

FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting

Mar 24, 2022 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

Sharyn Erne, Membership & Pastoral Care

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary

Linda Stumpf, Regional Council

Brenda Gruetzner, Stewardship

Marlene Reidle, Chair of Trustees

Colleen MacBean, Regional Council Rep

Charles Lotochinski, Member-at-Large

Peggy Worrell, Faith Formation

1. Kevin Hanna, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Check in
3. Reminder of Holy Manner #11: Hold One Another in Prayer
4. Opening Devotion – Secretary – Pat Dyck Bunkosky
5. Inspirational time: Video: Edgy Conversations with Carla Leon - Curiosity is the Mindset
6. Agenda
Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Sharon Erne
To approve the agenda as presented. Carried
7. Acknowledgement of the January 25, 2022, February 17, 2022 Executive meeting minutes.
8. Approval of the January 27, 2022 Church Council minutes.
Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Colleen MacBain
To approve the January 27, 2022 Church Council minutes. Carried
9. Email Motion
The following motion was sent to Council members by email on Feb. 20 and declared carried on February 22, 2022
Motion: Sharon Veer/Ron Toles
We accept the change of location of the Affirming Ministry symbols to the lower entrance of the church leading up to the Sanctuary. Carried
10. Business arising from the minutes
 - a) Covid-19 Restrictions – Several ideas were presented as to how we could ease restrictions. Concerns were expressed about continuing hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid-19.
Motion: Pat Dyck Bunkosky/ Charles Lotochinski
That during worship services, the only pews that will be closed will be the front row. Coffee time after church will be allowed. Carried.

Action item: Kevin Hanna will email the congregation explaining the revised Covid-19 restrictions.

- b) Update on UPRC (United Property Resource Corporation)—As requested at our January meeting, Annette Taylor contacted UPRC and had a Zoom meeting with Carly Forrester on March 11th. She shared the following information:
1. Up until now UPRC's main focus has been affordable housing. They look at the church property and the needs of the community and determine if creating housing on the site would be beneficial to both the congregation and their neighbours.
 2. Carly agreed to do a review of affordable housing in Swift Current. I gave her some information about the church property including the MEWS Report from 2014. She will get back to us if she needs more information. There is no cost to the congregation for this report and she is hoping to meet with Council sometime in May.
 3. UPRC is currently creating a team that will look more broadly at church property and help determine how it could be better utilized (not just affordable housing). I let Carly know that this is something we would be interested in pursuing as well.

11. No Correspondence

12. Minister's Report (including Swift Current and Area Ministerial Association) Annette Taylor reported that Lent is a busy time of year in the church. She has also been spending time on the Curiosity Cohort - Being curious.

13. Important Items from Committee Reports

a) Stewardship

b) Outreach – United Church of Tonga Appeal – Tabled

Action item for Charles: Stewardship will discuss and work on guidelines or suggestions for committees when making motions asking Council for donations from the Planned Giving available interest.

Action item: Annette will contact Salesi & Amelia Takau about talking to our congregation.

c) Ministry & Personnel

Motion: Linda Stumpf/Nicole Rewerts

Reverend Annette be given vacation leave from Tuesday, April 19th to Tuesday, April 26th (8 days) Carried

Motion to accept written reports

Motion: Nicole Rewerts/Brenda Gruetzner

That we accept all reports as written. Carried.

14. New Business

a) Curiosity Cohort – Linda Stumpf

Four members of Council attended 5 weeks of Curiosity Cohort sessions on Zoom. There was information and discussions on a wide range of topics with United Church members from across Canada. The presenting team talked about Divine Curiosity, Sacred Spaces and Sacred Surprises, conversation with community members to discuss their needs, connecting and working with other community organizations to meet the needs of our Community.

Ideas our local 'Curiosity Cohort' discussed include :

- showing short videos at Church Council Meetings
- Circle Conversations after Sunday Worship
- encouraging the formation of a Dream Team – 3 or 4 people to vision/motivate/instigate new ideas (also possibly restructuring to reduce the number of committees/working groups),
- Asset mapping – What assets do we already have?
- Longer educational workshops/seminars (Sacred Spaces presentation from maintenance to mission)
- Social innovation/enterprise
- Other Charitable Endeavours (ex Second Harvest)

b) Reminders for all Committee Chairs of the need to:

- i. Make sure that all volunteers have read the Volunteer Handbook and signed the Volunteer Agreement
- ii. Review the website and let Rhonda know if updates are required
- iii. Review the policy & procedures manual and make sure it is still accurate

c) Appeal to raise funds for Ukraine - tabled

d) Church Governance Structure – This will be an ongoing discussion.

Action item for members of Council to think about or investigate how we might change our Church's governance structure. Feel free to share any ideas or findings before the next meeting.

e) Self Assessment Checklist – Annette Taylor – replaces the oversight visits of the past. Executive, Trustee's, Stewardship/Finance, Ministry and Personnel, Ministry and Pastoral Care and Affirming Ministry Working Group will all have sections to complete.

Action item: Annette will send an email to the applicable committees with the self-assessment questions.

15. Group norms – Charles Lotochinski- Member-at-Large

16. Reminder of action items – Charles Lotochinski– Member-at-Large

17. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

18. Closing prayer – Pat Dyck Bunkosky - Secretary

Next Executive Meeting – Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5:15 pm by Zoom

Next Church Council Meeting – Thurs, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Opening Devotion and closing prayer for April 28, 2022 – Stewardship

Kevin Hanna, Chair

Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary