

**Brechin United Church Council**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**Via Zoom**

ATTENDANCE: Kathy Torhjelm, Christine Robertson, Linda Braid, Val Neilson, David Moddle, Tif McNaughton, Barb O'Neill, Dorothy Russell, Darlene Darby, Lynn Burrows, Tom Gray, Anne Manikel, Randy Manikel, Diane Thomas.

Regrets: none.

WELCOME by Kathy Torhjelm, Council Chair, who called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She thanked everyone for learning Zoom for the meeting.

DEVOTIONAL – Christine Robertson read an uplifting poem by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM about the positives coming out of our physical distancing requirements and the chorus of “It’s a Long Road to Freedom”, by the Medical Mission Sisters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **M/S:** Val Neilson / Linda Braid. **Carried.**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

† February 20, 2020 **M/S:** Linda Braid / Darlene Darby. **Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE SENT: Linda Braid sent thank you notes to Grace Skomorowski, Peggy Jensen and Rob Russell for their hard work on the Valentine’s Day dance.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

**Minister’s Report** – Rev. Tif McNaughton. She reviewed all the work she has been involved with regarding all the changes required by Covid-19.

**Financial Report** – David Moddle, Randy Manikel – Due to the difficulties presented by Covid-19 there isn’t a report available. The revenue and expenses are the same as January’s and are following the budget. We discussed how to deal with the lack of open offering with no church services, and the issue of paychecks.

**Pacific Mountain Region** – Val Neilson – see attached. The April Fresh Start workshops have been cancelled. A decision will be made closer to the date as to whether the June workshops will go ahead. We discussed the Regional meeting on March 18, 2020 held via Zoom.

**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 – no report.

**Ministry & Personnel** – Linda Braid – Linda is the team liaison for Tif and Lonnie Moddle. Linda and Eileen Carolan are the liaison persons for Cindy Gillespie.

**Mission and Outreach** – see attached.

**Pastoral Care** – Barb O’Neill, Dorothy Russell – see attached. The Newcomers tea is on hold. Tif will set up a Google Doc for the Pastoral Care team. This will enable them to have a report which they can all see and revise without needing to send numerous emails.

**Property** – Tom Gray. Keys have been made for the Library door. Yard maintenance will continue.

**Stewardship & Finance** – no report.

**Worship** – Diane Thomas – see attached. Diane will check with Cindy regarding the confusion over which newspaper an ad was placed in. The early Easter Sunday service will be cancelled. The ad in the Nanaimo News Bulletin will be cancelled for the interim.

**Motion:** Move that the advertisement in the Nanaimo News Bulletin be cancelled for the interim. **M/S:** Diane Thomas / Darlene Darby. **Carried.**

**Motion:** M/S Diane Thomas / Barb O’Neill that Leadership team reports be accepted. **Carried.**

#### OTHER REPORTS:

**Redevelopment** – Val Neilson. See attached.

- † The risers have been ordered, without carpeting.
- † The kitchen appliances will be domestic versions. There was a question as to whether the dishwasher will be a commercial one as requested.
- † Lighting – The wiring for the performance lights has been installed. People will need to be trained on operation and maintenance of the equipment.
- † The Region team is beginning to look for a property manager.
- † Linda Braid has a contact on the mainland who can supply dishes.

OLD BUSINESS: none

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- † Brechin’s Terms of Reference needs to be updated to indicate that a person co-signing cheques must not sign a cheque for themselves or a family member.
- † We reviewed all the changes being required by the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - † Tif will send an email to the congregation with various worship options and set up a ‘check-in’ Zoom meeting with date, time and log-in.
  - † Tif will be working from home. Linda and Eileen Carolan will check with Cindy about working from home.
  - † Tom will check on whether our insurance requires someone in the office for a specified amount of time each week.
  - † Payroll – we reviewed the three levels of payroll we have.
  - † The South Island Cluster is working on setting up a YouTube channel for staying in contact.

- † We discussed the desirability of a phone tree for the Pastoral Care team.
- † Linda expressed concern regarding the ability of Loaves and Fishes to carry out their mandate under the current conditions.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION:

- † Linda Braid will: talk with Cindy about working at home; contact Gail Miller, Regional minister about payroll issues; give Cindy information to include in the next congregational email about supporting Loaves and Fishes.
- † Val Neilson will cancel the Fresh Start workshop scheduled for April.
- † Diane Thomas will talk with Cindy about which magazine the advertising was to appear in and cancel the advertising in the Nanaimo News Bulletin.
- † Tom Gray will check with the insurance company about the requirements for having staff in the office.
- † Kathy will amend the Council Terms of Reference.

CLOSING PRAYER – Tif closed with a prayer.

We will have a 'check-in' meeting on April 2 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Val will provide a reading.

Next Council meeting: April 16, 2020 via Zoom.

Devotional: Anne Manikel.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am on the motion of Diane Thomas.

Kathy Torhjem, Chair

Christine Robertson, Secretary

## **PMR Report for March 2020 BUC Council Meeting**

The Theological Banquet was held at Camp Pringle on March 7<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended with 50-60 participants including 17 from Brechin. By all accounts it was a big success and reports have all been favourable. Many thanks to Peggy Jensen who coordinated carpooling and food contributions as BUC was responsible for tea/coffee and food for the break times. Now that I have experienced Camp Pringle, I will know when to recommend it for future events...a great space!

Susan Ward was approved at the congregational meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> as our second PMR representative. Linda Braid was approved as our alternate. Many thanks to each of them for volunteering for these positions.

Tif, Kathy Torhjelm, Susan Ward and I spent time on March 10<sup>th</sup> responding to the survey from the Communities of Faith Council. The data they collect will inform their work on a self assessment tool for C of F to complete each year for the Region.

It became apparent that we should have registered with ChurchHub even though we are not in a declared vacancy or pursuing a call. We will be creating an account as soon as we are provided with a new user name.

I expect we will be cancelling our Fresh Start dates but will wait until discussion at the Council meeting happens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Neilson

## **Mission & Outreach Team – report to Council – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*There have been multiple changes since our meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> so this report will be shorter than usual. ☺*

### **2020 Reconciliation workshops:**

**January 30th workshop:** Feedback – Evaluations: Colleen Crossland completed the evaluation summary. This has been emailed to those who asked for it + the facilitators

and our M&O team members. Lynn will ask Cindy if there is room at Brechin house for storage of all the past workshop evaluations along with the summaries.

**The March 18<sup>th</sup> Paddling Together workshop:** has been cancelled/postponed.

**Fall workshops update:** Kathi & Meredith are available Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. We have to wait until (end of?) July to see if the rooms we would like are available at Beban Park. We have applied for a grant with the UC Justice & Reconciliation committee to cover these 2 fall workshops. Lynn will be emailing them a final report for just the Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> workshop to assist in their decision-making. They understand that our March 18<sup>th</sup> workshop had to be cancelled.

**New M&O Team members:** Jerry Bates and possibly Julia Roberts

**Minute for Mission/Hallelujah Moment** We have not yet received response from Brechin people with ideas for a Hallelujah moment but will continue to be open to this.

**Climate Action/Social Justice:** Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) Lynn to check with Guy Dauncey (and connect again with “Farmer Brown” to see if Guy is committed to anything yet on Earth Day re his “Climate Emergency: 26 week Transition Program for Canada”. The worship team discussed having Guy speak again at one of our services but seem to have decided against this (even when normal services resume). (He spoke 2-3 years ago at one of our services)

We were going to try to work with the Worship team regarding “eco-theology climate justice for theme time” Easter-to-Pentecost timeline but that has been cancelled/postponed.

**Anne Nesbitt: the FN books project:** She and Faye (?) are now working closely with Tillicum Lelum on this Indigenous book project (Indigenous books available in the school libraries.) and very pleased with how things are progressing. Schools being cancelled indefinitely will alter this work to some extent.

**Contemplative Justice Network’s request:** some of our team members still need to complete this survey.

**City of Nanaimo’s Design Labs:** Both Jerry and Lynn attended some of these excellent workshops held the first week of March. The ones scheduled for the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> have been cancelled/postponed because of health safety concerns re the Corona Virus.

**Brechin Mission & Service report 2019:** Lynn re-submitted corrected information and it was received OK by the UC of Canada.

*Our next meeting may be held on line.*

## **Pastoral Care Report for March 2020**

Our Pastoral Care continues to support Tif with hospital visits, phone calls and cards etc. as required, for shut ins, illness, falls, etc. as required.

A lovely memorial service was held Feb. 22nd at 1:00 at Hope Lutheran church for Carol Howell.

A memorial service for Terry Prysiaznuik is scheduled for March 14, at 2:00 at Hope Lutheran .

Some of our Pastoral Care team will meet for tea with Irene Strong at a later date as her husband Irv's service was on the same day as Carol Howell so many of us could not attend.

We are tentatively planning a newcomers tea for Thurs. April 30th at Brechin House as we did last year.

A suggestion has been brought forward that some changes may be required for Brechin's memorial pamphlet. We feel it needs reviewing especially the logo.

Sincerely  
Dorothy Russell (for Barb O'Neill)

Pastoral Care Team

## **Worship Team Report for Council**

March 19, 2020

Peggy Jensen and Gwen Boyd are looking after options for a Baptismal Bowl for Brechin's new building.

John Oldham has cancelled his visit to Nanaimo.

We had said yes to advertising in the Nanaimo Magazine but the latest edition does not have any church ads for services. However, Gwen referred to the Family Magazine in her minutes. I don't know if there are two different magazines. I will check with Cindy.

Tif had planned some time off and I had arranged for Pulpit supply. Grace Skomorowski had said yes to March 29<sup>th</sup>; Anne Manikel was a maybe for April 19<sup>th</sup> and Dale Perkins had said yes to April 26<sup>th</sup>. Now all is on hold.

We have booked and paid for the Kin Hut for an 8:30 Easter Sunrise Service at Departure Bay Beach April 12<sup>th</sup>. Should we cancel or wait and see?

We just need to follow all the guidelines put forth by the Health Community and the Government and be safe.

On behalf of the Worship Team,  
Diane Thomas

### **Redevelopment Report for March 2020 BUC Council Meeting**

The February field report states 42% completion with no delays expected.

Tif, Linda and I attended a meeting at the construction site with Terry Harrison, Justin Harcourt and Dea Knight on March 10<sup>th</sup>. They were able to provide answers to our outstanding questions from the November workshop. The Vancouver team works very hard to address our concerns in as timely a manner as possible. We are not their only project, so delays are understandable. They are reporting completion for late fall this year.

Kathy then joined us and we were treated to a site tour along with MLA Sheila Malcomson. We were able to stand in the multipurpose rooms at the front of the building and admire the beams across what will be the ceiling of the worship space. It is now possible to visualize the footprint of the church space as the foundation is complete.

We then toured the apartment building looking at suites on the second and fourth floors. It is very impressive and the views from the higher floors are magnificent.

Hopefully the Redevelopment Team will meet once Randy is home. It will be good to regroup and share the new info from the Vancouver team.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Neilson