

## Minutes for Bridgenorth United Church (BUC) Council Meeting

February 18 2025 Time 7 pm- via ZOOM

Attendance P-= present, R= regrets, A= absent

Sharon Baptie Worship and Christian Ed/Faith Development P	Jeff Julian Regional Council Representative P	Jane Kirkwood- Membership and Pastoral Care P	Ian DesLaurier – Chair Stewardship- A
Judy Amsbury -P Secretary	Sue Pettersone Chair- BUC Council; Trustees Council Rep. P	Patty Latour P & Anna Thompson P- Outreach and Social Justice	Lane Vance – Finance P
Tanna Edwards P Communications			
Mary Ruth Begbie R Ministry and Personnel	Rev Cathy Gradante P	Jim Thompson Property P	Joe Latour – Affirming P

Item/Presenter	Discussion	Action
1.0 Welcome	Sue Pettersone	
2.0 Opening Prayer	Re. Cathy Gradante	
3.0 Land Acknowledgement- read by chair	Sue P - We respectfully acknowledge that Bridgenorth United Church is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Bridgenorth United Church respectfully acknowledges that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.	
3.0 Minutes	Minutes- approval of Jan 21, 2025, minutes <b>motioned</b> by Jeff Julian seconded by Lane Vance. and <b>Carried</b> .	
4.0 Correspondence	None	
5.0 Action items	None	
6.0 New Business	<p>1. <b>Motion</b> to recommend to the congregation at the AGM to approve the shared ministry agreement with Grace United Church. <b>Moved by Jane K, seconded by Patty L. Carried.</b></p> <p>Some concern was raised over the magnitude of the work load therein. Rev Cathy stated that she will balance the workload as necessary between the 2 congregations and has been clear that there must be flexibility from both congregations and that she has freedom to make the decisions necessary, including consultation with M &amp; P if needed. There will need to be a level of trust and reciprocity eg shared activities and services as needed.</p>	

	<p>An addendum will be added to the agreement to break down the costs and the commencement date.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> to raise the Ministers salary to 10% above the minimum pay grade as we enter into the shared ministry agreement. <b>Moved by Tanna E. , seconded by Jane K. Carried unanimously.</b></p> <p>2. <b>Motion</b> to nominate Sue P as Chair and Judy A as Secretary for the Mar.2 AGM. <b>Moved by Tanna E., seconded by Jane K. Carried</b></p> <p>3. <b>Motion</b> to set up a committee to create a Community Garden which will be run by BUC with help from community volunteers. <b>Moved By Sharon B, seconded by JaneK. Carried.</b></p>	
7.0 Committee Reports	<p>See Appendices</p> <p><b>Sharon B. moved</b> that all committee reports be approved, <b>seconded by Patty L. , and carried.</b></p>	
8.0 Adjournment/Closing Prayer	<p>Rev Cathy gave the closing prayer.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm</p>	
9.0 Next Meeting	MONTH DAY 2024, at 7 pm via ZOOM	
10.0 Appendices	<p><b>Minister's Report – Rev. Cathy</b></p> <p>We are currently in the Season of Epiphany – the Season of Light – and as the days get longer, we appreciate the light more and more. We are once again exploring the spiritual practice of Star Words in this Epiphany Season and many have shared how their word has informed their living during this time.</p> <p>Our journey toward an intentional Shared Ministry with Grace United Church continues as we met to discuss my job description and the details of how the agreement will work in preparation for our Annual Meetings in February and March. My hope is that the Spirit will guide us onto a new path as we work together to be the hands and feet of Christ in our communities. We have also worshipped together at our “JOY” service on December 29<sup>th</sup> and at the Wedding at Cana on January 19<sup>th</sup> – both were filled with food and friendship!</p> <p>My work with the wider church continues with interviews taking place for candidates seeking to serve the United Church of Canada. This work on the Candidacy Board for Quebec and East Ontario is highly rewarding.</p> <p>During my study leave, preparations have begun for the Lent/Easter Season and the journey this year will include a number of events - including a book study and documentary presentation.</p> <p>May we all continue to be guided by the Light in this Epiphany</p>	

	<p>Season, In faith &amp; hope, Rev. Cathy</p> <p><b>Finance – Lane Vance –</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. M &amp; P suggested setting aside a reserve fund to cover costs of Cathy’s Sabbatical to be approved at the AGM.</li><li>2. A summary of the fundraising events and potential revenue for 2025 to assist in budgeting will be provided. Spaghetti dinner raised \$2300 and the Food bank is expected to break even. Irish Millie and Lizeh Basciano will each perform for BUC in 2025.</li></ol> <p><b>Property – Jim Thompson -</b></p> <p>B. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>1. Minutes for January 7, 2025 Property Committee meeting was distributed, reviewed and accepted.</p> <p>C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>1. Jim Thompson presented quotations from four HVAC contractors for replacement of furnace in the old building with a new gas furnace and cold weather heat pump. The quotations were also emailed to Moira Vance of Trent Childcare for review and to determine if funding can be obtained. Attached is a list of estimated cost to replace all HVAC systems based on budget numbers obtained from the 4 contractors contacted.</p> <p>D. REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES</p> <p>1. Building Maintenance – Wayne Dennison – Wayne Dennison has painted the walls in the kitchenette/library and main stairwell and landings.</p> <p>2. Equipment and Appliances – Jim Thompson, Jeff Julian, Ian Deslauriers – Nil.</p> <p>3. Heating and Ventilation 6 Jim Thompson – Nil.</p> <p>4. Landscape and Property 6 Marg Grills, Ian Deslauriers 6 The snow removal provisions were discussed, and Jim Thompson indicated that snow removal services are provided by Floods Landing Ltd on as needed per event basis for the church driveway and sidewalk to the library and for the rear laneway. In addition, we have a supply of salt and sand available at the main entrance and at the NE corner of the church. Jim Thompson reminded everyone that members of the property committee along with conveners of all church groups will also need to participate in maintaining safe access to the building, with shovels available at the front doors. Since Jim Thompson is the primary contact for the snow removal contractor, he will need to be contacted to make arrangements for additional snow removal as needed.</p> <p>5. Rental Committee – Jim Thompson – Nil</p>	
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	<p>from 9 am to 3 pm. They also have an ongoing need for coats, hats, mitts and gloves. Anything warm is appreciated.</p> <p><b>Mission and Service Story</b> – suggested to be part of our services once a month</p> <p><b>Blessing Bags</b> – maybe as part of the summer’s Compassion Camp or as part of the church’s anniversary in the fall.</p> <p><b>Witness Blanket</b> – will be in Cannington, Durham Region, from Sept 8<sup>th</sup> to Oct 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p>It is a large-scale art installation containing hundreds of items from residential schools. It is a national monument to recognize the atrocities of Indian residential schools.</p> <p>We would like to look into the idea of taking a church group trip to see the Witness Blanket while it is in our area – part of our Truth and Reconciliation journey. Rent a bus?</p> <p><b>Trustees -Sue P. No report</b></p> <p><b>Worship and Christian Ed/Faith Development- Sharon Baptie</b></p> <p>Cathy opened the meeting in prayer and shared prayer for Logan's safe recovery post-surgery.</p> <p><b>New Business:</b></p> <p>1. Confirmation Class – begins March 6th – open registration?</p> <p>Have 2 young people who are interested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested that perhaps it is something we might open to other UC's in the area</li> <li>• Roundly supported by consensus</li> <li>• Rev Cathy will connect with other churches and will suggest a \$50-60 donation (initially per church/attendee - we may review depending on uptake) The first session is March 6th (3 meetings/mo).</li> <li>• Confirmation service will be May 25 if needed.</li> </ul> <p>2. March 5th – Ash Wednesday – do you want to do a service? (afternoon or evening?)</p> <p>Will do an evening service at 7 pm &amp; will invite Grace to join us. Location TBC Wendy will offer to organize rides for those who may not want to drive after dark.</p> <p>3. March 9 – Installation of Officers/Volunteer Appreciation</p> <p>Ian has written music; Wendy will order cake</p>	
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	<p>4. AGM - Worship Committee – if vote is affirmative – will become a joint committee with Grace. Won't need quite as many committee members at BUC end. Will be the same for M&amp;P committee. Both committees would be shared between churches; Lois and Wendy are ad hoc to the Worship based on their other roles (Sunday School and Music Director/Admin</p> <p>5. Lenten Devotional – A Sanctified Art - devotional and resources will be used. Approx cost to print \$2/book (Grace reimburses us for the number Cathy takes).</p> <p>6. Lenten Study Options: Affirming Ctee "A Stranger in the Mirror" (light read); Pie Day discussion/dessert on Friday Mar 14 after the Coffee House (Cathy to review with Affirming Ctee and check that books available in time) "When Olive Trees Weep" - Palestine film-based discussion (another time as will take a bit longer ~2 hrs Tanna still interested in leading "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr book study (Cathy still reviewing (hold off to late May/June or fall time frame due to Tanna's new commitments) <b>Final Choice:</b> "Sacred Music" - Cathy will order a couple of copies and confirm next week with Wendy</p> <p>7. Maundy Thursday – April 17 at Bridgenorth</p> <p>8. Good Friday – April 18 – joint service at Grace at 11 am</p> <p>9. April 27 – Holy Humour Service Grace has quarterly "lunch and learn" events – No for this one (Apr 27) but both churches should communicate events and topics back and forth so people can choose if interested.</p> <p>10. May 4th – Breakfast on the Beach – firepit/fish/bread at Bridgenorth</p> <p>11. Compassion Camp – July 14-18 - Sue, Eileen, Tanna, Alora volunteered so far. Maybe a couple of newer folks will help as well.</p> <p>Stone Soup Sunday: If Sharon is unable to be back, Sandi will make another pot of soup in her stead. Cathy will check with Sharon tomorrow when she's talking to her.</p> <p>Sue D wanted to ensure that Sharon was profusely thanked by all for her service on the committee.</p> <p>Cathy agreed and noted that the March 9 service is to recognize all</p>	
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	<p>who have given so freely of their time and talents.</p> <p><b>Regional Council – Jeff Julian</b> –no report</p> <p><b>Membership and Pastoral – Jane Kirkwood –</b> Summary of Jan 28, 2025 Membership and Pastoral Care Feedback on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-November lay minister’s luncheon catering was that it was well received. Jane stated there was not enough chilli for a second serving and that she should have made a soup as another options</li><li>-Christmas visits by those who made the visits was that they were well received. One couple felt guilty about having the visit ad they don’t attend the church. Decided to remove them from next year’s list</li><li>-Spaghetti Dinner, Sat., February 1 is this weekend. The scouts are coming out to help. The dinner was a success and document with most of the organization was sent to Wendy for future reference</li></ul> <p><b>New business-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Purchase of after church coffee and tea – will as Clay to continue purchasing this coffee as long as he is able</li><li>2. Committee changes members who’s term has expired are Joanne, Mary Ruth and Jane. Sue Dennison and Karen Kirton will be joining the committee. Karen is available to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The committee chair will be decide by the group at the first meeting following the AGM, on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 10 AM. It will be an in person meeting at BUC. Jane thanked all the committee members for their support and the members reciprocated.</li></ul> <p>Correspondence- thank you card from Ila Crichton Reports fromBereavement (cards and get well) and Prayer Chain – Beth continues this work Prayer chain – no report Coffee after church, kitchenette – discussed the challenges of having big group for coffee, lots of dish washing and extra dishes needed from down stairs Inclusivity update- gluten free cookies purchased and available in the kitchenette Rides- thanks to all the people who are providing members with rides Next meeting: Tues. March 10 @ 10 AM in person at BUC</p> <p><b>Affirming – Joe Latour</b> We are pleased to report that two new volunteers have prayerfully accepted our offer to join our Affirming Committee effective with the March 2025 AGM: Trudy Vandenberg Wilson Randy Wilson Next meeting is March 6, 2025 to discuss PIE Day and a book study</p>	
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	<p>with a transgender theme.</p> <p><b>Communication – Tanna Edwards –</b></p> <p><b>Website Update:</b></p> <p>All content that was included in the sample site that Tanna mocked up in Canva (using another organization's platform she has access to) was uploaded to the TerraUtopia link provided by Gary along with the Canva link.</p> <p>Gary Petro (owner) responded two weeks ago (correspondence will be sent to Secretary) indicating that he did not think that the Canva link we provided was anywhere close to what we'd spoken about and that to provide that - it would cost \$2500 (then subject to the \$75/month management fee). The alternative would be to "try" to put the content we'd submitted to an existing site as we've previously discussed, but that it would now cost \$500 to do as there are "changes" needed (again followed by the monthly maintenance).</p> <p>Tanna and Cathy have since discussed and there is concern for Gary's health along with newly communicated cost, and a reticence on Gary's part to allow us access to all the content, which we would have with other options (somewhat understandable given Gary's clientele). There is not a concern for Cathy (given Gary is a colleague's spouse), if we change directions based on tonight's discussion.</p> <p>Tanna has been researching further and recommends we proceed with one of two options (in this order).</p> <p>With a Canva Pro subscription for BUC (which Cathy has applied for - hopefully to be free - or \$437 for 3 seats), BUC could launch the site Tanna "mocked up" once it was rebuilt on the BUC Canva instance, once in place. The caveat is that we would need to be able to find someone with "backend" capability to allow us to launch it with our domain (we have options).</p> <p><b>Pros:</b></p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Least expensive option &amp; we like the look</li></ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We would not own the site and should we find Canva's price increased in future for hosting, etc. we could need to do this exercise again or at least evaluate costs.</li><li>• We have to do the work to "rebuild" it in BUC Canva instance.</li></ul> <p>OR</p> <p>Enlist the services of Emmatt Digital of Peterborough, who have provided a time <u>estimate</u> of 12-15 hours at \$82/hour+tax (includes 10% non-profit discount). They could launch it either on Nexicom (we would continue to pay for Nexicom hosting), or Emmatt would host it for us on their server for \$120/year (billed annually), which may be less expensive than Nexicom (to be confirmed with Jim). Tanna currently works with another org in Peterborough that uses Emmatt's services with few issues.</p> <p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance is little and updates are easily accomplished using Emmatt's content management system (CMS).</li><li>• It would be complete by early April</li><li>• Training would be provided</li><li>• Would not need monthly maintenance cost such as we were expecting with TerraUtopia (\$75/mo) on an ongoing basis, without full access to maintain content on our schedule.</li><li>• BUC would retain ownership of the WordPress site and should the need arise, we could port it elsewhere to be hosted and/or maintained.</li></ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing maintenance (not content updates), would be billable at the \$82/hr+tax rate on an as-needed basis. Note: This is just slightly higher than TerraUtopia's monthly rate (which represents an hour's work per month if needed).</li></ul> <p>I suggest that BUC move forward with a Canva instance website, and in the event that launch is unsuccessful, we move forward to have a new responsive website (works on all mobile and desktop devices)</p>	
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	<p>professionally built by Emmatt Digital (quote correspondence will be submitted to Secretary) in Peterborough.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> to move Web development to Emmatt Digital based on their quote of \$1500 for 2025 with expected completion in April 2025 <b>Moved by Tanna E. , seconded by Jeff Julia. Carried.</b></p> <p><b>Secretary – Judy Amsbury – no report.</b></p>	
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