



COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH
OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 via Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: Chair, Lianne Patterson, opened the virtual meeting at 7:02 p.m and lead the board through the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands. Rev. Hewitt Holmes offered the opening prayer. The Board recited together the Covenant.

Present: Laurie Crosson, Sharon Crossley, Sandra Dowds, Steve Harding, Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Christy Manuel, Rob Murdock, Terry Oram, Lianne Patterson, Anne Snell, Susan Storing, and Marg Valad.

Regrets: Terry Tizzard

Corresponding Members: none

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: none

Consideration/Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Terry Oram, seconded by Sharon Crossley, that the agenda be approved.
Carried

Correspondence:

- a) None

Consideration/Approval of Minutes – Official Board dated June 23, 2020

Thanks to our notetakers: Steve Harding for June and for this evening and Laurie Crosson for our September Emergency Board Meeting.

Motion: Moved by Steve Harding, seconded by Susan Storing, that the minutes of the Official Board meeting of June 23, 2020, and the Emergency Official Board meeting of September 3, 2020, be approved. ***Carried***

Business Arising from Minutes and Reports

For Discussion and Decision

- a) COVID-19 Follow-up – Rev. Hewitt Holmes
Reopening activities are moving forward; for in-person worship, have an online worship registration form.

Board members were asked to provide feedback on in-person worship beginning, October 4th? Most board members expressed personal concerns about returning to Collier for Sunday services.

General concerns were around governance issues related to internal COVID19 protocols and the age of the Church congregation.

It was mentioned that recently (week of September 10-20), the Ontario Government reduced the number of people who can gather indoors to 10 people. Some board members felt government communication around this new information was still not clear.

Online worship is very effective and working well. Number of churches in Barrie were planning to open after Thanksgiving and into November.

It was noted that we need to think about the efforts and preparation for the reopening by Task Force and Staff. People still have to do their part. Example masking. Question was raised around governance related to rentals and internal meetings.

The discussion also involved alternative dates for reopening Monday, Oct 11, and November 29th for the Christmas season.

The Board agreed by consensus to go ahead with in-person and online worship for Sunday, October 4th. We would monitor the situation week by week to ensure the safety of our congregation. Rentals and internal meetings within the church will not take place until further notice.

b) Governance Structure Task Force – Lianne Patterson/Sharon Crossley

In order to allow Lianne Patterson, a member of the Governance Structure Task Force, to participate in the discussion of the Constitution Working Document, Lianne moved aside for this agenda item, passing the role of the Chair to Christy Manuel, Past-Chair.

- The Governance Structure Task Force posted the Executive Summary and the Full Constitution document on the website in June.
- Evening information sessions were offered during the summer – 2 in July and 2 in August; the presentation was provided during worship on September 13 and an information session and discussion was held with Session members on September 14; there were 2 sessions cancelled due to lack of participation and 1 session in August had no attendees
- It was proposed to have 2 more evening information sessions for the congregation – September 29 and October 6 or 13.
- Then proceed with a congregational vote after Thanksgiving.

Open discussion

~Some Congregation members think there should be an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed Governance structure.

~Mailing out Governance structure packages to the congregation is an option.

~Concerns were raised about poor attendance at the meetings held over the summer

~Board members felt strongly that we have given congregation members many opportunities and avenues to review the governance structure.

Board agreed by consensus that two additional Governance Structure Task Force meetings will be held September 29th and early October.

c) Anti-Racism Statement – next steps – Lianne Patterson

- Wish to continue to move forward with anti-racism actions,
- As a Board, we can address policies,
- Mission Givings – local givings policy – could outline that half of local mission givings be directed to racialized groups with the rest of givings to other institutions.
- Review employment and nominations policies to support BIPOC and expand diversity.

Open discussion

~Solid action needed.

~Statement needs to be made with a revision of the mission’s policy.

~Policy shift in supporting marginalized/racialized groups needs to be made.

~Committee members need to be challenged to review all policies to ensure marginalized/racialized groups are supported.

~giving to racialized people is a good human stance, it is more than a political stance.

~A clear percentage needs to be established as it relates to the disbursement of funds

~Equal split is important.

Motion: Moved by Christy Manual, seconded by Rob Murdock, that the Board approves 50% of local Mission and Service givings be directed to racialized groups with the balance of the givings to other organizations. **Carried**

d) Appointment of UCW Representative – Lianne Patterson

The following recommendation was received from the Nominations Committee:

Dear Lianne Patterson (Board Chair),

I am happy to announce that Susan Storning has agreed to continue as the UCW representative.

I recommend the Board remove her interim designation and acknowledge her as the permanent representative on the Official Board for UCW.

Co-Chair of Nomination’s Team,

Deb Tyler

Motion: Moved by Sharon Crossley, seconded by Marg Valad, that Susan Storning be appointed as the new UCW Representative, as a full member of the Board. **Carried.**

The Board agreed by consensus to extend the board meeting.

g) Finance Committee – Laurie Crosson

Financial Reports dated 2020 08 31

A Finance Committee Report was received (attached as Appendix A).

Motion: Moved by Laurie Crosson, seconded by Steve Harding, that the Finance Committee Report and the Financial Reports as of August 31, 2020 (Income of \$175,631.88 and Expenditures of \$222,135.23) be accepted as presented. **Carried**

h) Stained Glass Window Project – Lianne Patterson

Leona Appleby is leading the production of a pictorial booklet of our stained-glass windows. It will contain photos of a number of our stained-glass windows, along with associated/linked bible verses as well as clergy personal reflections.

Motion: Moved by Rob Murdock, seconded by Anne Snell, that the Board approves the production and sale of a pictorial booklet of our stained-glass windows. ***Carried.***

Motion to adjourn at 9:49 p.m. by Laurie .

Closing Blessing – Rev. Hewitt Holmes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7 pm – location to be determined

Chair, Lianne Patterson

Recorder, Steve Harding