First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

Wednesday, October 09, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche

Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Laura Creasy Linda Quaschnick

Liz Gourlay Gwen Snell

Jean Lypka

Rev. Barbara Zimmerman, Castor United Church

available by phone at 403-741-6289

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion No.** **41** Moved by Gwen Snell that the Agenda for October 9, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Laura Creasy. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **42** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held September 11, 2019 be adopted with the following amendment:

6.9 Thrift Store Report should read “In July the Thrift Store gave their third quarter contribution of $6,250.00 to the church.”

Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick. **Carried.**

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
2. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Hanna Agricultural Society

Request that the Church honour their pledge to sponsor the Fall Fair Family Aggregate Award in the amount of $50.00 and an invitation to attend the Awards Night on October 28, 2019 to present the 2019 award to the Cody & Joleen Scott family.

5.2 Hanna Learning Centre Fall 2019 Program Guide

5.3 Christian Women’s Club

Laura Creasy advised that Heather Braun has been approached to see if there is interest in forming a Christian Women’s Club in Hanna. RSVP Ministries is an organization to mobilize you to invite, inspire and invest in others on your journey of faith, through transformational resources, experiences and events.

Christian Women’s Clubs offer the opportunity for people of many different faiths and those without faith, to gather together and visit, outside of a church building. The goal is for women to share their faith in a safe and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Cindy Palin (RSVP Regional Director) will be coming to Hanna on Thursday, October 17 to Bethel Evangelical Church at 7 pm to meet with interested people regarding starting a group in Hanna. Laura will ask Tricia to put the information on our website.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Linda Quaschnick reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for September 30, 2019. She noted that on the year to year comparison, our weekly offerings are down 19%, M & S offerings are down 50% and our total congregational offerings are down 40%.

Liz Gourlay mentioned that she was asked about the personalized offering envelopes not being available Laura Creasy confirmed that the Council decided to have generic envelopes printed and individuals can provide information on the envelope.

Liz Gourlay asked why are we running a deficit. Laura explained that the reports do not include the bank balance coming into the year until the end of the report, at which point it shows how we will fund the difference.

Jean Lypka mentioned that at the last couple of funerals people have paid for the choir and asked if those funds are kept separate. Laura advised that the choir is not on the list of items charged by the church so the funds just go into general revenue, like rent. She noted that she will keep track of what is paid and maybe make a new category in future.

Laura confirmed that the Fall Visitation letter has been sent to church members.

Winona Gutsche advised that she was asked by Betty Warrington’s family about whether they would be charged for the church to hold the funeral. Winona confirmed that she made an executive decision not to charge for the church, but the lunch following the funeral was invoiced, as there is a direct cost associated with the lunch. Council consensus was that Winona’s decision was appropriate as Betty was a lay minister for Hanna First United Church. When the decision was made to provide the church at no charge for Dr. Wilkin’s funeral, his status as an Elder was considered a factor.

Discussion was held regarding the definition of a Church Elder and whether there have been any Elders appointed in recent years. Elders assist the Minister when performing communion or baptisms. Elders also helped with teaching and confirmation classes as a support to the church and the minister. Elder status is given by the Church and age is not a requirement. People should be asked, not surprised with the appointments. Liz Gourlay advised that there was a ceremony in church when someone became an Elder. Winona noted that there was discussion at the Chinook Winds Regional meeting about not using the term Elder as it is associated with indigenous people.

* 1. Board of Trustees – No report
  2. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka advised that the Worship Committee met October 8th and confirmed that Tricia has pulpit supply arranged to the end of November, with Bonnie Burke and Jerry Beskiwin leading the worship on alternate weekends.

Winona will contact Rev. Jann Richardson to ask if there is a possibility to have someone do a service who celebrate communion for us.

Jean mentioned a budget of $250.00 was authorized to purchase a new Advent wreath and candles, but she would like input from Council as to whether a wooden or metal style would be best. Discussion followed with consideration given to the advantages of each style and whether it be ordered or custom made. As the first Sunday of Advent is ~~December 7~~~~th~~~~,~~ December 1st, there is a time constraint to having it ready. Jean thanked everyone for their comments and ideas.

Jean advised that it our year to host the Service of Light, however the committee feels the Lutheran Church should be asked to hold the service, as we are not sure about Rev Lombard’s arrival. Council agreed with the decision of the committee.

Jean asked if it would be possible to have a new switch installed closer to the entrance in the storage room below the choir room. She will get a price from Brady Ermel to install the switch. It should be paid for from repairs and maintenance.

Jean advised that the piano is in serious need of repairs and tuning. The last time it was tuned, the technician said it needed some repairs but he was not able to do it that day.

**Motion No.** **43** Moved by Gwen Snell that Jean Lypka be authorized to contact Dan Canfield to have the piano repaired at a cost not to exceed $1,000.00; with the funds to be taken from the Memorial Account.

Motion seconded by Laura Creasy. Carried.

* 1. Christian Education – No Report
  2. Pastoral Care – Verbal report

Linda Quaschnick confirmed that she spoke with Celeste Reid, Volunteer Coordinator from Stetter for Long Term Care. She advised that we have a new Spiritual Care Practitioner, Dean Southern, for the region. He is our Pastoral Care liaison for Hanna for Long Term Care so Linda will arrange a meeting with him to discuss pastoral care in Hanna.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Gwen Snell advised that the irrigation lines have been winterized. A new controller will be needed next season as well as maintenance on some of the lines.

Winona advised that the planters have been cleaned out and put away, as have the tree watering bags. Two new plaques were installed for the trees planted this year. She also noted that red mulch was put around the base of some of the trees and fall fertilizer was spread on the grass.

* 1. Ministry & Personnel – No Report
  2. Property – Verbal Report

Gwen Snell noted that the committee met on Saturday and discussed the following:

* New sinks are needed in the ladies washroom and the Thrift Store would like a changing area. Ira Ross and Alan Lund are willing to do the work, but there will be a cost for materials.

**Motion No.** **44** - Gwen Snell moved that Property Committee be authorized to spend up to $1,000.00 to renovate the ladies washroom with new sinks, countertop and changeroom, with the funds to be taken from the Memorial Account.

Motion seconded by Linda Quaschnick Carried.

Gwen noted the following items:

* Following the meeting, the members removed an old TV from the basement room where the water shut off is, as well as several items from the storage room. The items were taken to the Regional Waste site.
* The door by the minister’s office was not locked on Saturday. Jean mentioned that the church door was unlocked when the funeral home staff arrived for Betty Warrington’s funeral.
* The committee expressed appreciation for Winona for preparing the ad for snow removal proposals and also for Kevin Bossert as he does snow removal in the parking lot.
* The committee is currently not in the position to paint the church office.
* Pane Management will not be available until spring of 2020 to clean the church windows.
* Outstanding items requested by the Thrift Store – a washer & dryer and dishwasher. Laura advised that the washer and dryer are no longer wanted, but she will check about the dishwasher request.
* The committee will review the handbook for the next meeting.

Jean Lypka asked about if the problem with the toilets had been addressed. Gwen advised that the committee suggests that the sewer line be cleaned (augered) twice a year to prevent the problem with sewer backups.

Winona Gutsche mentioned that we need help on Saturday to pick up the twin captains beds from Morrin that have been donated by Mr. & Mrs. Neill. Jean Lypka suggested that Mel may be able to help and use their enclosed trailer. Discussion was held regarding a number of things that need to be done at the manse once the beds arrive.

* 1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the Thrift Store reports, confirming the following:

* September Statistics: $5,266.40 in sales, 508 customers and 251 volunteer hours
* Elaine Neilson was hired as the new administrator.
* Amy Servonnet is now doing waste control.
* Significant number of items were purged for the Rummage Sale – thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and JC Charyk football team for pickup.
* The Thrift Store made its fourth quarter contribution of $6,250 to the church operating account.

**Motion No.** **45** Moved by Lynette Barker that Council ratify the motions made by the Thrift Store Board meeting to authorize the following:

* Advertise in the ECA Review for the Hanna Indoor Rodeo edition.
* Donate $1,000.00 to the JC Charyk School Concession and $1,000 to the JC Charyk Hot Lunch program.
* Donate $1,000 to the JC Charyk Breakfast program and $1,000 to the Hanna Food Bank.
* Change Jean Curry’s signing authority for the Centre Street Thrift Store to Jean Pattinson.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka.Carried.

Linda Quaschnick advised that she is still working to arrange for new tablecloths as discussed at the last meeting. Rhonda Lund confirmed that a motion was made in 2017 to spend up to $500.00 on new tablecloths.

* 1. Search Committee – Verbal Report

Laura Creasy advised that Rev. Lombard has been given a tracking number from the Zimbabwe government, so hopefully we will hear something in 3 weeks or so.

1. CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COMMISSION – No Report
2. MINISTER’S REPORT – No Report

**Motion No. 46** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that the Reports be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka.Carried.

1. NEW BUSINESS

9.01 Turkey Supper Date

Winona Gutsche advised Calvin Warnock and Ira Ross have agreed to supply the turkeys for the supper again this year. She also noted that Lana Ross has offered her assistance as well and that Tricia is working on the advertising for the Turkey supper.

9.02 Snow Removal

Winona Gutsche noted that advertising has been placed for snow removal proposals. Discussion followed regarding the fact that we have a snow blower that can be used, but it was not included in the advertisement.

9.03 Handbook Update

Laura Creasy advised that she has updated the Thrift Store, Board of Trustees, Finance and Treasurer portions of the handbook. Winona asked that the other committee chairs have their changes or recommendations prepared for the November Council meeting to be reviewed and provided to Tricia to update the handbook.

1. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday November 13th at 7:00 p.m,

1. ADJOURNMENT

Winona thanked everyone for attending and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary