

Executive:

Chair Barb Baxter ✓
 Vice-Chair Kirk Wilson
 Past Chair Brad Mackey
 Secretary Diana Fisher ✓
 Treasurer Paul Cooper
 Ministry Pat Morrison ✓
 Linda Marcotte ✓

Committee Representatives:

AOTS Bill Palmer ✓
 Christian Development x
 Communications Christopher Cooke ✓
 Congregational Care & Growth Iris Murtha ✓
 Finance Bob Newman / Wayne Pease ✓
 Region Rep x
 Outreach Paul Cooper
 Ministry & Personnel John Cooke / Laura Black ✓
 Planning x
 Property Marion Staples ✓
 Proclamation and Special Events x
 Trustees Pete Melanson ✓
 UCW x
 Worship Val Adamson ✓
 Growth & Givings John Cooke

✓ = present

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment and began at 7:03pm. There was a quorum. Brad Mackey and Kirk Wilson send regrets.

1. Devotion

M&P – Laura Black and LINDA MARCOTTE shared their stories.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda as distributed.

Add Pastoral Search process, Halo project under New Business.

Marion Staples / Iris Murtha. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the NOV 6, 2019 council meeting minutes.

Val Adamson / Bill Palmer. Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

none

5. Correspondence

none

6. New Business

Disband Supply Search Team

MOTION to disband the Supply Search Team.

Marion Staples / Chris Cooke. Carried

Pastoral Search process

Pat, John and Kirk will continue to oversee the work required to support the Pastoral Search. The revised timeline along with tasks and teams was presented. Best case date for new minister to start would be July 2020; more realistic would be Sept 2020.

MOTION to council to accept the revised timeline schedule and approve Pat Morrison, John Cooke and Kirk Wilson as Pastoral Relations team to oversee the Pastoral Relations Search and Call process.

Chris Cooke / Bob Newman. Carried

Halo Project Canada

It has long been known in Canada that churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples have social, spiritual, and communal value. But what if we could measure the value of what they contribute to the common good in their neighbourhoods and communities? That is the jumping off point for [The Halo Project](#).

Inspired by similar research in the United States, the Halo Project began to examine and measure how religious congregations fare as economic catalysts. The first phase of this research examined 10 local Catholic congregations in Toronto. What we found was that those congregations all make significant common good contributions that have remarkable economic value when measured by traditional economic development tools.

But just how much economic good do those congregations do?

The 10 congregations we looked at in Toronto spend a little more than \$9.5 million per year in their direct budgets. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. The actual common good value those congregations produce, their “halo effect”, through weddings, artistic performances, suicide prevention, ending substance abuse, housing initiatives, job training – and a whole host of other areas that make cities so much more livable – is estimated to be more than \$45 million per year.

Every dollar a congregation spends could create \$4.77 worth of service a city does not have to provide.

Pat Morrison presented Halo Project Canada invitation that asks religious churches what social/economic benefit do they provide to the larger community for every dollar spent? Grace UC has been approached by EDGE, (a network for ministry development across the UC of Canada in areas of new ministry, renewing ministry, property and innovation) to participate in this study/research.

This may be helpful to articulate our benefits to a future minister, develop our ChurchHub profile and provide feedback to the congregation and larger community.

Pat will pursue further details, time commitment and timeline and report back in January 2020.

7. Pastoral Report and Teaching

PAT MORRISON

No report.

LINDA MARCOTTE

Very appreciative of the welcome since being here for one week. Met with Marilyn Townsend-Smith and toured the hospital. Onboarding is going very well.

8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

Worship

- a) Advent and Christmas Services: The Ode to Joy service will include special music by the Waveform Ensemble. Linda Marcotte’s covenanting service will take place on Advent 4. Glenn is currently working to identify vocalists for the Christmas Eve service that will be led by Pat and family.
- b) Chapel Upgrades and Renovations: There was extensive discussion regarding the use and

proposed renovation of the chapel. There was agreement that the space would require a food-friendly hard floor to maximize usage options and minimize floor damage, and that the chairs that are ultimately selected need to be of high quality and appropriate for a variety of uses. The next steps in the process will be to complete a Project Proposal Form that includes the requirements of the major users of the chapel.

Christian Development

No report.

Congregational Care & Growth

We donated \$300 from the Benevolent Fund to the Sarnia Jail Chaplain Ministry. These funds are used to provide the extras that the jail does not, such as hair cuts, fees for registration for educational courses or writing materials.

Colleen Livingstone passed away.

Outreach

- November 17 soup luncheon raised \$1900 for 'Water First' initiative.
- No soup luncheon in December. January 19, 2020 soup luncheon will support RayJon.

Proclamation and Special Events

No report

9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

Planning

No report

Finance

- Envelopes will be distributed before the services on Dec. 15 and 22. We will be looking for volunteers to deliver those that are not picked up.
- Budget submissions are due. Finance will review at next meeting on December 17.
- November reports are not back from the bookkeeper. The only major expense in December will be the final M&S payment.

Communications

Linda is using the volunteer computer from office.

Property

Excess furniture in Linda's office can be stored in Room 6 until donated to Habitat. Sue's old office is being painted. Refinished desk in Brad's office.

49 solar panels will cost \$150,000. Initial cost, then \$120. per month for 40 years for maintenance. Unconquered Solar Energy claims \$2.2M return on energy consumption over 40 years. This seems outrageous and Counsel agreed not to pursue this venture.

Hydro budget for 2020 is \$9,000. year.

Trustees

The insurance policy for the period of Dec. 1, 2019 to Nov. 30, 2020 has been renewed at a cost of

\$ 6701.00.

The coverage shows a 3% inflation factor to \$ 5,466,202.

Also, Rick Armstrong has requested to be taken off the board of trustees, so we are looking to find a new member for the board.

Ministry & Personnel

Committee has supported the hiring and transition of Linda Marcotte.

2020 Budget finalized – 1.5% lower than 2019 budget.

Minister and staff salaries will increase by 1.9% in 2020 based on the United Church of Canada guidelines. As in previous years, we would like to implement the changes effective Jan 1, rather than wait until the annual meeting and implement the changes retroactively.

MOTION that Council approve the 2020 salary increases effective Jan 1, 2020, with the provision that they can be amended in the future, as necessary.

Laura Black / Chris Cooke. Carried

AOTS

The regular, monthly Sunday morning breakfast meeting of AOTS was held on Sunday, November 24 2019, at 8:00 AM in the gym of Grace United. Guest speaker was John Hagens, Executive Director of Community Living for Sarnia /Lambton who presented the current scope of their various support systems and outlined the ongoing role of Grace's Manse in the evolvement of their services. ----- Bill Palmer

Regional Council

No report.

10. Meeting closed at 8:17pm

Next regular meeting: JANUARY 8, 2020

2020 Devotion Responsibility:

JANUARY –
FEBRUARY –
MARCH –
APRIL -
MAY –
JUNE –
JULY - na
AUGUST - na
SEPTEMBER –
OCTOBER –
NOVEMBER –
DECEMBER – M&P

2020 Sunday Lock-up Responsibility:

JANUARY – Planning
FEBRUARY – Trustees
MARCH – Worship
APRIL – CD
MAY – CC&G
JUNE – AOTS
JULY – Communications
AUGUST – Finance
SEPTEMBER – Outreach
OCTOBER – M&P
NOVEMBER – Property
DECEMBER - Planning

11. Closing Prayer

Pat Morrison led us in closing prayer.

Barb Baxter, Council Chair

Diana Fisher, Council Secretary