**Trinity United Church**

**Collingwood, ON**

**Virtual Official Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

Present: Joy Barr, Dawn Myers, Doug Harrison, Al Loughery, Ruth Crittenden, Barb Sneyd, Danielle York (chair), John Brown, Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings (non-voting), Ray Piercy, Barbara Downie, Barry Rice, Jennifer Young, Lori Forsythe (non-voting), Bev Mayberry, Ralph Sneyd (for a portion of the meeting)

Regrets: none

1. **Welcome**: Danielle

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Brian

2. **Thoughts and Prayers**: Carol S.

3. **MOTION** to approve the agenda, Dawn Myers and Barbara Downie. Motion carried.

4. **MOTION** to accept the minutes of January 13, 2021, Doug Harrison and Ruth Crittenden. Motion carried.

5. **Correspondence**

- Outreach Committee: Barb Sneyd reported on two grants, one from Blue Mountain Village Foundation for $1000.00 and one from RTO (Retired Teachers of Ontario). There is a photo op for the latter Wednesday, February 10 at All Saints Anglican church.

**Business Arising**

6. Accept the minutes of three special Board meetings held in March of last year

**MOTION**: from Ray Piercy and Doug Harrison that the minutes of March 14, 15, and 25 2020 be accepted. Motion carried.

7. Cemetery Ownership & Funding request

* Input received from Cynthia Dunn:

Ray did contact lawyer, Cynthia Dunn, at UCC for clarification regarding cemetery ownership and responsibility. She responded that this is a classic problem with churches and cemeteries. She cautioned that it is not worthwhile going to court. (Please note: The latter point was not something the Board was entertaining.)

There can be a written agreement between the parties that the cemetery is considered to be a separate entity.

Question: Is the Cemetery a charitable activity?

* Discussion ensued.

Ralph Sneyd spoke on several issues with regard to the Cemetery. He stated that the church does own the cemetery. They operate under a trustee model. The church appoints members of the Cemetery Board, which is comprised of Trinity United Church members. They also operate under the Bereavement Authority of Ontario and are considered a ”religious non-profit”.

During this past year work has begun on repairing the existing fencing at the Cemetery. Further rebuild of the fencing will soon be required.

The current available capital of the Trinity United Church Cemetery is approximately $85,000. (eighty-five thousand)

The Cemetery Board would like to be able to recover a portion of their HST and to use some of Trinity’s Memorial fund donations. From time to time, a donor would like to receive a tax receipt for their donation to the Cemetery funds. These would only be available to the Cemetery Board if they were operating under the umbrella of Trinity United Church.

Action:

Danielle will contact other churches in town, particularly St. Mary’s, which have involvement with their own cemeteries, to ascertain how they handle their connections. She will get back to the Cemetery Board.

We may need further clarification from CRA.

8. Coldest Night Fundraising Walk

Various scenarios have been contemplated but the Board approves of the most recent: two tables set up at Trinity on the night of the Walk, one to distribute the toques and one to receive the monies from the teams. Covid-19 protocols will be followed.

9. Montessori: entrance and banquet hall use

The school continues to use the south entrance as much as possible with the Beech St. entrance used for the before- and after-school program parents and children. The Montessori classes are no longer accessing the Banquet Hall.

**Reports**

10. **Treasurer/Finance Committee:** Al Loughery: no report

11. **Buildings and Grounds:** Danielle York: no report

12. **Spiritual Committee:** submitted by Doug Harrison and attached.

13. **Outreach and Social Action Report:** Barb Sneyd

- The committee will outsource more work for the monthly community dinners. The preparation is currently too massive a job for the fewer numbers able to do the work of cooking the meals during the pandemic.

-The committee looks forward, with anticipation, to the time when they can safely resume their other projects.

14. **Minister’s Report**: Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings

- We continue our current Book Study sessions, with the Lenten Study Group starting to meet by Zoom later this month.

- Rev. Brian is consulting with WOW region to ascertain how to accomplish the requested baptisms and transfers of membership, both needing congregational input/support at the time of the formal reception.

15. **Trustee Report:** Barry Rice: no report

16. **UCW Report**: Joy Barr

- Feb. 20th: Zoom meeting with all three regions

- World Day of Prayer: information is on the website and has been sent out by John.

(Two dates in February for lead up to March 5) The UCC describes the World Day of Prayer as:

*Observed on the first Friday in March, World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer.*

17. **Ministry and Personnel:** Dawn Myers

-Everyone is working hard.

-Bev Mayberry will replace Dawn as chair of the committee. Chair, Danielle, noted that the Board is looking forward to welcoming Bev. to the ‘table’.

18. **Office Report:** Lori Forsythe

Lori’s address has officially now been changed to: office@collingwoodunitedchurch.ca

Brian’s address change, soon to follow.

19. **WOW Region Report**

Brian noted the sad news from WOW regarding the death of John Neff ‘s son. (regional staff). Many of us met John at Trinity when the region met here.

20. **MOTION** to accept all the reports, Doug Harrison and Barb Sneyd. Motion carried.

**New Business**

21. AGM – update from Region

* Ruth explained that the region newsletter and AGM protocols say that yes, our annual meetings can be postponed, but, elected officials will remain the same until such time as we have an AGM – unless there is a vacancy and that vacancy can then be filled by the Board.
	+ Discussion ensued. The Board determined that all our changes in Board Structure, going forward after this meeting, are because of vacancies and therefore all changes would be recognized.
* Barb Sneyd assured the Board that she would remain as chair of the Outreach and Social Action Committee until such time as a replacement can be found.
* **Our February Zoom Informal Annual meeting will contain a report from outgoing Treasurer, Al Loughery and an introduction to the 2021 Official Board members.**
* **The link for the meeting will be the Coffee Chat time link sent out by John, which can be accessed after the February 7th church service.**
* **There will be an opportunity for a Q & A among those present at the virtual meeting.**

22. Order of Nathaniel: John Brown

The Board accepted the list of those nominated for the 2021 Order of Nathaniel. The list will be found in next month’s minutes to allow for the surprise factor for Sunday’s announcement.

**MOTION:** from John Brown and Barbara Downie that Board approves the list of nominees for the 2021 Order of Nathaniel. Motion carried.

23. Covered previously.

24. Minutes on the website.

Ruth reported that the January 2021 Board meeting minutes are now on the website. The consensus from the Board was that this link need not be password protected.

The Official Board approved adding a page for the United Church Cemetery on our website, with the appropriate links.

25. Search Team Report: Ray

- Training meeting was held February 2.

- Ray received several feedback comments after the distribution of the Church Profile. He adjusted the profile accordingly and has submitted it to our region for approval.

- The next meeting of the search committee will be February 8, 2021.

Thanks from Al

Al thanked all who assisted him in his Treasurer’s role over the last year, especially Lori, Brian, and Ruth.

Chair, Danielle, thanked Al for his leadership and dedication to his job and Trinity.

* Danielle extended a big thank you to all who are leaving the Board for their continued commitment.

26. Trinity News Deadline: February 10th.

**MOTION**: to adjourn, Barry Rice

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_