

Brechin United Church Council
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 20, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Kathy Torhjelm, Christine Robertson, Linda Braid, Val Neilson, David Moddle, Tif McNaughton, Barb O'Neill, Darlene Darby.

Regrets: Randy Manikel, Diane Thomas, Lynn Burrows, Tom Gray, Anne Manikel.

WELCOME by Kathy Torhjelm, Council Chair, who called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL – Linda Braid read excerpts about gratitude from “The Book of Joy” by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Amended to include March 8 under new business and to change the date of the next meeting from March 20 to March 19, 2020. **M/S:** Linda Braid / Darlene Darby. **Carried.**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

† January 23, 2020 **M/S:** Barb O'Neill / Darlene Darby. **Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE SENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

Minister's Report – Rev. Tif McNaughton – see attached.

Financial Report – David Moddle – David is shadowing Randy Manikel to learn the procedures. There are no changes from the financial information presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Pacific Mountain Region – Val Neilson – see attached.

Motion: M/S Linda Braid / Darlene Darby the above reports be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Faith Formation and Spiritual Development (FF) – Darlene Darby – the team met on February 6. They reviewed the various study groups. The Lenten Study will begin on February 27 at 1:30 pm at Brechin House. Darlene will include an announcement in the weekly email letting congregants know that the Spiritual Growth Fund is available to assist with costs.

Ministry & Personnel – Linda Braid – see attached. .

Mission and Outreach – see attached. Lynn Burrows had a bad fall and will be out of action for a time.

Pastoral Care – Barb O'Neill – see attached. There will be an informal tea at Long Lake Chateau for Carol Howell on Friday, February 21 which Tif will attend. Tif will check to see if anyone needs a ride to the Service at Hope Lutheran. As

Barb will be having surgery soon Dorothy Russell will be attending council meetings in her place for March and April.

Property – Nothing to report.

Stewardship & Finance – no report.

Worship –Val Neilson – see attached.

Motion: M/S Linda Braid / Darlene Darby that Leadership team reports be accepted.
Carried.

OTHER REPORTS:

Redevelopment – Val Neilson. See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

- † The Valentines Dance fun(d)raiser was a huge success! There were 60 people including children who enjoyed the festivities. Over \$600 was raised by donation. The band, Mood Swings, are willing to do this every year. Our thanks to the band (Kathy Torhjelm will send thank you email), to Rob Russell for his hard work, and to Peggy Jensen and Grace Skomorowski for the decorations (Linda Braid will send them cards).
- † The Mental Health Workshop went well. Any comments and/or suggestions would be appreciated. It was suggested that Brechin host this every two to three years. There is a facilitator on Vancouver Island.

NEW BUSINESS:

- † Thank you to all the past council members. Kathy will send a thank you card to Rob Russell.
- † March 8, 2020 – Sands will not be available. Linda Braid will contact Bowen Complex and book Room 1 for the service. We will not have coffee afterwards.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION:

- † Linda Braid will: send thank you cards to Peggy Jensen, Grace Skomorowski, Rob Russell; contact Bowen Complex.
- † Darlene Darby will ask Cindy to put an announcement in the weekly email regarding the Spiritual Growth Fund.
- † Barb O'Neill will send a get-well card to Lynn Burrows.
- † Kathy Torhjelm will send David Moddle a thank you email to be forwarded to the band for their wonderful entertainment.
- † Kathy Torhjelm will send Rob Russell a thank you card for all his service on Council

- † Val Neilson will re-send an email regarding possible dates for an information meeting about the Communities of Faith Council.

CLOSING PRAYER – Tif closed with a prayer.

Next Council meeting: March 19, 2020 at Brechin House.

Devotional: Christine Robertson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am on the motion of Linda Braid.

Kathy Torhjelm, Chair

Christine Robertson, Secretary

Minister's Report February 20, 2020

-Our first AGM together has arrived and gone, as well as our first memorial service together for Irene Pile. We'll gather informally with Irene Strong to remember Irvin Strong in the next couple of weeks, and this coming weekend is our service for Carol Howell. Hope Lutheran continues to be such helpful, good neighbours in offering us space for funerals when needed.

-I'm looking forward to settling in with the new configurations of all of our teams post-AGM! And continually grateful for the service of those who are moving off teams. We're past the half way mark in our first year together, so I'm continuing to get to know congregants, and also turning my attention to communication and efficiencies; what can I be spending less time on, and relying on lay leadership? What have I learned about our schedule and the flow of the week? I begin working with my grant-funded clergy coach in March, which will support this step of our settling-in-together.

-The ministers who had been gathering for lunch on Tuesdays in Ian Nestegaard Paul's room at Dufferin now gather here at Brechin House in the minister's office. In the

absence of a PLURA or ministerial network, this has become a good avenue for collegial connections.

-There has been some conversation about an interfaith/ecumenical justice network, initiated by folks who had been involved in KAIROS locally and our Unitarian neighbours. I've encouraged them to keep us posted although I'm not clear how much time I can give to this possibility personally, and I'll pass along info as it becomes available.

-I continue to consider what an appropriate role would be for a UCC minister with the Generous Space group starting in Nanaimo. I have another meeting with the organizers Wednesday afternoon and hope to have a good sense of where I fit with this shortly. The information meeting for local Pastors was last Wednesday.

-Our Mental Health First Aid course at St Andrews, planned by region, went well. Brechin received a thank you card from Region for working to help coordinate this event. This is an example of how priorities of the wider church are going to come to congregations 'differently' than when we had Presbytery, and our relationship with LeaderShift is changing; so if anyone has any feedback or questions on how this has all gone, let me know.

-Planning for the Theological Banquet event continues. Brechin is on deck for providing coffee and tea and some snacks (lunches are brown bag). Although this began as a cluster event LeaderShift is branding it as an Island-wide event. Registration seems to be going well.

Respectfully Submitted, Tif McNaughton

PMR Report for February 2020 BUC Council Meeting

Registration for the Theological Banquet on March 7th is underway. Tif is promoting it during Sunday theme times and Peggy is encouraging carpooling for the event during coffee time following Sunday service.

Susan Ward has come forward to serve as the alternate for PMR representation. This is great news as she is a relative newcomer to Brechin, and we welcome her interest and enthusiasm.

The Region has a Communities of Faith Council, on which Sally Bullas is a member. They are developing a tool for the annual self assessment each C of F will be required to complete. Currently they are gathering information in order to complete this task. Tif, Kathy, Susan and I will be meeting in March to complete and submit the survey sent to us from this committee.

A 'Save the Date' email was sent out for the two Fresh Start workshops this spring. I have reserved the Kin Hut for April 18th and June 6th for the events and our facilitators are booked. It is important for all of Council members to attend and I have invited the same leadership folk who attended the November workshop at Hope Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Neilson

Ministry & Personnel Report: February 20, 2020

The team met on Monday, February 17 at Brechin House. Those present were Linda Braid, Rob Russell, Kathy Torhjelm, Mickey Staples, Leah Caitlin, and Eileen & Chris Carolan.

The purpose was to meet one another and to have the opportunity to listen to important M&P information from Rob and Kathy. Many thanks for sharing and updating us!

Welcome Chris, Eileen and Linda! Thank you to Rob, Leah and Mickey who will remain on the team and Congratulations to Kathy, who moves from M&P, to Chair of Brechin Council.

Submitted by Linda Braid, M&P Team leader

M&O Team Report to Council – February 20th, 2020

Reconciliation Theme

- **Last 4 workshops in 2019** Final report sent. Balance of UC ProVision funding was received. A \$200.00 honorarium sent to Tsow Tun Le Lum Society + “thank you” card sent to Claudio & Tillicum Lelum. \$250.00 donation from Nanaimo Division of Family Practice was used for our 2020 workshops. (It nicely covered the 2 extras rooms needed at Beban Park)
- **January 30th workshop:** Very positive feedback: 54 participants (½ service providers) from as far away as Duncan. \$4600.00 received for 2 workshops from UC Reconciliation & Indigenous Justice fund + \$800.00 from a City of Nanaimo ‘Culture & Heritage Grant’. (\$800.00 will be returned to the UC) Donations: \$470.70. Evaluations summary is forthcoming. Facilitator’s list of Reconciliation Resources was forwarded to all participants.
- **Preparation for the March 18th Paddling Together Reconciliation workshop:** We hope to have Brechin Council’s approval for a separate Brechin email for our M&O team. We decided on BrechinMandO@gmail.com.
- **Additional Reconciliation workshops in 2020 and beyond.** We agreed to try to have another series of workshops this fall. We are thinking that 2 series per year for the general public would be good. We will request funding again from the UC Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Funding before their March cut-off date, and in the Fall from City of Nanaimo.
- **New connections/info:** new connections + learning about “Indigenomics”. Lynn will represent Brechin/M&O Team at the upcoming **City of Nanaimo Annual Heritage Summit** where she will have the opportunity to speak about our Reconciliation workshops & City grant funding. **Anne Nesbit** will likely accompany Lynn to learn more about the City Culture & Heritage grants and speak about the project she is helping to promote (Indigenous books in our public school libraries).

Affirming Ministry: We continue to be open and looking for ways to encourage and support the Affirming Ministry. **“Generous Space”:** information shared by Barb Curry and Tiff. **Mental Health First Aid Training:** 2 day event attended by Barb Curry & Tiff. (We agreed to wait until we are in our new building to plan another workshop with a V. I. Facilitator.)

Minute for Mission/Hallelujah Moments: We will appeal to Brechin members to do a Hallelujah Moment based on their experience(s) (as long as it relates to Brechin’s ideals/parameters). **Minute for Mission statements:** we agreed that people do not have to stick with the official “Minute for Mission” as shown in the UC booklet – just as long as it is “in tune” with Brechin.

Public Intentional Explicit (PIE)– this refers to affirming communities not just being quietly accepting but being actual allies. Tiff will try to work this into one of her Sunday themes. Marg will speak of this at the March 15th Minute for Mission.

Climate Action/Social Justice: We agreed that it was important for us to be involved when/as possible. John talked about the Teck Project in northern Alberta. (Open Strip Mining): the largest ever open mine. He spoke about the difference between the Band Council (Indian Act elected – focused on Jobs/money) and Hereditary Chiefs (focused on the long term & spiritual well-being) We discussed how we can engage our own congregation in these issues: Tiff suggested a “weekly action list” for Advent – a Walk though Pentecost”.

Guy Dauncey’s “Climate Emergency: 26 week Transition Program for Canada”. City Councillor Geselbracht is suggesting a discussion on this on Earth Day (April 22nd) and to contact Chris (“Farmer”) Brown from the Farmship Growers Co-operative. He {Ben G.) anticipates/hopes for, a community discussion that includes reps from the RDN, the City + our MP and MLA”. We could help promote this “Earth Day” event. (Chris has been emailed)

New M&O Team members. Jerry Bates has confirmed her interest. We are hoping Julia Roberts may also join our team. Barb Curry is stepping back from our M&O team but will be available if/when needed.

“Reaching Out” has found some new volunteer leadership and continues to grow. (update from Barb and Tif)

Contemplative Justice Network’s request. The Contemplative Justice Network of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council is launching a facilitated team to provide social justice workshops to Communities of Faith. They have sent us a short survey to help guide them in choosing which workshop to develop. As a group we will figure out what aspect we would like to host here in Nanaimo (in addition to individually completing the survey).

Homelessness in Nanaimo. March 12th, there will be the 3rd co-ordinated **Pit Count** across Canada. In 2018 there were 61+ communities across Canada participating. The count for “absolute homelessness” in Nanaimo: (Stats from the John Howard Society.) Winter, 2016 – 174; Spring, 2018 – 338; March, 2020 – predicting 6-800! Approx. 1/3 identified as FN. Helpful websites: www.thehomelesshub.ca and www.nanaimohomelesscoalition.ca .

Reset, Rebuild, Rejoice new program for people suffering from depression, anxiety and/or addiction. Use of many new & ancient techniques (alternatives to pharmaceuticals.) to solve modern problems. People can call or text Devon Bennett (778 269-4600) to set up a free telephone conversation and to see if the services are right for them.

Before closing, we had a lovely discussion/acknowledgement of how we at Brechin are grateful that Tif is here with us - that the timing was “right on” for both her and for all of us at Brechin to move forward together into the future in all areas of Brechin’s work.

Next M&O team meeting: March 12th

Pastoral Care Report, February 2020

Our Pastoral Care team continues, as always, to reach out to those in our congregation who are ill, in hospital, grieving a loss, or otherwise needing our caring attention.

On January 25th we served a lovely Memorial Tea at Hope Lutheran following the Celebration of Life for Irene Pile.

We will do the same for the family and friends of Carol Howell on February 22nd at 1 pm, also at Hope Lutheran.

We are beginning to plan an early evening Newcomer’s Welcome at Brechin House, sometime in the last week of April. This was a very successful event last year and is a nice way to welcome those who have joined Brechin at Sands in the past year. Further details to follow next month as plans are finalized.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb O’Neill for Pastoral Care

Worship Team Report for February 2020 BUC Council Meeting

Worship Team met on February 5th. There was positive review of the January services with special mention of appreciation for Tif's use of Theme Time.

Looking ahead focused on ideas for Lent and Easter. There will be a brief Ash Wednesday service at 11am at Brechin House prior to Lectionary Study on February 25th. Ideas were shared regarding Lenten liturgy and symbolism we can use creatively in our space at Sands. It is Trinity's turn to host the Good Friday service, so Tif will be in touch with Foster. The Kin Hut will be reserved for an early Easter morning service and coffee before our regular worship at Sands.

The team communicated to Faye Greer that Tif would not be available to participate in a Monday group discussion of topics that arise from a Sunday service. It was clearly stated that this will not be revisited until we have moved into the new building.

The Thursday afternoon Lenten study will go ahead with Tif and Gwen using a resource from The Prayer Bench.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Worship Team,

Val Neilson

Redevelopment Report for February 2020 BUC Council Meeting

There have been no further building site safety concerns brought forward. This was handled really well and I'm convinced the relationship between BUC and the Brechin Hill Neighbourhood Association is healthy and intact.

The January field report states the project is on track and no delays reported. The beams are up for part of our structure which makes it easier to imagine the placement of our building.

I will be sending another follow up email to Terry Harrison regarding questions arising from the November workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Neilson