

FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting

Oct 28, 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

Annette Taylor, Minister

Nicole Rewerts, Worship & Music

Fran Jackson, Membership & Pastoral Care

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary

Brenda Warder, UCW

Sharon Veer, Member-at-Large

Linda Stumpf, Regional Council

Ron Toles, Vice Chair

Patti McCleary, Outreach

Shirley Dyck, Ministry & Personnel

Charles Lotochinski, Stewardship

Peggy Worrell, Faith Formation

Marlene Reidle, Chair of Trustees

Colleen McBean, Regional Council Rep

1. Kevin Hanna, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Check in
3. Reminder of Holy Manner #8 Respect the confidentiality of individual members and their stories
4. Opening Devotion – Annette Taylor - Minister
5. Agenda

Motion: Ron Toles/Charles Lotochinski

To approve the agenda as presented. Carried

6. Acknowledgement of the September 28, 2021 Executive meeting minutes.
7. Approval of the Sept 30, 2021, Church Council minutes.

Motion: Shirley Dyck/Patti McCleary

To approve the Sept 30, 2021 Church Council minutes. Carried.

8. Business arising from the minutes
 - a) AGM- On October 13, 2021, a motion was made to hold the 2021 AGM by Zoom only.

Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Sharon Veer

"That council approve a change to the AGM to be held via Zoom only on the 24th of October 2021 at 1:00pm."

Council members voted by email. Motion Carried.

At the meeting, the voting system on Zoom worked well.

Finance concerns came up in the discussions during the AGM.

- b) COVID-19 response – General feeling is that the measures in place at First United Church are working well.
There has not been specific feedback about the sign on the door. It recommends that, for their own safety, people who have not been fully vaccinated not enter the church.

Concerns were expressed about the video during the streaming of Church services. Viewers do not have access to the information on the screen at the front of the church. This can not be changed with the current technology and would require an additional volunteer running the system.

Action item: Charles will continue to investigate making improvements to the streaming system used for Sunday services.

- c) Affirming Ministry – The vote to decide if our church will become an Affirming Church will be on Nov 28, using Zoom technology.
 - d) Letter to City Council re LGBTQ – Sharon Veer reported that the Affirming Ministry Committee has written a letter to Swift Current City Council, with input from SW Pride members, asking that the City of Swift Current ban conversion therapy within its municipality. The letter will be sent in January, 2022. A meeting has been requested with City Council to discuss the letter. We are planning to have 2 members from SW Pride and 2 members from the Affirming Ministry Committee at the meeting. Sharon asked the Council members to let her know if they would be OK with their name being added to the bottom of the letter.
9. Correspondence – Annette sent out an email about online presentations: Courageous Economy Summit, Interviews with Church leaders on How Ministry Can be Funded in new and creative ways. The sessions can be viewed for free on Nov 1 to 5. After Nov 5, they can be viewed with a subscription for a cost of \$185. There are too many sessions for one person to watch them all and assess their value as a resource for our church.
- Action item:** Email Annette if you are interested in watching a session so that they can be divided up and we can decide if the church should purchase a lifetime access package.
10. Minister's Report (including Swift Current and Area Ministerial Association) – Annette Taylor recognized the pandemic and how it's impacting all of us. In addition to Church services, there have been a number of funerals and many meetings for church and the ministerial/community events. Planning is underway for the Advent/Christmas season. Annette will forward one more Regional Council newsletter. After that, Council members will have to subscribe to it on their own to receive it.
11. Important Items from Committee Reports
- a) Stewardship – At their meeting on Oct 21, the Stewardship Committee passed a motion recommending that trustees investigate the United Church of Canada Foundation as a better way to invest Church funds and report back to Council on their findings. Contact Charles or Gaylene if there are any questions. There might need to be changes to the policy on investments.
- Action item:** Marlene Reidle and Charles Lotochinski will discuss this further.

Motion to accept written reports

Motion: Ron Toles/Patti McCleary

That we accept all reports as written. Carried.

12. New Business

- a) Who do we want to be as a church moving forward? Finances should reflect who we are and who we want to be. In response to concerns raised at the General meeting about how church money is spent, Council held a circle discussion. These discussions will continue at future meetings.

Action item: At the church service on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021 Kevin Hanna will make a report on the Council meeting.

13. Group norms – Sharon Veer- Member-at-Large
14. Reminder of action items – Sharon Veer – Member-at-Large
15. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm
16. Closing prayer – Annette Taylor – Minister

Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, Nov 23, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. by Zoom

Upcoming Church Council Meeting – Nov 25, 2021 at 7:00 by Zoom

Opening Devotion and closing prayer for Nov 25, 2021: Outreach

Kevin Hanna, Chair

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary