

Online Church Council Meeting of Quispamsis United Church – Jan 13, 2021

In attendance via ZOOM: Sally Allanach, Bruce Amey, Barb McBean, Bob Crowley, Brion Crossman, Rev. Richard Bowley, Bill Whittaker, Stu Baker, Don and Marilyn Robertson, Chris Young, Sue King, Dan Forret, Diane Tonge, Ruth Buckley, Una Wilson, John Hill.

Bob Crowley opened the meeting at 7:33 PM. The participants introduced themselves to Rev. Richard. Rev. Richard offered a prayer. Bob acknowledged the statement of unceded territory.

Bill Whittaker moved approval of the agenda. Rev. Richard 2nd. Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Brion Crossman moved approval of the minutes from Dec 9, 2020. Chris Young 2nd. Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Brion reviewed treasurers report for 2020. Due to the pandemic the 2020 budget is irrelevant for comparison. General giving in 2020 was greater than givings in 2019. It was a heartwarming experience for Brion to see the members step up to the need. Personnel expenses were about half what was expected. Property expenses included \$6,500 for Audio /Video equipment. **Brion made a motion to transfer \$10,000 to the tech upgrade fund. Bill Whittaker 2nd. Carried.** Brion commented that this is the best financial shape that he has seen in his experience as treasurer. Rev. Richard reminded us of the importance of thanking the congregation for their support. Brion reviewed the proposed budget for 2021. **Brion made a motion to present the budget of \$171,000 to the congregation at the annual meeting. Stu 2nd. Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes:

- 1) **Choir Director Search** – Ruth Buckley proposed Stephen Alexander for the position of Choir Director, effective Feb 1, 2021. Bob commented that M&P met with him and were impressed. Rev Richard also met with him. **Ruth Buckley made a motion that we hire Stephen Alexander as Music Director at an annual salary of \$12,500. Diane 2nd Carried.** Marilyn on the Search committee and Sally on M&P will work to prepare the contract for signing. Ruth will advise Stephen of our offer.
- 2) **Safe Church Committee** – Bill Whittaker reported that we will continue with Zoom only services while we are in “orange”. Bill thanked the committee for their ability to react to quickly changing conditions.
- 3) **Tech team update** – Members are encouraged to use the chat during worship to advise of technical problems.
- 4) **Year end AGM and reports** – Bob opened discussion about physical vs Zoom AGM and on which day. The annual meeting will be Sunday Feb 21, 2021 as a hybrid or Zoom only meeting, depending on Provincial “colour”.

Correspondence: Fundy, St. Lawrence, Dawning Waters weekly email is available to any who wish to subscribe.

New Business:

- 1) **Storm Policy** – Bob suggested amending the Storm Policy to have a Zoom service on Sunday morning instead of moving the service to Saturday afternoon. All agreed.

Committee Reports:

- 1) *Christian Life & Growth* – Una reported the committee has 2 new members, Carol Cummings and Wendy Stewart. Looking for ways to engage youth. Ideas - Jan 24 have youth take a pic of favourite thing and present it. Jan 31 - youth do “1 min story”. Feb - Lego making contest based on a bible story. Snowman contest as soon as there is fresh snow.

Ideas for the future - What about Zoom Sunday school? What about an online youth group leader? Good ideas to explore. Anyone with ideas please contact Una.

- 2) *Worship Committee* – Sally reported a well attended meeting today. Lent and Easter services were discussed. **Wondered about some sort of Shrove Tuesday event, either live or Zoom or combination of both at 5:30. Fundraiser for Outreach. Looking for someone to coordinate the event.** What about Lenten boxes with CL&G? Sally wants to thank all who participated in worship during the pandemic.
- 3) *Property Maintenance* – Bill reported Fundy Roofing has repaired the roof twice, finding two holes each time. Bill getting quotes for replacing parts of roof that haven't been replaced. Maintenance on lights, wiring and emergency lighting. Shae Lynn's mother, Laurie will assist Shae Lynn with light cleaning.
- 4) *UCWs* – no report
- 5) *Social Committee* – no report
- 6) *Outreach* – Barb McBean welcomed Rev. Richard to the meeting last week. Discussed different needs that have arisen due to COVID. Outreach will maintain a slightly larger balance in anticipation of greater individual needs due to COVID-related factors. Will contact organizations about what needs we may be able to help with.
- 7) *Pastoral Care* – Sue reported that pastoral care needs will now be referred to Rev. Richard. The visitors visited multiple persons and families over the Christmas season supporting families and particularly those who are grieving.
- 8) *Ministry & Personnel Committee* – Sally reported staff meetings will begin in March.
- 9) *Finance & Trustee* – Brion commented on Richard's weekly email letter. What about those without computers? He suggested finding volunteers to deliver hard copy of letter on Fridays to those without computers who would like to have the newsletter. Rev. Richard thought it is a great idea, also include bulletin.
- 10) *Youth Representative* – no report
- 11) *Affirming Committee* – Looking forward to Richard's input.
- 12) *Regional Representative* – Jan 28 – Regional Town Hall Zoom meeting
- 13) *Minister's report* – Getting to know and meet with the committees. Working on updating the website. Working with tech team. Instituted weekly newsletter with a bulletin. Plan to reach out to the congregation on a more personal basis.

Next online council meeting **Wednesday** Feb 10, 2021 at **7:30 PM.**

Annual congregational meeting Feb 21, 2021

Bill Whittaker moved adjournment at 9:35 PM. Rev Richard closed the meeting with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,

John Hill

Rev. Richard Bowley