

Council Meeting Minutes
Mill Woods United Church
B20/21-Meeting #1
Tuesday April 14, 2020
Zoom: 7:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/166382044?pwd=WklMRWtra0V6UzJjRmZUejRvRDhMQT09>

Meeting ID: 166 382 044

Password: 052022

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place

Present: Rob McPhee (Chair), Carol Hickmann (Chair-Elect & Building Use), Carla Janzen (Past Chair), Rev. Ian Kellogg, Darlene Hayward (Congregational Care), Bill McGregor (Member-at-Large), Karl Kropf (Property), John Mair (Ministry & Personnel), Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward), Cathy Bayly (Worship), Ethel Ray (Worship), Lindy Mair (Member-at-Large), Amber Petch (Member-at-Large), Randy Round (Finance), Andrew Langstone (Member-at-Large)

1 Gathering time

1.1 Welcome: Making this meeting work

1.2 Prayer: Ian

1.3 Living our Purpose: *We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place*

- We were invited to share a quick update of how things are going with us

2 Housekeeping

2.1 Changes to the agenda- none

2.2 Approval of minutes of February 25, 2020 **(Attachment 1)**

- **Motion 20/21-03: That the minutes of February 25, 2020 be accepted.**
- **Moved by Carol Hickmann, seconded by Darlene Hayward**
- **Carried**

2.3 Council Motions by email, Spring 2020 **(Attachment 2)**

- **Motion 20/21-01: That we move forward to purchase a laptop computer for Liliana Angel to use at the time that she is required to work from home, at an approximate cost of \$1000.**
- **Moved by Ethel Ray, seconded by Cathy Bayly**
- **Carried**

- **Motion 20/21-02, also passed by email, is given in 3.3 below**

2.4 Showing our Gratitude

- Heavenly Hospitality for the food for the AGM
- Sadie Englot for child care at the AGM
- The COVID-19 Working Group for all their decisions on the necessary changes
- Bryan LeGrow, Brian Sampson and Ian for making the virtual services work

- Bryan LeGrow for setting up the Zoom meetings for choir on Wednesday evenings
- Brian Sampson for setting up the Zoom meeting for the Men's group on March 28.
- Carla Janzen and Ian for setting up a schedule and the Congregational Care Committee and others from the congregation for phoning active members of MWUC
- Rob McPhee and Randy Round for all the extra work on the finances
- Don and Lil Grabinsky for preparing and delivering the food for Bissell Center on Easter Sunday
- Bill McGregor for delivering food to people in his neighbourhood
- Liliana Angel for all the extra work she has been doing
- Carol Hickmann and Carla Janzen for taking over for Rob McPhee at the AGM
- Georgia Englot for her online Children's Program work
- Thanks to the many people who responded to our February invitation to Join in, Reach out, and Make a Difference. Your willingness to take on a new challenge is most appreciated.

2.5 COVID-19 Working Group:

- A small working group was established to meet weekly to develop, enhance and modify plans related to COVID-19 and to communicate this to the congregation as needed. This group is made up of representatives of both council and the congregation at large.

3 Financial Updates and Federal Relief Programs

3.1 Financial Update

- March 31, 2020 **(Attachment 3: Financial Update)**
- Weekly Contributions **(Attachment 4: Weekly contribution totals)**
- Local Offerings **(Attachment 5: Local offering analysis)**
- Electronic transfer update: mwuc3@telus.net
 - E-transfers were started at MWUC in late March; 18 have been received, including for Bissell Center
 - The "How To Give" page on our website includes the option of e-transfers
- Randy Round reviewed our financial position as of the end of March. While our revenue from rentals and fundraising are down, we are very grateful for the ongoing financial support of members of our church community.

3.2 Federal Government Relief Programs: Information

(Attachment 6: Federal Government relief programs)

- We reviewed three Federal government relief programs for which Mill Woods United Church is likely eligible. Motions are now in place for to enable us to pursue these government relief programs:
 - The 10 percent temporary wage subsidy
 - Canada emergency wage subsidy
 - Canada emergency business account
- Council discussed the various attributes of these three subsidy programs

- 3.3 **Motion 20/21-02** Passed by email vote in March: That council give Randy Round the go-ahead to pursue for Mill Woods United Church the 75 percent wage subsidy program initiated by the Federal government, to help cover the wages of our staff.

(Attachment 2: Wage Subsidy 30%)

- 13 Council members voted yes by email
 - Carried
- 3.4 **Motion 20/21-04:** That Mill Woods United Church process necessary payroll information to access the 10 percent temporary wage subsidy program outlined in the Federal Government Relief Programs attachment.
- Moved by Carol Hickmann, seconded by Darlene Hayward
 - Carried
- 3.5 **Motion 20/21-05:** That Mill Woods United Church apply for the \$40,000 interest free loan outlined in the Canada Emergency Business Account program of the Federal Government.
- Moved by John Mair, seconded by Karl Kropf
 - Carried

4 **Committee Updates and Business Arising**

4.1 Committee Updates

- Committee Responsibilities: Leadership Manual: Rob
 - Updates- please send to Rob
- Congregational Care: Carla
 - Set up phoning committee made up of Congregation Care members and others from the congregation
 - Have 2 teams of 7 people each
 - Started 3 weeks ago making weekly calls to the active members of the congregation; 80% want to continue receiving calls either weekly or biweekly
 - This will be evaluated at the next meeting of those involved in the phone-out
- Worship: Ethel and Cathy
 - Mostly meeting through email
 - Supporting Ian in the virtual services
 - Have started discussing summer services
- Minister's Report: Ian
 - Looking at different ideas for the online worship services
 - Has been posting daily reflections on the church website, from March 18 to April 14, today's being the last one
 - The second Northern Spirit meeting in Camrose on June 11-14 has been cancelled
 - During the pandemic, NSRC and the UCC have been hosting lots of webinars, weekly meetings as support to ministers and treasurers
 - Meeting with M & P by Zoom on April 16
 - Ian is systematically calling all active congregational members
 - On March 1, a Sunday lunch meeting with young adults was held, where a lot of good ideas were brought out, many about worship. Most of them haven't been implemented yet because we only had two in-person gatherings after that

(March 8 and 15), but they will be implemented when we meet back in person on Sunday mornings again

- Lenten Hot Topic podcasts: we only had two of these four gatherings in early March
- Ministry and Personnel: John
 - The staff is doing very well with adapting to the changes
 - John thanked Ian for his willingness to make whatever changes are needed
 - Meeting with the staff members this week
 - Laura Webster is working 12 hours per week when no one else is in the building
 - Bryan LeGrow is helping with Sunday services, hosting Wednesday evening Zoom meetings for choir, looking at new music for when choir can resume
 - Liliana has the option of working from home, but is comfortable with working at the church office
- Building Use: Carol
 - On March 15, the building was closed for renters; prepaid money is being kept as future credit so far, at the renters' requests
 - Some contributions are being put into the church mailbox, and Liliana has given out some gift cards to needy people
 - 4Point Taekwondo has started moving in; their lease starts on June 1
- Property: Karl
 - Tested the water system vacuum tank as per request by the city
 - Still doing the required monthly checks
 - Has the plans for the emergency evacuation from the Building Use Committee and is drawing up the floor plans with exits, fire extinguishers, first-aid kit, etc.
 - Suggested buying a defibrillator; Karl will get price estimates
- Children's Programming:
 - Ethel Ray, Amber Petch, and Lindy Mair are working with Georgia and the volunteers and deciding on a curriculum to purchase
 - Georgia Englot's online Children's Program is keeping the children in touch with each other and with the church
- Stewardship: Darlene – nothing new to report

5 New Business

5.1 Meeting Dates: Rob

5.1.1 Council: May 26, June 23, September 22, October 27, November 24, December 15, January 26, February 23, March 23

5.1.2 Congregational: Annual Financial Meeting: November 29, 2020, Annual General Meeting: March 7, 2021

Other meetings may be called as needed.

5.2 **Ideas of actions we might take to support our church community**

- Some ideas may emerge from the phone calls being made to congregational members; Ian and Carla are receiving the feedback from these.

5.3 **Personnel Item:**

- **Motion 20/21-06: That council approve the staffing recommendation proposed by Ministry and Personnel.**
 - **Moved by John Mair, seconded by Darlene Hayward**
 - **Carried**

Adjournment at 9:20 pm

- **Motion 20/21-07: That the meeting be adjourned.**
 - **Moved by Darlene Hayward**

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 26, 2020 – 7:00 pm

FOCUS DISCUSSION for May 26: What are your hopes and dreams for council over the next year? What important things would you like accomplished for our congregation? What ideas would you like your committee to pursue this year?

Rob McPhee (Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

Attachments are filed with a paper copy of these minutes in the church office:

1. Minutes of February 25, 2020 Council meeting (already in Council Minutes binder)
2. Council motions by email, Spring 2020
3. Financial Update
4. Weekly contribution totals
5. Local offering analysis
6. Federal Government relief programs

Further pondering:

A fellow was chatting with God.

“God, how long is a million years?”

God answers, “To me, it’s about a minute.”

“God, how much is a million dollars?”

“To me, it’s a penny.”

“God, may I have a penny?”

“Wait a minute.”