

**STRATHROY UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER: Tom McIntosh called our meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led us in an opening prayer.,

ATTENDANCE: Tom McIntosh, Rev. Jock Tolmay, Cheryl Bolton, Dawn Bolduc, Dianne Dixon, Marlene Dorrestyn, Patti Krista, Bruce Lambert, and Jim Mussell. Guest, Shirley Aerts.

Regrets: Marie Campbell, Joan Carter, Jim Ferguson, Janet Johnstone, Norma Robertson.
The meeting proceeded as an information only meeting due to our lack of a quorum.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved as distributed.

MINUTES: The minutes of our meeting January 16th were approved as circulated.

Presentation:

Tom welcomed Shirley Aerts to our meeting. Shirley presented an idea for a General Fund fund raiser. Scott Woods, a multi award winning Canadian Fiddler, is touring in our area this year. He plays to sell out crowds and puts on an amazing show as well as showcasing local talent. She suggested that we have a fall concert as a fundraiser for our church. The suggested ticket price is \$15.00 with a portion of the proceeds going to his tour and the balance to the fundraiser. She will investigate the percentage of ticket sales that go to the church and to Scott.

Council felt our church was very busy this November or December, with the Roast Beef Dinner, Celebration Sunday, the Frosty Frolics, and the Holiday Tour of Homes. It was suggested that Shirley check the possibility of a concert in the spring of 2008.

Dawn Bolduc will take the suggestion of a 2008 spring concert to her Worship and Music Com.

Shirley left a print out from Scott's web site with us.

Tom thanked Shirley for coming out to share this fundraising idea with us.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Treasurer's Report: No report at this time.

2. Funeral Lunch Conveners: Joan Carter and Marie Campbell have taken on the leadership of the Funeral Lunch Committee. Council is grateful to have this very important outreach and service for our members continue.

3. Annual Meeting Review and Critique:

- We reviewed the policies that have to go to the congregation for approval. The Special Projects and the use of our Bequest Funds and the investment of said funds need the approval of our congregation.
- It was decided that having two ushers (young people) taking the wireless microphones to those that wanted to make a comment or ask a question would make the best use of our sound system.
- Those that use the microphone should speak slowly and clearly so all can hear and understand them.
- Anyone using the tear out sheet provided for questions and comments should sign them so we can personally contact them with an answer or assure them that it has been taken to the appropriate committee. Dianne to check the wording of the insert. **Action: Dianne Dixon**
- Property to have our sound system thoroughly checked over as there have been many instances where it has let us down. **Action: Tom McIntosh.**
- Jock noted that this was the best congregational meeting he has been at since his arrival at Strathroy United. People were able to express their concerns and were very respectful of each other.

4. Nominating Committee Update:

Dianne read Joan Carter's letter of resignation. Joan has resigned as a Presbytery Representative for Strathroy United Church in order to fill the position as Chair of Church Membership and Growth. The council received this letter for information and will make the motion to accept Joan as Chair of Church Membership and Growth at the March meeting. We thank Joan for her time as our representative to Presbytery and look forward to her leadership with on our Membership and Growth com.

5. Investment Committee Report:

This committee held a meeting on Tuesday Feb. 13th and its minutes have been circulated.

Pattie went through the minutes and took questions from the council members.

- How did they arrive at the \$45,000 annual payment every year? This figure was the expected interest to be generated by the investments that we will be making.

- Can you use any of the capital? Only with the congregations approval.

- Patti assured the council that the capital would be protected and that the Feb. 13th meeting was a chance for the members to do some brainstorming. They will be meeting again on the 27th of February to prepare a motion for the congregational meeting set for March 11th. Patti will take the suggestions and concerns for clarity from the council to the meeting.

6. Special Project for 2007: Tom spoke to the concern that a motion had not been presented at the congregation's annual meeting to set the Special Project for 2007. Tom advised the council that there are still quotes to come in for this project that would determine whether it will be just a refurbishing of the Golden Jubilee Room alone or with the upgrading/new heating system. The council then discussed various concerns about air conditioning, replacement of windows, covering the windows with permanent storm windows etc. etc. . The suggestion has been made to have a meeting open to the committees, congregation members and groups that use the facilities to voice their concerns and give suggestions. This could be a project that goes through in stages over the next 1-3 years. In answer to the question, Tom felt he did not have enough information to bring a motion to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Correspondence: none.

New Business: none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Patti reported to the council that another installment of the Mary Kathleen Geddes estate has been received and deposited. The amount of \$490,104.51 was gratefully received shortly after the annual meeting. The Investment Committee has decided to move some of the bequest money to other banks and put it into 30 day GIC's at an interest of 4 1/4 % until a Financial Manager is in place.

Outreach: Jim advised the council of the Outreach's Lenten Project which is to educate the congregation about our Mission and Service Fund and encourage them to make a choice of giving up a cup of coffee a day for the 40 days of Lent. This would be approximately \$50.00 per congregation member. Dianne to advise the PAR givers that they can use a visitors envelope with their name on it and it will be entered under their receipt number. It was suggested that people circle their M&S Lenten giving so we can track how much has come in during our Lenten season. **Action: Dianne**

Jock: Jock noted that rather than selecting one specific project for Lent, Outreach hopes that the use of the M&S line on the givings envelope will become a habit beyond Lent. The use of Tenebrae candles for Lent was discussed. The Confirmation Class and their families will be taking part in the snuffing of the candles. Bruce Lambert asked that an explanation of the Tenebrae candles be included in the service bulletin each Sunday of Lent so the congregation can gain a better understanding of it. **Action: Jock.**

Cheryl: Cheryl and Jock are jointly looking after the Lenten Bible Study and the Confirmation Classes. The Bible Study, "Bound for Golgotha" will commence this Sunday, Feb. 25th following the service and all are encouraged to attend and bring a bag lunch. Six of our youth have signed up for the Confirmation Classes.

Cheryl will be away March 25 - 28th .

Worship and Music:

Easter Services will be: Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m. in Win Butler's garden next to the church.
Regular Service at 10:00 a.m.

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Worship and Music Cont'd:

-After polling the congregation our Christmas Eve Services for 2007 will be at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00/30 p.m.

The Advent Wreath will be used and the services for Christmas Eve this year will not follow the lessons and carol format as in the past.

- Dofasco Male Chorus: Monday, May 14th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 - sub committee of the choir has met and the proceeds are to go to help with the purchase of a CT Scanner for SMGH.
- Tickets will be \$10.00 and \$25.00 for a family
 - Dofasco provides the posters and the tickets are in the process of being printed. We encourage the council members to take 6 tickets to sell, as the choir members will be doing.
 - Marie Campbell and Yvonne Lambert will be convening the lunch after the concert and would appreciate the help of council members when the time comes.

Bruce Lambert: Bruce advised council that it was good to be back on council and he will do his best to represent our church at Middlesex Presbytery and at London Conference. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions or concerns and he will do his best to answer them or find the contact that can. He asked Dianne to forward the minutes of Presbytery to the council members and to our web site and put a Presbytery report in the bulletin following their meetings. **Action: Dianne**

Christian Education:

- Come To Sunday School Sunday was a great success. One concern was raised that it came right after the annual meeting so two services in a row were irregular.
- Joseph Presentation is planned for June 3rd and the children are practicing now.
- Sunday School will have open sessions during Lent. The next work shop is "Mary and Martha".
- Youth group is on its way under the leadership of Cheryl Bolton and Stephen Freymond. They meet the first Friday night of the month.
- March 16th is the Seniors Luncheon...help from Council members would be very much appreciated.
- April 14th will be the Lasagna Dinner and Talent Auction - tickets are available and council is also encouraged to put in their talents for the auction.
- VBS is in the planning stages - looking for someone to spearhead it and a date is being discussed
- Two Sundays in June, July and August are to be family oriented. The teachers have sent some good ideas to Worship and Music...more information to follow.

Trustees Report:

- Hoot Gibson is the Trustee representative on the Pulpit Area Redesign com.
- Congregation meeting to be on March 11th for the approval of the Investment com. policy. Jim Ferguson and Jean Nisbet are Trustee representatives on this committee.

Communications:

Angel Line Deadline is March 9th with the delivery date set for March 19th.

Celebration Sunday:

Proposed Sunday is October 28th

- Council has a concern with celebrating our church by bringing in outside musical guests when we have so much talent here in our own congregation. If we use outside talent perhaps the SDCI choir or the Gospelairens could be considered because they involve some of our own congregation members.
 - Council has asked the committee to consider having just the Celebration Sunday with a pot luck luncheon and not the concert the night before.
- Council members on the Celebration Com. will take these ideas back to their committee. Dianne asked the council members to ask their committees if there are members that could be a part of the Celebration Com. They are to contact the office or Janet.

Property:

- quotes are being collected from contractors re: the furnace
- Pulpit area redesign com. has met and are exploring various options for the revamping of the worship area at the front of the sanctuary.

Property Cont'd:

The New Year's Brunch went very well and realized a profit of \$613.00. Thanks to the Outreach and Church Membership and Growth Committees and all who came out and supported the brunch. The stained glass windows at the front of the church are being repaired. They have sagged and the sills will also have to be replaced once they have been repaired.

- Dawn Bolduc asked that people refer to Property when they want the piano moved. At some point over the Christmas season it was moved and no one knows who was responsible.

Chair of Council:

Tom quoted his annual report that Strathroy United Church 'alive and well' . God always comes through for us and the general spirit in the church is improving. He encouraged council members to keep moving forward and that all things are possible if we do them for the right reasons.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH AT 7:30 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS: TOM MCINTOSH

CLOSING PRAYER: Tom closed our meeting with prayer at 9:35 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship followed.

Chairperson: Tom McIntosh

Secretary: Dianne Dixon