

FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting  
September 2, 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

Rev. Annette Taylor, Minister

Nicole Rewerts, Worship & Music

Peggy Worrell, Faith Formation

Sharon Veer, Member-at-Large

Ila Wilms, Building & Property

Ron Toles, Vice Chair & Stewardship

Patti McCleary, Outreach & Acting Secretary

Linda Stumpf, Regional Council Rep

Brenda Warder, Ministry & Personnel

Donna Barber, UCW

Sharyn Erne, Membership & Pastoral Care

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Check in
3. Reminder of Holy Manner #4: Strive for equal opportunity and encouragement of participation of all.
4. Opening Devotion – Sharon Veer – Member at large
5. Agenda amendments

**Motion: Ron Toles/Ila Wilms**

**To approve the agenda. Carried**

6. Acknowledgement of the May 25, July 27 and August 19, 2021 Executive meeting minutes.
7. Approval of the May 27, 2021 Church Council minutes.  
"Add Ron Toles to members present"

**Motion: Sharon Veer/Donna Barber**

**To approve the May 27, 2021 Church Council minutes as amended. Carried.**

8. Business arising from the minutes
  - a) Update from Refugee Sponsorship Working Group – We have had changes in family circumstances along with delays due to COVID requiring a significant increase in additional funds needed. With all these changes, our funding requirements have tripled from \$40,000 to at least \$120,000. We are pursuing various opportunities for raising these funds beyond our congregation. The biggest fundraising plan is on Friday, November 19, 2021 - Supper and silent/live auctions at Eastside Church of God. Tickets are \$50 per person. Many other fundraising ideas are being considered.
  - b) Return to in-person worship - Worship & Music discussed the recommendation outlined in their minutes. They recommended that we return to in-person worship with restrictions in place for safety. Each person on Council voiced their thoughts on this topic before the following motion was made:

**Motion: Nicole Rewerts/Patti McCleary**

**That we begin in person services on Sunday, September 12th, 2021 with the following restrictions: mandatory masking, hand sanitizing upon entering, maintain social distancing, no congregational singing, and no gathering after worship for coffee and fellowship. Choir will be limited to four members. To be reviewed each month at our church council meetings. Carried**

- c) Funeral lunches and size of groups - At the present time we are allowing 30 people for funerals/weddings. A discussion took place about the number of people that we can fit in the sanctuary following social distancing.

**Motion: Nicole Rewerts/Ila Wilms**

**That we allow a maximum of 200 people for a wedding or funeral in the sanctuary and any number over that will be seated in the gym. All restrictions for Sunday services will be applied. Carried**

- d) Group sizes within the church -

**Motion: Ila Wilms/Brenda Warder**

**That we remove the 30 people limit to the rest of the rooms in the building. Carried**

- e) Funeral lunches - are we comfortable allowing funeral lunches in the gym following a funeral

**Motion: Peggy Worrell/Sharyn Erne**

**That we allow funeral lunches in the gym. Carried**

## 9. Correspondence –

- a) Response to the book “A Good War” by Seth Klein, which was sent to political representatives by members of the book study group.

We received letters back from Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, Office of the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, Ryan Meili, MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin & Leader of the Official Opposition, and Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. Meetings were arranged with Al Bridal, Mayor of Swift Current, Everett Hindley, MLA for Swift Current and Jeremy Patzer, MP for the riding of Cypress Hills—Grasslands. The feedback received was very positive. Thank you to Dixie Green, Peggy Worrell, Margaret Lottridge and Linda Stumpf for taking on this initiative and meeting with the various representatives.

## 10. Minister’s Report - see Annette's report on her sabbatical

## 11. Important Items from Reports

- a) Stewardship Update

Local Giving as of end of July (includes PAR and gifts not receipted):

2020	\$116,364	2021	\$90,289
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Overall givings from the congregation are down by 22% this year. By July 2020 the UCW had contributed \$15,000. Due to the pandemic curtailing their ability to raise funds, they have only been able to provide \$2,500 to date this year.

Stewardship will be drafting an announcement to be included in upcoming bulletins reminding the congregation not on PAR they may want to top up their givings.

Canadian Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Update:

This program was extended through October of this year. Currently we have received \$28,297 with two more periods left to file. Looking at the latest filings we can expect somewhere in the range of \$3,500 to \$5,000 additional subsidy.

In 2020 we received a total of \$42,171.

Budget:

The 2022 initial budget has been compiled and is being reviewed by the Stewardship committee. The individual committee worksheets will be ready and distributed this month. We will endeavor to have them ready before the next council meeting in September.

b) Building & Property - no meeting yet, plumbing issues that have been repaired in the bathrooms near the rummage room.

c) **Outreach motion: Peggy Worrell/Sharon Veer**  
**Council agrees to donate \$3000 to the United Church Haiti Appeal from the Planned Giving Available Interest Account. Carried**

d) **Worship & Music motion: Ila Wilms/Donna Barber**  
**That we approve the proposal from the Worship & Music Committee to livestream Sunday worship services for a cost up to \$2300 with the recommendation to ask the Memorial Working Group to cover the cost. Carried**

e) **Ministry & Personnel Motions:**

**Motion: Brenda Warder/Linda Stumpf**  
**That we grant Rev. Taylor her request for Education leave from October 11-17. This will coincide with the Mapping Our Lives Retreat the Faith Formation Committee is planning. Carried.**

**Motion: Brenda Warder/Ron Toles**

**That we approve the request from the Office Managers that all staff receive the new Federal Statutory Holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to be held on September 30 each year.**

**Carried**

Motion to accept written reports

**Motion: Ila Wilms/Sharon Veer**

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

12. New Business

a) AGM -

**Motion: Sharon Veer/Sharyn Erne**

**That we hold our 2021 AGM in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 24, 2021 following the worship service. Carried**

b) Fowl supper -

**Motion: Sharyn Erne/Ila Wilms**

**That it is the recommendation of Church Council that we cancel our Fowl supper for 2021. Carried**

13. Group norms – Sharon Veer- Member-at-Large

14. Reminder of action items – Sharon Veer – Member-at-Large

15. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm

16. Closing prayer – Sharon Veer – Member at Large

**Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.**

**Upcoming Church Council Meeting – Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**Opening Devotion and closing prayer for Sept. 30, 2021: Membership and Pastoral Care**

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Kevin Hanna, Chair

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Patti McCleary, Acting Secretary