

**STRATHROY UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FOR MONDAY, JUNE 18TH , 2007**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER: Tom McIntosh opened our meeting with prayer at 7:10 p.m. The council members wish to thank Tom and Diane for inviting us to their home for this meeting and time of fellowship.

ATTENDANCE: Tom McIntosh, Rev. Jock Tolmay, Cheryl Bolton, Dr. Allan Marshall, Janet Johnstone, Dianne Dixon, Joan Carter, Bruce Lambert, Dawn Bolduc, Marie Campbell, Patti Krista.
Regrets: Norma Robertson, Jim Ferguson, Jim Mussell, and Marlene Dorrestyn.

MOTION: It was moved by Janet Johnstone and seconded by Joan Carter to allow voting privileges to Dr. Allan Marshall who was attending our meeting as a representative from the Trustees. **Carried.**

AGENDA: MOTION: It was moved by Bruce Lambert and seconded by Dawn Bolduc to accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried.**

MINUTES: MOTION: It was moved by Janet Johnstone and seconded by Bruce Lambert to approve the minutes of May 15, 2007. **Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Congregational Meeting Review:

- The meeting of June 10th was a very positive meeting. Tom thanked Dr. Allan Marshall for his presentation to the congregation of our Investment Manager and the report of the process in retaining this position. BMO Nesbitt Burns - Mr. Mark Ryan and Mr. Doug Williams have accepted this position.
- The heating system was approved and is being acted upon.
- The Golden Jubilee Refurbishing has also started by removing the windows in preparation for their replacement. Don Walker is the project manager and there are two work bees set for Saturday, June 23rd and Wed. June 27th at 9:00 a.m.

2. Treasurer's Report: No report. Finance is meeting on Tuesday, June 26th and David is planning on having the financials to the end of May at that time.

3. Nominating Committee Report: No report at this time.

4. Investment Committee Report:

This committee met on June 12th to review the Investment portfolio from our Investment Managers and give the final OK to their plan. There is approximately \$859,000 invested and the balance of our bequest fund will be rolled into this portfolio when they mature.(approximately \$360,00)
The statement will be arriving in early July that will confirm this investment.
Due to the bonds being at a very low interest rate level the Investment committee put 100% of the \$859,000 into GIC's.

MOTION: It was moved by Bruce Lambert and seconded by Marie Campbell that the Church Council agrees in principle to follow the Investment Committee's action to have all of the investments in GIC's because they have a better rate than the government bonds at this time. We propose that the wording of our Investment Policy be made a little less restrictive at our next congregational meeting. **Carried.**

5. Faithful Footsteps Workshop:

The council agreed to a date in late September on a Saturday for this workshop. The suggested churches to be included are: Mt. Brydges/Cooks, Kerwood/Bethesda, Carringorm, Ivan/Vaneck, Melbourne/Ekfrid, Wardsville charge.
Dawn Bolduc to check into the cost of police checks for volunteers with the Strathroy Caradoc Town Police and the OPP.

6. Emerging Spirit:

In Jean Campbell's absence Bruce opened the floor to discussion about the Emerging Spirit Campaign and how Strathroy United Church is incorporating its ideas into our worship and outreach.

- Our Lunch on the lawn which is an outreach to our new families and an opportunity to pair them up with some long time members is slated for June 24th, 07
- Jock has approached David Robotham to do in put on a web site geared to the younger members of our congregation, teen to 50. Yvonne Houle has been approached to set up a web site that allows us to keep in touch and communicate.
- The communications and Church membership and Growth committees would like to make sure that there is someone to supervise this web site and make sure that all the material is appropriate.
- Jock will review the Emerging Spirit information at the office and connect with Jean in the fall. Jean has purchased a book that will be useful to us.

7. Correspondence: Dianne has the new contract for the Stratford District Arts Council. Our membership fee is \$40.00. She was advised to pay the membership under the communications budget. Thank you card was received from the family of the late Sadie Searson.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Altar Guild:**

Dawn Bolduc reported that we no longer have an Altar Guild and she asked for some assistance for the summer months. Worship and Music hope to have someone in place in the fall.

It was suggested that for the summer months the ushers be responsible for the lighting of the Christ Candle at the beginning of the service and having a glass of water available for the ministerial staff. Dawn agreed to be responsible for putting up the peace banner for July 29th.

Decorating: A discussion was held around the decorating of the sanctuary and the Holiday Tour of Homes. The Christmas decorations that are put up for the home tour have to be taken down and the advent decor put in place. This has caused a lot of confusion and some hard feelings amongst our congregation and the Worship and Music Committee.

The suggestion was made to have people of our congregation provide special music (mini recitals) at the time of the home tour and the decor to be as it would be for our Advent Season. Worship and Music will work together with Christian Education to come to an agreement.

2. Trinity Sunday: Bruce Lambert referred to the fact that Trinity Sunday this year was ignored and that it is a very important Sunday. Rev. Jock took responsibility for the oversight and apologized for it. He and the Worship and Music com. will be more diligent next year so it will not be overlooked.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: No report at this time. Their committee has a meeting planned for June 26th.

Trustees: Dr. Marshall reported that Mark Prangle has been appointed to their committee and that three of their members currently are on the Investment Committee.

Rev. Jock Tolmay: No report

Marie Campbell: Bus trip to Stratford has been filled with 4 spares.

Question: Who looks after the picture gallery of our past ministerial staff? This is the responsibility of the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Dianne has the pictures of Thelma Perry, Rev. Bob Strachan and Rev. Marjorie Smith. At the time of our minutes being prepared Elizabeth Stewart has agreed to send us one of her graduation pictures so all are here in the office ready to be framed.

Tom to contact Claudia Thar from the Ministry and Personnel Com. to have them taken care of.

Bruce Lambert: Question: Is the In Memoriam book being kept up to date? Dianne has a list of the bequest in the office but our calligrapher is not available now. Joan Carter as chair of Church Membership and Growth will meet with Dianne and look for a replacement to get the book back up to date. She will also check into the visitors book that seems to have gone missing.

Plaques: Dr. Marshall offered to update the bequest plaques on the shield in the sanctuary. Dianne will give him the appropriate information on the most recent bequest.

Peace Candles: Are they going to other churches? Yes they are going world wide. Dianne mentioned that the last one she was involved with went to Arkansas. Janet had an update in the last Angel Line featuring the locations they had gone to.

Church Membership and Growth Committee:

Their project at this time is Lunch on the Lawn. The new active families of the past two years have been invited and the rest of the congregation as well to lunch on the lawn. Joan would appreciate having some foster families to help with making the new people feel welcome on Sunday.

Joan asked to have a volunteer help by taking pictures of the families on Sunday.

Name Tags: Joan asked for the Council's input on having name tags at the back that people put on as they come in and then put back in place when they go home. This would help the newcomers and some not so new to know the congregation better. It was suggested that one colour be for the new people and one for those not so new. Jock suggested that they have different coloured coffee cups for the new people so they are identifiable. Joan will take the suggestions from the council to her next meeting.

Inviting the new families to some of our groups was suggested as a start for them to be familiar with the congregation and not to try and have them join committees until they are comfortable (unless they want to jump right in).

Presbytery Report: Dianne is to email the report through with the minutes to the church council. A copy is also included in the Summer Angel Line. Neither Jean or Bruce are available for Presbytery so Bruce asked that Jock and/or Cheryl pick up our information packets.

Celebration Sunday: The council discussed the fact that the interest in having another Celebration Sunday has waned and the initial time line was three years and we have had four Celebration Sundays. The following motion was made: **MOTION:** It was moved by Patti Krista and seconded by Dawn Bolduc that we post pone the Celebration Sunday Service for now. **Carried.**

Communications: June meeting postponed until a date in July

Strathroy Age Dispatch: After following their specific format for additions and changes and still having numerous errors in our church ad the council advised Janet to contact the Publisher, Steve Downs and ask that our bill reflect the errors on their part.

Web Site: Janet will contact Brad Denning to have an events tab put on our web site and will give him the information on our upcoming events. Dianne will continue to send him the Angel Line and our council and congregation minutes. She will also include our Long Range Plan document.

Christian Education/Cheryl Bolton

- Cheryl advised us that the Youth Group is growing and she anticipates it dividing off into an additional younger group this fall. Sunday School and Youth Group had a great time with the camp out at her farm and she is very pleased to have the assistance of Louise Gare and Stephen Freymond.

- Joseph the Dreamer was a great success as was the Going through the Gates service. Marlene is to be commended on the certificates she prepared for our grade eight students that were graduating out of Sunday School. This was the first annual recognition of our young people graduating out of Sunday school and many commented on what a nice touch it added to the ceremony.

-VBS is slated for August 13-17 and Cheryl encouraged our council members to participate in any way they could to help make it a success. It will be Son Canyon River Adventure revolving around the book of Proverbs.

- Sunday School Teachers wrap up barbeque and recognition party is slated for June 21st.

- Pastoral care - regular hospital visits, and she has been to Strathmere Lodge as well

Worship and Music:

-The summer family worship services have been lined up and are in the Angel Line. July 1st and the 22nd revolve around hymn singing as does the top 10 service on August 26th.

Worship and Music cont'd; The committee is trying to come up with some innovative services that will encourage the families to come to church in the summer time.

Rally Sunday is September 9th and Rev. Jock would like to have it advertised in the Age Dispatch as an open communion to the community. It will be the usual service with communion and pot luck picnic to follow. Church Membership and Growth were asked to be responsible for the picnic and Joan will discuss this with her committee at their next meeting. Because this service and picnic come so soon after the summer vacation Dianne advised Joan that there is a tote in the old kitchen closet that has the necessary elements (napkins, paper plates etc), purchased after the last one and to be restocked following this Rally service picnic.

Marie Campbell mentioned that we are 128 years and that means our 130th anniversary is not to far off and will we be planning anything special? Dawn spoke to her problem with lining up speakers and the council members agreed to come back to the September meeting with 2 names and contact information to pass on to Worship and Music.

Action: all chairpersons.

Property:

Tom referred to the projects underway earlier in the meeting.

The stained glass repair is in the process and the eaves troughs are having expansion joints added to make them function better. Tom noted that the cost is higher because a cherry picker has to be rented to do the job.

Long Range Planning Committee:

Tom distributed the list of current suggestions that has been prioritized and will be distributed to the committees and also available to the congregation. This list gives people who are planning on making a bequest or donation a list to look at in case they request a specific use for their money or the family members donation.

Dawn questioned the whistling around the stained glass windows. Tom advised her that if it is one or two windows it falls under regular maintenance and if all of them are a concern then it would be added to the list of special projects.

- A camera for use at church functions was agreed on by the congregation a couple of years ago. Joan Carter will take care of the purchase.

- There was considerable discussion around the need for updating the computers in the church offices and Tom will have Superior Computers come and do an assessment. It was stated that we need to have someone with computer skills in the congregation as a tech contact.

- Committee chairs were advised to make sure they have considered the interest that will be available for June 30th 2008 in mind when they bring their proposed budgets forward in November. At that time council will make the decision on how the interest payment will be divided.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Jock led us in a closing prayer and remembered Arlene and Don Simpson and Marlene Dorrestyn and Karen Mussell.

ADJOURNED AT 9:30 for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH WITH PATTI KRISTA IN CHARGE OF REFRESHMENTS

Chairperson: Tom McIntosh

Secretary; Dianne Dixon