First United Church – Hanna, Alberta

Council Meeting, Church Lounge

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

PRESENT: Chair Winona Gutsche

Rev. Jan Richardson, Stettler United Church

Secretary – Rhonda Lund

Lynette Barker Laura Creasy

Tyler Creasy Jean Lypka

Linda Quaschnick

CALL TO ORDER Chair Winona Gutsche called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

Chair Winona Gutsche welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Rev. Richardson opened the meeting with a reading about epiphany and a prayer.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion No.** **68**  Moved by Laura Creasy that the Agenda for January 9, 2018 be adopted as amended:

**Remove:** December 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Motion seconded by Lynette Barker. **Carried.**

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion No.** **69** Moved by Laura Creasy that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held November 14, 2018 be adopted as presented.

Motion seconded by Tyler Creasy. **Carried.**

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES
2. CORRESPONDENCE
   1. Thank you card from Rev. Clarence & Gloria Sellars for the farewell gifts and the welcome they received from the congregation of Hanna First United Church during the time Rev. Sellars provides services this winter.
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   1. Finance Committee – Written Reports

Laura Creasy reviewed the Balance Sheet dated December 31, 2018 as well as the Budget & Income Comparison Report. The finances are in a good position at this point.

Laura also reviewed the proposed budget for 2019. She noted that the budget will need to approved at the Congregational meeting and asked that if anyone has a recommendation or change to the budget please let her know as soon as possible.

* 1. Board of Trustees – Verbal report

Tyler Creasy advised that he completed the report for the Annual Report. Investments started this past year at $92.220.20; after giving $10,000 to general operating and a loss of $2,233.23 in the investment account, the balance is now $79,986.97.

* 1. Worship, Mission & Service – Verbal Report

Jean Lypka reported that the Worship Committee has not met since last Council meeting. However, she noted the following items:

* Thank you to Tricia Gladdish for preparing a new pulpit supply roster to March 31, 2019. There are a couple of weeks without music and a couple without worship leader, but we will adjust as we get closer to those dates.
* The pianos in the sanctuary were tuned. The grand piano needs more work, but the technician did not have time to do the repair. Clarence and Gloria donated $130.00 to have one of the pianos tuned.
* Dave & Jen Laux and Jean took down the Christmas tree and decorations.
* Looking forward to having the new minister here.

Rev. Richardson noted that she sent a service outline to Winona Gutsche and Tricia Gladdish on behalf of Presbytery. General Council representatives had a dialogue that was turned into a message that can be used in a service to highlight General Council service and themes. Stettler is going to use it on the 27th.

Laura Creasy advised that we need to decide on the pledge from the church for Mission & Service for 2019. There is $2,974.00 in the account and the Thrift Store will donate $2,250 again this year. Using the average donation for M & S from January to September, the yearly amount would be $3,852. The pledge in 2018 was approximately $9,000. If contributions during the year are higher than expected we can send more than our pledge.

**Motion No.** **70** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that Hanna First United Church pledge $7,000 to Mission & Service for 2019.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka .  **Carried**

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

Linda Quaschnick advised that Pastoral Care met weekly with Rev. Sellars. Pastoral Care is more than just visiting people. Rev. Sellars made it a priority to reach out to the members of the church and asked that the Pastoral Care committee assist with that. Donna Hickle & Linda Quaschnick were the members on the committee and they invited Marjorie Duff, Gail Smigg and Liz Gourlay to join. They are pleased to be on the committee.

Rev. Sellars set a goal for the committee to reach out to the membership and let them know we are an active committee and we would be there if they needed us. The committee used the old membership list and phoned everyone. Although the committee did not talk about membership, there were a couple of people that asked to be taken off the list. Rev. Sellars phoned a lot of people when he was here to get the congregation involved. The Pastoral care committee has discussed that they want to phone people once or twice throughout the year.

The committee would also like to work on the Funeral lunch list to determine who is a member and who is helping to provide lunches, even though they are not members. We need to phone these people and let them know that we are grateful for their help. Tricia Gladdish will sort out the list so we know who are members and who are not when we phone people.

It was suggested that we ask for cell phone numbers and email addresses to update the membership and funeral lunch lists.

With regard to hospital visits by Pastoral Care, Linda Quaschnick noted that the hospital workers cannot ask if a person would like a visit from a minister or congregation member. The hospital provides a list of patients, but does not give an affiliation. During discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the Ministerial Association could develop a poster for each hospital room that states: “If you would like a visit from a minister or pastoral care, please contact:” and then has a list of Hanna churches and contact numbers.

Regarding Church membership, Rev. Sellars suggested it would be up to Council to make the phone calls to see if people still want to be on the membership roster. He feels it is important for the new minister and the church to know who the members of Hanna First United Church are. Discussion followed regarding the difference between members and adherents. Rev. Richardson noted that the United Church is moving away from differentiating between the two. We will still need to do some research on membership rules. Rev. Richardson confirmed that at the Congregational Meeting, voting privileges can be extended to all those present.

Linda Quaschnick offered to check with Tricia to get the lists prepared for Council to make the phone calls regarding membership in order to have the membership list prepared before Rev. Lombard arrives.

* 1. Memorial Park – Verbal Report

Lynette Barker advised that the committee would be taking down the nativity scene in the next couple weeks.

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

Laura Creasy advised that Dillon Rees was hired to remove snow from the sidewalks, but he never came when needed. Laura asked Chuck Webster about doing it, as he has a business to do snow removal. He provided an estimate that she is going to give to the Property and M & P committee.

Laura noted that she received an email from the NEET program that she will also forward to Property for follow up. The energy audit has some suggestions for reducing energy consumption and cost.

Jean Lypka noted that the Property committee needs new members. Gwen Snell and Ray Hickle are having health issues, Ira Ross goes south each winter and Kyle Toporchak has resigned from the committee.

Jean Lypka advised that she, Gwen Snell and Winona Gutsche did a walk-through of the manse yesterday and there are some items that need attention.

* Humidifier on the furnace - Gwen is going to get that looked after.
* Tiles at the bottom of the stairs are lifting - problem is they are asbestos. Concern about whether they have to be taken out or whether a sealant can be put on the tiles before new flooring can be installed.
* Big wooden table in the laundry room - needs to be taken out and replaced with a plastic table.
* Painting – the main floor rooms need to be painted. Alan Lund has offered to paint. Gwen is going to get the paint and supplies.
* Light fixtures in the basement need to be replaced. Put in LED lights in to save money.
* Furniture
  + Need a kitchen table and some beds.
  + Queen size bed in main bedroom, but we need some dressers.
  + Need a couch and chairs and tv.
  + Kitchen is pretty well stocked.
  + Will keep adding over the next couple of months.
  1. Thrift Store – Written Report

Laura Creasy reviewed the Thrift Store report, for December 2018, confirming the following:

* $5,229. in sales, 390 customers and 197 volunteer hours.

Laura reported that Danae Kimpinski has been hired for the Thrift Store administrator. She also provided a report showing the sales and customer numbers from 2013 when the Thrift Store opened to 2018. Sales and customer numbers have grown each year.

**Motion No.** **71** Moved by Lynette Barker that Council ratify the motion made by the Thrift Store Executive to authorize the Board to accept the proposed amended contract with the Diabetic Association to extend our current contract expiry date from March 31st, 2019 to December 31st, 2019. .

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka .  **Carried**

* 1. Search Committee – Verbal Report

Winona Gutsche reported the following:

* Congregation accepted the Search Committee recommendation to offer the minister position at Hanna First United Church to Rev. Badi Lombard from Zimbabwe.
* He has accepted and Laura has started the process to obtain the work permit necessary for Rev. Lombard to come to Hanna.
* Rev. Richardson advised that the contact for Chinook Winds Region to assist us with the transition is Leah Spice.

1. PRESBYTERY REPORT – Verbal Report

Rev. Richardson noted that the changes in the structure of the United Church of Canada mean that Hanna First United is part of the Chinook Winds Region. The region has a website and facebook page. There will be a gathering of the churches of Chinook Winds in Lethbridge, Alberta on June 8 &9. A delegate is needed to represent our congregation to the region. The delegate will need to attend one meeting per year, rather than the four per year when we were in Coronation Presbytery. The other meetings will be held using technology.

Rev. Richardson confirmed that the Annual Reports will go on a hub on the website. Everything is in electronic form and there are a number of webinars available to members.

Rev Richardson mentioned that she is pleased to attend our meetings and assist in any way she can, however she is only available until April as she is going on Sabbatical in May of 2019. She will make sure there is a contact for us as Rev. Lombard will need supervision for a time.

1. MINISTER’S REPORT – No Report

**Motion No. 72** Moved by Laura Creasy that Committee Reports 6.1 to 6.10, Presbytery Report 7.0 and Minister’s Report 8.0 be accepted as presented at the meeting tonight.

Motion seconded by Jean Lypka. **Carried.**

1. NEW BUSINESS

**Motion No. 73** Moved by Linda Quaschnick that a person be hired to do snow removal for the church on an “as needed” basis for $15.00 per hour.

Motion seconded by Tyler Creasy. **Carried.**

1. NEXT MEETING

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

1. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winona Gutsche thanked everyone for attending and stated that business being concluded, the meeting is adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary