

EXETER UNITED CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM MINUTES
Meeting held Tuesday, March 22, 2022 7:00pm via ZOOM

Present: Rev. Laurie O’Leary (acting chairperson), Joan Kammerer, Ann Johns, Shirley Hayes, Alice MacLean, Larry Wein and Laurie Johnston (recording secretary)

Absent: Stephen Platts

1. Check In / Opening Prayer – Rev. Laurie welcomed everyone and opened with scripture and prayer.

2. Welcome Larry Wein – Larry was welcomed as a new member of the Leadership Team. Larry and team members were provided with a copy of the Exeter United Church Constitution together with excerpts from The United Church of Canada The Manual 2022 dealing with Leadership Responsibilities. Also, Joan Kammerer verified that Larry was fully vaccinated, as a requirement under the church’s COVID Policy.

3. Approve Agenda – Additions to the agenda under New Business – South Huron Community Choir request; Deb Homuth proposal; and email re Supporting Refugees in Huron County.
Agenda, as amended, approved by consensus.

4. Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting – February 16, 2022
The Leadership Team minutes of February 16, 2022 were approved by consensus with grammatical and typographical errors corrected.

5. Matters Arising

- (a) Church Hub – Church Profile & Living Faith Story (defer)
- (b) Community of Self-Assessment (defer)
- (c) Results of meeting with Canon representative – Rev. Laurie met virtually with the representative from Canon. Based on our usage, there may be potential to change the type of machine we use. There was an anomaly in the last quarter of 2021 and Rev. Laurie to meet with the representative in the next quarter.
- (d) Hay Communication – re: telephone service – to be discussed under the Office Report

- (e) Software / Hardware review – to be discussed under the Office Report
- (f) Newsletter – deadline for submission is March 25 and submissions are being received
- (g) Annual Report 2020 and 2021 - outstanding
- (h) Annual Meeting – yet to be determined

6. Finance and Stewardship Report (Ann Johns)

Ann reported that there will be an increase in the hydro and fuel amount in the 2022 budget by approximately \$1,300.00. Finance & Stewardship is waiting for the audit and reports to be completed by Ron Godkin, then final reports will be Available for the Annual Report. The Finance & Stewardship Report was received by consensus.

7. Re-Opening Team Report (Rev. Laurie)

Rev. Laurie reported that the re-opening team (Joan Kammerer, Joanne Bowen, Ann Johns and herself) had communicated with each other to discuss the change in the provincial mask mandate and its effect on worship.

The Re-Opening Team suggests that for the next two weeks, up to and including April 3, 2022 that the current practices remain in place that is to require masks be worn, social distancing, proper hand hygiene, singing with masks, and pre-registration for services.

Beginning on Sunday, April 10, 2022, based on the premise that the province has not made any further changes, the protocol for Sunday worship would be – remove the pre-registration and sign in, continue to require physical distancing, strongly encourage hand hygiene, encourage to stay home if they feel ill, require masks while singing.

Through discussion of the above – there is to be an addition of wearing a mask to enter the building and once seated the mask can be removed. It was noted that the Huron Public Health Unit recommends that face masks are still a benefit.

An update is to be sent to the congregation. Before a second update is sent the Re-Opening Team will revisit the situation.

When pre-registration is no longer needed for services, the door will remain unlocked during services. It was suggested that a reminder be placed on a slide before the beginning of a hymn to remind the congregation to wear their mask when singing.

The re-opening of the church office remains in place until it is determined that there is a need for presence onsite.

8. UCW Report (Ann Johns)

Ann Johns gave the report stating there was nothing new. The UCW Executive is meeting on March 31, 2022.

The Rollin Roaster dinner is most likely not to happen, it is quite pricey.

9. Ministry and Personnel Report (Joan Kammerer)

Joan gave the report stating that the current COVID Policy continues to be in place. She also confirmed that, pursuant to the policy, that Leadership Team members and staff are required to be fully vaccinated.

Heather MacKechnie is acting Pulpit Supply on Sunday, April 24, 2022 and this would be an opportunity to acknowledge Heather's time with the church, perhaps a floral arrangement and words of appreciation to be given during the service.

10. Office/Communications Report and Correspondence (Laurie Johnston)

(a) Hay Communications does offer similar telephone service as RingCentral offers. The cost is approximately ½ of the current RingCentral program. Rev. Laurie and Laurie J. were directed to work out the change from RingCentral to Hay Communication. It was noted that the hall telephone does not seem to be working.

(b) AI from LVR Computing will be coming into the church on March 31st for computer checkups, including the sanctuary computer and the issue with inserting hyperlinks in the PowerPoint program.

(c) Christina Boersma approached the church about holding music classes with younger children and a parent. She has attended at the church and determined that the parlour is appropriate and would be holding classes of 1 hour each in the morning and the afternoon beginning in September. Christina would be responsible for set-up and take down, leaving the parlour and washrooms as she found them. She is also aware of the need to provide proof of insurance.

MOTION to approve a flat rate of \$50.00 per day for use of the parlour to Christina Boersma for her music classes beginning in September. She is responsible to provide proof of insurance, for set up and take down, and leaving the parlour and washrooms as she found them.

Alice MacLean/Ann Johns
CARRIED

(d) Supervised Access – We have been in touch with them as they had not been using the parlour lately. They have advised that an Exeter family is in the intake process and they will advise when they will begin to use the parlour once more.

(e) AED Pads have been recalled. In the interim, we are to continue to use current pads. Stacey Palen will provide replacement pads when they are available.

(f) VISTA – Deb Roy has advised that VISTA will resume in the fall.

11. Minister's Report (Rev. Laurie)

Dianne Shapton has informed Rev. Laurie that Sunday School will not resume until the fall. Joanne Bowen and Rev. Laurie will continue with the "season in a bag" program for the Sunday School children. Currently there are 17 families and 35 children who participate in this program.

The reporting required under the music licences that we have (One Licence and CCLI) has fallen through the cracks. Laurie J is working to fulfill our obligations and report the music we have used.

Joanne Bowen has been approached about a 100th Birthday Celebration for Ada Dinney on June 21, 2022. The date has been set aside in the calendar. Bob Heywood was also in touch with Joanne about a potential concert in May, however, no further details or specific request has been forthcoming.

For the worship calendar, Rev. Laurie confirmed that pulpit supply for May 8 and August 7 would be Heather MacKechnie and for August 14 would be Paul Vollick.

12. New Business

(a) South Huron Community Choir would like to restart their Tuesday night rehearsals in the church sanctuary. Rev. Laurie is to contact them to affirm that they are able to return to the church for rehearsals, request a start date from them and advise that currently, our practice is to sing while masked and to provide them with the Huron Perth Health Unit advice in this regard. Once a start date is received the rehearsals will be included in the church calendar and Anne Lindenfield will be advised in order to do appropriate cleaning/sanitizing.

(b) South Huron Community Creative Arts Centre - Ann has been contacted by Deb Homuth with regards to establishing the Arts Centre and the possibility of partnering with Exeter United Church. Ann, Deb Homuth and members of her steering group will be meeting March 23rd at 1pm to tour the church. This tour will be with a focus to determine if the space would work for the vision of the Creative Arts Centre.

In connection with this conversation, Joan pointed out that by 2025 an accessible washroom is required in the church, according to current accessibility legislation. If the South Huron Community Creative Arts Centre partners with Exeter United Church, this matter will need attention sooner than later. As well as the possibility of government grants to assist with potential capital improvements.

Ann suggested the need to create a group of individuals whose focus would be this project only. She suggested representation from the Trustees, the Property Team, Choir, and Sunday School. Larry Wein suggested that Ann lead this initiative. Ann will create a proposal for the group, as well as a list of possible members. Ann's leadership of the project was passed by consensus. The Leadership Team also provided its complete support of this potential partnership to create the Creative Arts Centre.

Joan inquired about funds the church has received from Embracing the Spirit for the community garden that did not proceed. It was confirmed that the church still retained the remaining funds. Embracing the Spirit has indicated their preference that the funds be used for a community project rather than be returned. These funds could represent a source of 'seed' money for the Arts Centre project.

(c) Supporting Refugees in Huron County – Rev. Laurie has received an email from Mark Nonkes, Huron County Immigration Partnership inviting a representative

from Exeter United Church to attend an upcoming community information session on April 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Exeter Library.

Dianne Waun also received the same email and has indicated that she is unable to attend this meeting and would hope that someone from the church would attend. Rev. Laurie will check with Diane for possible suggestions of a member to attend as a representative of the church. It was also suggested that an email could be sent to the congregation to see if there is an interest.

(d) After a short discussion, it was determined that Leadership Team meeting dates going forward would be on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning with Tuesday, April 26, 2022. This meeting will be in person, at the church, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Next Meeting: April 26, 2022 (in person), 7:00pm