared for -March for International Day of Transphobia and Homophobia. 10 ft wide. with two poles -Cost is two hundred dollars and one hundred dollars has already been donated. The bracelets fundraiser covers the other half.

Congregation to be informed about the March for this event over next few weeks.

March 21st Affirming Committee leading the service as team with focus on United Church new vision:
Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

May Education session Mid Month will be announced in announcements when confirmed.

June 11th is the Anniversary of becoming an Affirming Congregation. Worship service with special music.

Minister's Report – March 2023

-bible study has begun (good weekly attendance)

-regular visits have continued with home communion being offered over the last month and into the next

-conducted - in partnership with Rev. Audrey Louder, the funeral for Betty Hughes (solo internment the following week)

-baptism prep meetings with Haché family have taken place

-conducted Holy Week services, including a combined Maundy Thursday supper/service with Rev. Tori and Hampton United at QUC.

-Easter Sunday went well with minor issues, which were overcome. This service included the welcoming of new members.

Plans for Between now and the next Meeting:

-on April 13-14 I will be attending a young clergy conference in Debert, NS. This will include opportunity for retreat and a session with the moderator with the United Church of Canada

-Bible Study will continue throughout the month of April into the start of May (last session is May 9th)