

FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting

May 27, 2021 7:00 pm

**We, at First United Church, are called by the spirit to be a caring community of faith actively pursuing spiritual growth and compassionate outreach**

**Members Present:**

Kevin Hanna, Chair

Janelle Shaw, Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Nicole Rewerts, Worship & Music

Linda Stumpf, Regional Council Rep

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary

Brenda Warder, UCW

Marlene Reidle, Chair of Trustees

Patti McCleary, Outreach

Shirley Dyck, Ministry & Personnel

Colleen McBean, Regional Council Rep

Peggy Worrell, Faith Formation

Sharon Veer, Member-at-Large

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Check in
3. Reminder of Holy Manner #3 Affirm people's right to hold and express differing opinions, assume best intentions, listen carefully to each other, without interrupting.
4. Opening Devotion – Peggy Worrell – Faith Formation
5. Agenda amendments  
**Motion: Patti McCleary/ Shirley Dyck**  
**To approve the agenda as amended. Carried**
6. Acknowledgement of the April 27, 2021 Executive meeting minutes.
7. Approval of the April 29, 2021 Church Council minutes.  
**Motion: Sharon Veer/Colleen McBean**  
**To approve the April 29, 2021 Church Council minutes. Carried.**
8. Business arising from the minutes
  - a) Janelle Shaw – Living Skies Regional Council oversight, United Church minister at Lafleche and Limerick – Janelle is our Pastoral Charge Supervisor during Annette Taylor's sabbatical leave.
  - b) The Covenant of Mutual Commitment between First United Church and the Living Skies Regional Council has been signed
  - c) Book study update – To follow up on the motion passed at the April Church Council meeting to purchase and send copies of A Good War by Seth Klein to our political representatives, members of the book study group planned meetings with our local MLA, MP and city mayor. Linda Stumpf & Margaret Lottridge met with Jeremy Patzer, MP for the Cypress Hills-Grasslands riding, to discuss the ideas from the Seth Klein book: A Good War. He spent an hour with them. Mr. Patzer is pro oil industry but also very interested in the science of carbon capture.  
Peggy Worrell and Dixie Green met with Swift Current mayor Alan Bridal. He felt Seth Klein's ideas were radical but he is open to ideas about fighting climate change. He had heard about an idea from Yorkton where there are using crushed concrete in

- place of crushed rock beneath new pavement. He was open to establishing an Environmental Advisory Council for the city.
- Members of the Book study group plan to meet with Everett Hindley, Swift Current's MLA when a meeting can be arranged.
9. Correspondence – a congregant indicated concern that church funds have been spent on the Seth Klein books which were sent to politicians. Kevin Hanna explained to the person that the actual amount was less than originally anticipated.
  10. No Minister's Report - Annette is on sabbatical leave.
  11. Important Items from Reports – no business arising from reports

Motion to accept written reports

**Motion: Sharyn Veer/Shirley Dyck**

**That we accept all reports as written. Carried.**

## 12. New Business

- a) Summer business

**Motion: Colleen McBean/ Patti McCleary**

**That urgent church business arising during the summer will be handled by the executive. Carried**

- b) Update from the Refugee Committee – Amy Popick – The committee has raised 18,462 of their \$40 000 goal. Amy mentioned that there have been changes to the families the Refugee Committee is considering sponsoring. The committee would like to look to other groups and agencies outside our local church in an effort to raise funds with the goal of meeting our target fund and exceeding it in order to sponsoring more of the Etma family. Our church will not be asked to raise money but may be asked to provide assistance with settling future refugees.

**Motion: Sharon Veer/Peggy Worrell**

**That we give our blessing to the refugee sponsorship committee to look for more partners to assist with fundraising for refugee sponsorship. Carried.**

- c) Conversion therapy letter – The Affirming Ministry working group

**Motion: Sharon Veer/Linda Stumpf**

**That Church Council approve the Affirming Ministry Committee developing a letter, with the input of South West Saskatchewan Pride, to be sent to Swift Current City Council, to urge the banning of conversion therapy in our city. Carried.**

- d) Regional Council letter - Outreach Committee- The Regional Council will sign on to a coalition letter to the provincial government that expresses strong concerns with the ongoing sale of "Crown" land to private groups. This includes formerly protected grassland, wetlands, and aspen parkland that are the territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Dakota, Lakota and Metis Peoples. Communities of faith and individuals are invited to sign on.

**Motion: Patti McCleary/Colleen McBean**

**That Council approve First United Church to sign a letter to stop Crown Treaty land sales. Carried.**

13. Group norms – Sharon Veer- Member-at-Large
14. Reminder of action items – Sharon Veer – Member-at-Large
15. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm
16. Closing prayer – Peggy Worrell – Faith Formation

**Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.**

**Upcoming Church Council Meeting – Sept 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**Opening Devotion and closing prayer for Sept 2, 2021: Member-At-Large**

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Kevin Hanna, Chair

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Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary