

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 Laura Black ✓
 Planning x
 Property Marion Staples ✓
 Proclamation and Special Events x
 Trustees Pete Melanson ✓
 Worship Bryce McGarvey ✓

✓ = present

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment and began at 7:00pm. There was a quorum.

1. Devotion

Communications – Chris Cooke shared his personal story which highlighted his attraction and connection to church life.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda with added item -- New Business, Sarnia United Churches Task Group.

Bryce McGarvey / Marion Staples. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the DEC 4, 2019 council meeting minutes.

Paul Cooper / Brad Mackey. Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

none

5. Correspondence

Letter from Affirm United. Congregation fees will increase to 1/20th of 1% of net revenue (approx. \$200. for Grace UC) for member churches that are an Affirming Ministry. The Affirming Ministry Council is a volunteer organization and the increase will allow them to hire a full-time Public Relations representative.

6. New Business

ANNUAL MEETING

Scheduled for February 16, 2020 with soup lunch.

HALO PROJECT

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 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 has reported more details EDGE has provided funds to assist with the cost (\$1,000. would be our cost). Congregation templates to be completed will require input from Pat, Linda, Lori. Program templates to be completed will require input from all committees.

The information is then reviewed and a comprehensive report along with recommendations will be provided by Halo Project.

MOTION to endorse this project and move forward with completing the required templates.

Bryce McGarvey/Bill Palmer. Carried

PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS

No report.

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH FOLLOW-UP

John Cooke and Paul Cooper were invited to meet with representatives from Central United Church on January 7th as part of their “Next Steps” process leading to closure in November 2020. They are assessing options including disbanding and amalgamation. We described the facilities, organization and programs at Grace.

Council supported inviting members of Central United to visit Grace on a designated Sunday to help the two congregations become more familiar with each other. John and Paul will work with the appropriate Grace committees to make this happen.

SARNIA UNITED CHURCH PARTNERSHIP TASK GROUP

Current initiatives include a combined entertainment night on March 6, 2020 (Bill Yates and Glenn Parsons are part of the organizing committee), Church service visitations on the last Sunday of each month and testing streaming facilities which are now installed at Dunlop UC.

7. Pastoral Report and Teaching

PAT MORRISON

The Christmas Swell was held at Wesley Knox United Church in London on Jan 3 and saw leadership from 11 Grace people.

We will be working to integrate elements from the service in to Sunday morning worship here at Grace.

LINDA MARCOTTE

My orientation went well and, I am thankful to all those who shared their time and knowledge to help me understand the mission at Grace. Working with the ministerial team at Grace is a positive experience. I want to thank Lisa & Lori for agreeing to help with the power-point and, so much more and, a special thanks to the "Minister of Transportation", Marion for orienting me to the city of Sarnia and, helping me to get from A to B to C... during my 1st month here.

I find the preparation and presiding at worship spiritually fulfilling. It is very enjoyable working with Glenn and the choir. I am grateful that there are three wise guys + to keep the techno part of the service on track. It was a heart-warming Christmas Eve service with Pat and his family.

The evening of Beer & Carols was a noisy, fun time indeed!

I am slowly putting names to faces and appreciate that members wear their name tags.

Pastoral visiting is on-going. I have oriented myself to the hospital and visited with members who were admitted during December and now January.

Sylvia Rose has been instrumental in introducing me to the residents at nursing homes. I spent time at Fairwinds getting to know the people there. Ari, my partner, also played the piano during their Christmas dinner hours, and that was well-received. He was rewarded with a 4 course turkey dinner, which I, as a vegetarian, was unable to provide.

It is my plan to continue home pastoral visiting in the New Year.

I am in contact with Colleen Livingstone's family as they plan to have a celebration of life and commitment of ashes in the late spring.

It was a privilege to minister to the Werezak family during the death and celebration of life for George.

On-going plans: in consultation with CC & G Chairperson

Holy Conversation on Tuesday afternoons starting on January 15th.

Lenten Book Study on Wednesday afternoons &/or evenings starting on February 26th for 6 weeks.

Details in the making. Author of book will come the last session for final reflection.

I will be on vacation from February 3rd – 15th.

Respectively Submitted:

Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte

8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

Worship

No report.

Christian Development

No report.

Congregational Care & Growth

Congregational Care & Growth is sponsoring Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte's Holy Conversations on Tuesday afternoons starting January 15th. This informal drop in will consist of lively discussion, reflections on the Sunday's sermon, scriptures as they relate to our contemporary lives. Additionally, we will sponsor Linda's book study that will include a visit from the author on the last day.

Outreach

1. Successful soup luncheon on November 17; raised over \$1900 for Water First initiative.
2. L4L active through November & December (fund raising turkey dinner on November 24, Alzheimer dinner, one birthday celebration, one funeral reception). Schedule issued for January with fund raising dinner planned for January 26th.
3. Special Christmas M&S appeal raised \$1154 for World Development and Emergency Relief. Thank you to congregation for support via bulletin notice.
4. January 19, 2020 soup luncheon donations will go to RayJon. February soup luncheon date to be finalized by Council. Donations to CFGB/Brigden UC 2020 'Forget-Me-Not' Grow Project. March and April soup luncheon beneficiaries TBD; possible choices include HHBH, Australian Wildfire response, River City Vineyard shelter expansion project.
5. Final project summary received from Brigden United. A net total of \$8760 was raised (almost \$46,000 with 4:1 CIDA matching; total of over \$440,000 on 10 year anniversary of 'Forget-Me-Not' Grow project)t.
6. Paige's IOGS bake sale raised \$1400. Ten year total of \$13,500. Great support from friends and extended Grace family.
7. Documents for additional Syrian Refugee family forwarded to UCC contact/Immigration Canada. Schedule for family arrival is not known at this time.
8. Outreach sponsored 'Give a Hand, Take a Hand' initiative in December.
9. Maggie to lead January 2020 IOGS meal prep. Email will be issued to 2019 meal preparers to see if they are willing to do the same schedule as in 2019. A clarification is required for salad prep responsibility.
10. Next meeting is February 3, 2020. Sue to host, Pauline for devotion.

Proclamation and Special Events

No report

9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:**Planning**

Need new members since all past members have moved into other roles. This committee is now empty.

Finance

Paul Cooper ... 2019 year ended with \$5400 deficit, which we handled with transfer from Reserve Fund.

Proposed 2020 budget was reviewed.

MOTION that council endorse the proposed 2020 budget handed out at meeting and present at congregation meeting for approval.

Paul Cooper/Kirk Wilson. Carried

Communications

No report.

Property

Ministry of Energy Small Business Lighting Program will come and do a lighting assessment. Internal audit of necessary interior church repairs was done; work will be completed over 5 years. Parking lot will need attention. Looking for input from Planning committee members soon. Also, seeking additional members/help on the Property committee.

Trustees

No report.

Ministry & Personnel

No report.

AOTS

No report.

Regional Council

No report.

10. Meeting closed at 8:38pm

Next regular meeting: FEBRUARY 5, 2020

2020 Devotion Responsibility:

JANUARY – Communications
FEBRUARY – Property
MARCH – Planning
APRIL – Trustees
MAY – Worship
JUNE – June
JULY - na
AUGUST - na
SEPTEMBER – na
OCTOBER – Finance
NOVEMBER – Outreach
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

Linda Marcotte led us in closing prayer.

Barb Baxter, Council Chair

Diana Fisher, Council Secretary