

**Meeting Held: October 24, 2018 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Joan Kammerer, Rev. Laurie O'Leary, Cheryl Masson, Ann Johns, Janice Brock, Joanne Bowen, Marion Kerslake, Stephen Platts, Lois Godbolt  
**Treasurer:** Lynn Alderdice, **Secretary:** Heather MacKechnie

**Regrets:** Alice MacLean

Quorum was present

**1. OPENING PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

Rev. Laurie read a prayer from Joyce Rupp's Spiritual Reflections, Inviting God In

**2. CIRCLE CONVERSATION-Coffee and Conversation**

- Most participants weren't concerned about the constitution
- Concern about how to merge Trustees and Property Committee
- Worship comments included keeping door closed during worship, appreciate older, traditional hymns
- Finance and Stewardship:
  - 35 people attended, 6 spoke
  - 5 concerned with Minister's access to giving, 1 supported, 1 contributed a letter of concern
  - Concern over how decision is to be made
  - No questions on budget
- Concerns regarding lack of spiritual care

The Board supports the following plan for Spiritual Care:

- 1) Approach Membership and Visitation to affirm their work, review vision and plan and invite them to participate
- 2) Thank the teleministry and visitation teams and invite them to participate
- 3) Let the congregation know and invite them

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by Cheryl Masson and **Seconded** by Janice Brock that the agenda be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

**4. FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Very significant gap between income and expenses. Thank you cards will be sent to everyone who responded to the letters of invitation. Personal follow ups will be done with those on the disengaged list. Dashwood gift will be left in the operating budget for this year. F&S will let the congregation know about the gap. For future stewardship we will work on updating the member database, continue to do a better job of thanking people.

Recommend the following to the Board:

- 1) Do not proceed with giving Minister direct access to giving's information
- 2) Make progress towards better financial stewardship:
  - ◆ F&S committee will define a list of "easy to answer" questions.
  - ◆ Treasurer will provide answers to the Minister on a monthly basis.
  - ◆ Minister will solicit input & decide on need for follow-up

**MOVED** by Ann Johns and **Seconded** by Lois Godbolt that the Board approve the above Finance and Stewardship recommendation. **CARRIED**

## 5. MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

In 6. 4) change creating to created

**MOVED** by Joan Kammerer and **Seconded** by Janice Brock that the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting be accepted as amended. **CARRIED**

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- i. Capital Project East Entranceway-continue to follow up.
- ii. Anniversary Dinner-Thank you to Janice Brock and all of the helpers and attendees. Dinner was well appreciated, net profit of \$1500.
- iii. Fire Inspection-UCW cleaned out under stairs. Trustees would like the congregation notified of work needed and expenses, with an appeal for donations. Discussed who is going to communicate.
- iv. Fire Plan-is being creating by the Property Committee
- v. Manse Funds-Trustees discussion re: letter sent to Presbytery about releasing ½ of the manse funds from restriction. Trustees moved to not send a letter to presbytery requesting release of funds but agreed to discuss with Board the release of Trust funds as needed.

- vi. Feedback Cards-were introduced on Sunday. Have already received two responses. Will create a confidential email so that fillable form can also be placed on the website.
- vii. Worship Time-discussed potential change in worship time. Choir has a plan if time does get changed. Will bring to Annual Meeting for discussion and a vote.
- viii. Grant Update-Embracing the Spirit grant application has been submitted, will find out results by mid-December
- ix. Policy Review-defer
- x. Funds from Dashwood/Calvary United Church-will acknowledge and thank in worship and upcoming newsletter.

## **7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT DOCKET- Committee Reports**

**MOVED** by Ann Johns and **Seconded** by Janice Brock that the consent docket be accepted.

**CARRIED**

- i) Courtesy Car-instead of having someone on call every weekend people can book in advance through the office.
- ii) Special invite from Blyth and Brussels for October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm for visioning session.

## **8. OFFICE/COMMUNICATION REPORT**

- i) Heather will start doing announcements on Sunday to try to boost communication of upcoming events and programs
- ii) Will show PAR videos over the next three weeks
- iii) Discussed having Board information on the website, decided to see how Feedback Cards go

## **9. MINISTERS REPORT**

- i) Training on November 5-8 for the Candidacy Board
- ii) Tom Prout has submitted his resignation as Chair of Trustees effective at the last meeting. The Board thanks Tom for his dedication and commitment. Policy requires Rev. Laurie to sit as chair until a new chair is elected.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE-**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- i) Remembrance Day Wreath Laying-will find a volunteer to represent the church
- ii) Ecumenical service December 11<sup>th</sup>-Lessons and Carols. Good will offering will support the Huron County Foodbank Distribution Centre.
- iii) Support for Christmas Bureau-we will have 4 themed collection weeks
- iv) Coffee and Conversation time again in January-discussed and decided January was too soon. Will re-visit.

**ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER**

***Next Meeting: November 28 @ 7:00 pm***

***Annual Meeting set for February 24, 2019***

**ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER** Rev. Laurie O'Leary closed the meeting with prayer.

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Joanne Bowen, Chair

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Heather MacKechnie, Secretary

## ***Board Reports for October***

### **Minister's Report Board Meeting 24 October 2018**

- ✓ Attended Wellness Program at Community Centre
- ✓ Meet with wedding couple
- ✓ Attend Huron Perth Presbytery meeting
- ✓ Attended United Fresh Start training
- ✓ Officiated wedding Bugyra/Smale
- ✓ Attended Steel City Rovers Concert
- ✓ Attended Huron Perth Presbytery Executive meeting
- ✓ Attended meeting of Transition Commission at Hamilton Conference Office
- ✓ Facilitated training of Lay Supervision Team – Bayham United Church, Straffordville
- ✓ Participated in London Conference Settlement Committee conference call
- ✓ Meeting with family to plan funeral
- ✓ Attended Trustees meeting
- ✓ Attended with Fordwich United Church to discuss shared ministry agreement and future plans
- ✓ Officiated funeral for Arnold Stebbins at Hoffman Funeral Home and burial in Grand Bend Cemetery
- ✓ Attended meeting with representative of South Huron Community Choir concerning Lessons & Carols service
- ✓ Facilitated Tuesday Pause
- ✓ Attended Canadian Boomerfest conference
- ✓ Attended Region 8 Gathering
- ✓ Attended Anniversary Dinner
- ✓ Attended Huron-Perth Presbytery meeting
- ✓ Planned and prepared Sunday worship
- ✓ Study Leave – October 22 – 30, November 12 - 19
- ✓ Candidacy Board Training – November 5 – 8
- ✓ Hope for the Holidays – November 29; Advent begins December 2

17 october 2018

Rev. Laurie O'Leary

### **Special invitation from Blyth United and Brussels United**

To all the United Churches in our area,

Brussels United and Blyth United are in a Cooperating Ministry agreement for the past 5 years. Several churches in our area, us included, are without full time Clergy support. Being realistic, changes are happening and will keep happening as the grey heads in church leadership positions diminish. As we move into Region 8 and new governance, we need to think clearly about the future.

I am inviting you to a night of '*Dreaming*' at Blyth United Church on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

This gathering is meant as a time to think of all the possibilities that would help us be the Church we are meant to be. It is a guided time to dream of ways to worship and work in our community and into the next number of years.

We are NOT inviting you to lament the state of the world, or mutter about the disinterest of folks in church, but we hope you will come to think clearly of ways that we could be the church in the next 5 to 10 years.

So if you've had the hard conversations with your people and you know what they are ready to lose to maintain a United Church presence where you live, come to *dream and scheme* and plan for our future.

Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper will facilitate the evening and the cost will be \$25.00 per congregations. Each congregation may send as many people as they like, the more that attend the more ideas we will have to share with each other.

For more information and to register your congregation please contact:

Betty Graber Watson, 519- 887-9231 [sunctry@ezlink.ca](mailto:sunctry@ezlink.ca)

***UCW Report***

- UCW will pay to have the Parlour carpets cleaned, but not the Sanctuary
- Volunteers worked to clean out the Christmas decorations etc. from the basement
- Provided cookies for the Steel City Rovers concert which were greatly appreciated, leftover cookies were used for a funeral lunch and our Coffee and Conversation time

***CD/Outreach Report***

The courtesy Car has not been used at all in over a year, in fact almost two years. Yet we have volunteers, scheduled one month at a time, to provide this service. It is frustrating when at times they turn down other opportunities so that they are home to take calls and then receive none. We are looking for ideas on how we can still provide this service when required without this monthly schedule.

Outreach Committee.

***Feedback from Coffee and Conversation*** (as submitted to office to date)

One person thought this was going to be a formal congregational meeting

- One person did not know that a revised Constitution was being proposed
- January 2019 UCC changes was a surprise to some; subsequent change from London Conference to a different region brought up discussion about with whom the Huron-Perth Presbyterial would align
- One person in the group did verbalize that the proposed Constitution made sense, especially combining committees with like responsibilities
- Most of the discussion focused on the following:
  - Sacredness has been removed from the services; too much entertaining and not enough spirituality (examples of 'entertaining' – little music ditties and Children's story)
  - Good old-fashioned hymns are lacking

- If we are going to be using *More Voices* more extensively, we need copies in the pews
- Would like to have the organ played more often
- Sunday School is lacking
- Perhaps more people would be involved if a personal invitation were extended, e.g. ask people to deliver the scriptures during the services as was done some time ago
- Need to get more people coming to Sunday services but no concrete method for this other than eliminating Sunday shopping and Sunday closing of the Rec Centre
- No one that I spoke to had a problem with the new constitution.
- More than one person would like to see a few of the old hymns again. Be it one Sunday a month or one old hymn every week.
- Another person was concerned about how we would pay for the fire code upgrade. I assured them that this issue would be-worked out at the Trustees meeting which was following ours.
- Board should not make decision regarding access to givings, decision should be made through a congregational meeting
- Many are opposed to minister having access to givings
- People would like to see more of the old, familiar hymns
- Feedback from the letters sent out, many expressed that they recycled the letter when they saw what it was, they already give what they are able to



**EXETER UNITED CHURCH  
General Operating Budget**

	for 2018	Budget	Sept 30/2018	Short/Over
	Annual Budget	September 30/2018	Actual	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Local Envelopes	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 56,750.00	\$ 43,482.20	\$ (13,753.30)
Local PAR	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 47,430.00	\$ 46,944.50	\$ -
Local Loose	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 1,590.65	\$ (1,289.35)
Benevolent	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,720.00	\$ 1,745.00	\$ (975.00)
UCW	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)
Room Use	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 5,811.00	\$ (1,639.00)
Trustee Transfers /Insurance/Housing	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,307.96	\$ (2,092.04)
Fund Raising/Misc Income	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 26,200.62	\$ 24,700.62
Vista Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 205,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 137,130.00</b>	<b>\$ 137,081.93</b>	<b>\$ (48.07)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
WORSHIP MINISTRY	\$ 69,155.60	\$ 53,008.70	\$ 54,118.32	\$ (1,109.62)
LEARNING MINISTRY	\$ 67,595.60	\$ 52,633.70	\$ 52,070.69	\$ 563.01
CARING MINISTRY	\$ 67,595.60	\$ 52,633.70	\$ 52,070.67	\$ 563.03
REACHING OUT MINISTRY	\$ 21,160.20	\$ 16,507.90	\$ 16,587.98	\$ (80.80)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 225,507.00</b>	<b>\$ 174,784.00</b>	<b>\$ 174,847.66</b>	<b>\$ (63.66)</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (19,907.00)</b>	<b>\$ (37,654.00)</b>	<b>\$ (37,765.73)</b>	<b>\$ (111.73)</b>
Mission & Service Envelopes			\$ 8,541.00	
Mission & Service PAR			\$ 9,714.50	
			\$ 18,255.50	

*NOTE: MISC Income includes \$23854.79 from Calvary*

We have a very significant year- to- date gap between expenses and income primarily due to less giving's being received. This gap is understated by approx. \$13,000.00 based on the net impact of Trustee Fund transfers for incurred expense (\$10,000.00) and funds received from Calvary United Church in Dashwood. (\$23,854.79)

2018 budget was approved with a gap between expenses and income based on a plan to generate additional income during the year through fund raising activities. To date, we have raised approximately \$2600 but confirmed future activities cannot possibly raise sufficient funds to address the remaining gap. Significant additional giving's are needed.