

**First United Church
Council Meeting
January 29, 2019**

Present

Carolyn Dalrymple, Chair, Rev. Valerie Kingsbury, Burt Amiro, Chris Bowman, Grant Langford, Rev. Roger Moore, John McElhiney, Lila MacLean, Eleanor Norrie, Janet White, Ken Cameron, Linda Bennett, Cathy Olsen, Malcolm Macpherson, Lynn Macpherson, Alan MacLean and Pat Roberts

Corresponding members: Robert Jordan and Joy Hewitt.

Worship

Rev. Valerie shared a humorous reading on the feeding of the 5000 with the view to sharing our talents and our "lunch".

Welcome

The chair welcomed all present and noted that we had a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

On a motion by Burt Amiro, seconded by Lila MacLean the circulated agenda was approved.

Minutes of October 30, 2019 Meeting

On a motion by Burt Amiro, seconded by Pat Roberts the minutes were approved.

Business Arising

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

Correspondence

Several items of correspondence were noted and distributed to the appropriate committees or for filing.

Reports

Rev. Valerie: Life is wonderful!! The life of the church is going well despite several recent tragedies. She spends a lot of her time visiting in hospitals. She noted that Carman and Alice Burns are now in Fergus hall. She asked that we reduce the number of envelopes we order for 2020 as many are not being used. This will change the envelope numbers for individuals. It was agreed to reduce the number ordered to 260.

Plans are underway to offer a "Date with Death" event in April. This is a partnership between First United Church and Mattattal~Varner Funeral Home. The event is free; however there will be a basket for a donation to go to Hospice.

She also advised that she is the Future Directions Chair for Region 15, the region of the church we are now a part of.

Chris Bowman: He has had a busy and successful time over the past few months. The whole Christmas season was well received. The recent concert by Andrew Boudreau was a success and brought in over \$2000 in revenue. Chris stressed that the concerts just don't raise money, they also open us up to the community. He is currently booking to May 2020.

Roger Moore: Bible study is active again and he is seeing at least 25 attendees including many coming from other churches. The film group has also restarted with some 20 in attendance. The films generate good discussions at the end.

Clerk's Report: There was no discussion but Rev. Valerie asked for a small correction.

Christian Life and Growth: Malcolm mentioned that the services at Christmas time were well received despite some minor glitches in communion. The next communion will be on March 10. The Sunday School with Adam Bray is going well.

Communications: No discussion.

Council Executive: No meetings were held.

Fellowship: No discussion

Ministry & Personnel: No discussion

Music: No discussion

Nominating: Eleanor advised that they are still searching for a Vice Chair of Council. Twelve of 13 positions have been filled.

Finance Committee: Carolyn Dalrymple advised that she was organizing a small committee to support the Treasurer and was looking for approval of this committee. It was moved by Burt Amiro, seconded by Alan MacLean that this be done. Carried.

Outreach and Social Action: We raised \$31960 for M&S in 2018 with a budget of \$31000. Ken asked that we set a target of \$32,000 for 2019. Rev. Valerie cautioned that it is important to meet whatever we budget as the United Church sets their program on what the individual churches budget. On a motion by Ken Cameron, seconded by Alan MacLean the motion carried.

Pastoral Care: Cathy Olsen advised that there would be a training session for pastoral care people in the spring at Elmsdale.

Presbytery: John McElhiney reported on developments in the new church governance which is now pretty much in place. We are region 15. The first major session will take place in Sackville May 23 to 26 of this year. Future meetings will be done electronically because of the greater distances people have to travel under the new organizational setup. A governance manual is available should folks wish to understand the details

Property: A recent Fire Inspection took place and a number of deficiencies were noted. Joy Hewitt walked around with the inspector and has organized a number of the corrections that have been deemed necessary. One major event included a massive cleanup of the basement area around the furnace as well as a cleanup of the area under the sanctuary. She is actively pursuing the deficiencies concerning fire extinguishers. There is also work required in the bell tower with regard to the sprinkler system and the operation of the sprinkler heads now that ceiling tile has been removed from some areas.

The fire inspector stated that the curtains in the hall and on the stage have to be removed or treated with flame retardant. The feeling of the council was that we should retain the stage curtains and get rid of the curtains in the hall. Carolyn Dalrymple advised that she has been able to secure room dividers that could replace the curtains and do so with greater flexibility. There is also a need to have a fire door to the electrical room.

It was agreed to discard the curtains in the hall and acquire the dividers that have been offered free of charge. Joy Hewitt said that a further cleanup is needed to complete the work done on the previous Saturday. At that cleanup a very large dumpster was completely filled. There is still a large amount of stuff to be removed from the hall. On a motion by Burt Amiro, seconded by Malcolm Macpherson it was agreed to rent another dumpster and hold a second cleanup on Saturday February 2nd.

It is estimated that the cost of doing the work outlined in the fire inspection report will be close to \$20,000. It was noted by Alan MacLean that with a written report received it is imperative that we comply with and complete the deficiencies outlined.

In addition to the replacement of the sprinkler system we are facing some significant costs concerning the furnace problems that occurred at the end of 2018. The cost of this is estimated at over \$60,000, a cost that is mostly covered by our insurance company. Rob Dickson is currently negotiating the replacement of the hall floors that were damaged by the flooding caused by the failure of the sprinkler system.

Treasurer's Report: Grant Langford advised that 2018 was a financially positive year with givings up, fundraising up and calls for money from the Trustees down. Problems with the furnace have resulted in fuel costs up by 60% or \$18000. With the two major problems in December along with the fire inspection report calling for remediation requirements 2019 could be more challenging.

Stewardship: No discussion.

Trustees: Alan MacLean advised that there would be a Trustee meeting with the Scouting group regarding funding to be held February 5, 2019.

UCW: Lila MacLean advised that they would be holding a Shrove Tuesday pancake fund raising lunch and dinner on March 5. A dinner and silent auction is being planned for May 4.

Alan MacLean: Advised that the Interconnection program is going well. Several churches working together with the homeless shelter are making meals on Mondays.

Carolyn Dalrymple: The sprinkler system is 50 years old and there are numerous pin prick holes in many of the pipes. The life expectancy of this system is 50 years. Replacement prices are currently being sought. It will also be necessary to look at a major overhaul of the furnace system this year.

Chris Bowman: We will once again be hosting the ASTE Conference in June with facilities and food.

Chris thanked Carolyn Dalrymple for her service and job well done as Chair of Council over the past several years. This was her last meeting as chair. She received an enthusiastic round of applause.

Next Council meeting will be held on March 26, 2019.

Adjournment

On a motion by Burt Amiro the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Benediction

The benediction was provided by Rev. Roger Moore.

Council Chair

Carolyn Dalrymple

Council Clerk

Grant Langford

First United Church Council
Regular Meeting January 29, 2019

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Worship
3. Welcome/Corresponding Members
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2018
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Correspondence
8. Ministers' Reports
9. Committee Concerns /Comments
Council Clerk
Christian Life & Growth
Communication & Archives
Council Executive
Fellowship
Ministry & Personnel
Music
Nominating
Outreach & Social Action
Pastoral Care
Presbytery
Property
Treasurer
Stewardship
Trustees
UCW
10. New Business:
11. Sprinkler system
- 12.
13. Next Council Meeting
14. Adjournment
15. Benediction

Minister of Faith Formation

My report to the Council for the time frame of September 2018 to December 2018

Our Critical Bible Study Group got under way in September and continues to attract a large number of interested Lay and Clergy folks. A number of folks from other faith groups are also involved making it a real ecumenical project. Altogether around 30 people are involved.

This Fall our focus has been on the life of the Apostle Paul and the New Testament books that bear his name. Paul was and is a complex biblical character and this makes for interesting discussion in group. It's a journey into modern scholarship and the critical tools necessary to understand Paul's letters.

On Tuesday mornings we enjoy the "Spiritual Growth Thru Films" program. This is very well attended and supported by many.

Since everyone could stay home and watch movies on their TV, why come to our group? Most likely it has to do with fellowship and a sense of community of coming together and sharing our thoughts about the film and its possible meanings. These are of course no cost or obligation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve at First United.

Blessings,

Rev. Roger Moore

Clerk's Report

Baptisms, Marriages, Transfers, and Deaths

Baptisms

Jordan Dylan, child of Justin & Tasha Berry

Marriages

Profession of Faith

Transfers of Membership

November 22, 2018

Lynn Cameron to Londonderry Pastoral Charge

January 8, 2019

Sarah Kingsbury to Trinity St. Stephen's in Amherst

Deaths

November 3, 2017

Carrie Elizabeth Chase ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

November 13, 2017

Edna "Bunnie" Pearl Tarrant ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

December 10, 2018

Carl Douglas Weatherbee ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

December 18, 2018

Beatrice S. Bailey

December 22, 2018

Charles Henry Johnson ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

January 17, 2019

J. Donald Sutherland

January 22, 2019

Jordan Dylan Berry

COMMUNITY:

Deaths

October 22, 2018

Alfred Earl Matthews ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

December 7, 2018

James Albert Barron ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

January 4, 2019

Kathryn "Kathy" Ann Colburne ~ Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

Marriages

Communication Committee

January, 2019

First United News was published and delivered in November. The next paper will be ready in March. Yearly canvassing for advertising will begin in the near future.

The Committee provided funding for the poster to advertise the concert by Andrew Boudreau on January 27th.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Bennett

M&P COMMITTEE REPORT

January 29, 2019

First United Church's Mission Statement: *"To glorify God while striving to be an inclusive, friendly, teaching congregation committed to serving our community and our world".*

M&P Committee met once since the last Council meeting. On January 21, 2019, we met to plan for staff reviews.

Present: Pat Roberts, Chair; Susan Dixon Dyke, Karen Parker, Sheila Allan and Chris Bailey. Regrets were received from Karen Byers and John Mumford.

Six month staff reviews for Adam Braye, Coordinator of the Child and Youth Program and Joy Hewitt, Church Attendant/ Cleaner will be held on February 7, 2019.

Annual staff reviews for the Church Administrator and Ministerial Staff will take place after our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Roberts

Music Committee

January 23, 2019

The Music Committee has been busy supporting the ongoing music events in the Church.

The Candlelight Concert in December raised over \$1000.00 for the church.

We have sold \$1500 in CDs and there are still copies available as I write this. This money will be used to help cover the cost of the re-hammering of the piano.

The apple crisp orders were abundant. A group of volunteers will assemble and deliver them. By the time you read this report, the event will have finished. It should raise close to \$2000 if things go as planned.

A portion of the above mentioned funds will be used to help pay for the re-hammering of the piano in the sanctuary. The Summer Lunchtime Concerts paid a portion and the remaining cost is being share by the Audrey Cornell Fund, the Music Under the Steeple Committee and the Music Committee.

The Music Under the Steeple Committee reports that \$1900.00 was raised for the church when we hosted the Barra MacNeils.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Macpherson, Chair

Nominating Committee Report

January 29, 2019

The Nominating Committee for 2018 consists of Ann Gourley, Shirley Creelman, Tillie Armstrong and Chair Eleanor Norrie.

The Committee met several times to continue the process of filling vacancies for 2019. As reported earlier, there are 13 members of various committees eligible to retire 2019. The committee members have been contacting potential candidates and to date we have candidates for all but three vacancies. These include Vice Chair, Lay Rep to the Regional Council and Chair of the Stewardship Committee. We also have members who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination for the Chair and Secretary of the Congregational meeting.

We received a number of names for nomination by the congregation for consideration.

We are pleased with the cooperation we have received, from a number of members, which have been contacted to allow their names to stand for nomination. There is still a need to have more people involved in the various committees and we urge everyone to consider letting their name stand for nomination, especially in the vacant positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Norrie
Chair

Outreach and Social Action Committee

Along with the United Churches of Brunswick Street, Old Barn's, St Andrew's, St David's and Hilden as well as St John Anglican, John Calvin Reformed and Sai Development Group; First United took its turn in providing the monthly Community Dinner on Saturday, November 24, 2018. Approximately 60 clients were served a nourishing pasta/vegetable meal with a brownie/ice cream desert. Rev Valerie and Adam, along with two girls from our youth group, helped throughout the meal and contributed greatly to its success. All dinners for 2018/19 are serviced at St John Anglican and the St John liaison person for us on the 24th was Bev Deveau who went out of her way to help and make us feel welcome.

First United was once again a participant in the area Christmas Index project. We volunteered to provide Christmas Cheer to 15 families with one more being added later. Tillie Armstrong coordinated the effort making a complicated job run smoothly. The funds, time and effort contributed by our church congregation was wonderful to see and a testament to our community spirit.

The total submitted to Mission and Service for 2018 was \$31,334.50; with \$4,825.00 of this amount having been raised by our UCW. The total exceeded the 2018 pledge made to UCofC head office by \$334.50.

Monthly deliveries were made to the Food Bank in the range of 70 to 90 pounds per delivery. At a recent committee meeting, it was discussed how First United might give assistance to the Truro Homeless Shelter and second, how we could better make the congregation more aware how our community of faith is giving hope to our community.

On the first issue, this is detailed in the January 13, 2019 church bulletin and is an initiative of the three United Church Pastoral Charges in the town of Truro. The goal is for two people from one of the four churches, to prepare and serve a dinner to the 15 or so clients every 4th or 5th Monday from 4 to 7pm. On Monday, December 10, 2018 Alison MacLean and Ken Cameron (but mainly Alison) from First did the meal. Then on the following Monday, Ken Cameron helped Anita Taylor and her husband from North River United do the meal. This is a small commitment that can be rewarding in so many ways as well as providing an opportunity to work with people that have likeminded objectives, and giving the chance to see the community need first hand.

On the issue of outreach awareness, this could be achieved simply by putting a notice in the church bulletin. For example, "The delivery to the Food Bank from First United in December, 2018 was 80 pounds. The recipients always express their appreciation and ask those doing the delivering to pass on their gratitude. This is an ongoing need that is eased by our continued generosity."

Our committee will continue to explore both these endeavors.

Humbly submitted;

Co-chairs: Janet White and Ken Cameron

Pastoral Care

Chairperson : Cathy Olsen
Secretary: Diane Wasson

Other Committee Members: Ann Gourley, Greg Allan, Carolyn Emanuel, Martha MacLaughlin, Audrey Jordan, Ruthie Hiltz, Leland MacLean, Don MacQueen, Ethel Miller, Tillie Armstrong and Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

Committee members strive to support and keep ongoing communication with senior members of our church community. This may be achieved by home visits, phone calls, greeting cards and personally interacting with them at church activities they attend.

On November 20th, six members of our committee attended the Pastoral Care Workshop put on by Presbytery and hosted by St Andrew's United Church. We found it was a very worthwhile day with excellent workshops on various topics.

Although the needs of the people we serve vary greatly, we are committed to make each individual in our program feel valued and cared for by First United Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Olsen