

Executive:

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

Committee Representatives:

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

✓ = present

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment and began at 7:02pm. There was a quorum.

1. Devotion

Property – Marion Staples shared her story of how she came to Sarnia and Grace United.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda ... with added NEW BUSINESS – GLENN PARSONS CONTRACT.

MARION STAPLES, BRAD MACKEY. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the JAN 8, 2020 council meeting minutes.

KIRK WILSON, IRIS MURTHA. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

none

5. Correspondence

EMAIL FROM CENTRAL UNITED

Central United would like to begin the process of possible amalgamation with 3 Sarnia united churches (Dunlop, Grace and St. Luke's).

Received Feb 5, 2020 ...

“Today, based on our internal survey, Central's Board approved seeking amalgamation with 1 or more Sarnia United Churches effective December 1, 2020. Within a few days, you (Dunlop, St. Luke's, Grace) will receive a written invitation to amalgamate with us. This would involve the dissolution of the amalgamating congregations and the formation of a new congregation as outlined in the Manual. The letter will ask if you are interested and if so, would it make a difference if more than 2 congregations were involved. The reason for this email is that we understand 2 of you have Board/Council meetings tonight

and may want to begin consideration of this proposal. We are requesting a response by March 20."

MOTION to form ad-hoc Amalgamation committee (Pat Morrison and Paul Cooper, with power to add more people) to investigate all the details of what Amalgamation looks like, educate the congregation on these findings and to determine Central United's vision of this process.

CHRIS COOKE, BRAD MACKEY. CARRIED

6. New Business

PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS

The next step in the pastoral relations process is to gather information from the congregation and Council to help us understand our identity and mission. This will facilitate the completion of our online ChurchHub profile and position description which, in turn, readies us for the search and call process. The Questionnaire Team (Natisha Taylor, John Baxter, Regan Pfaff-McDonald, Pat Morrison) met to define the questionnaire process and timeline and believe this work can be completed by next month's Council meeting. The questionnaire will be available online and in hard copy, and all members, adherents, and also each committee of Grace Council are invited to complete and submit their responses. The deadline for submissions is February 23, 2020. A post-worship information session will be held March 1 to present the findings, and a report to Council will be made March 3.

2019 FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is the opinion of the reviewers that the bookkeeping and other financial procedures carried out by the Financial Team at Grace United Church in 2019 were appropriate and were being complied with. It is our opinion that there are reasonable safeguards in place in order to minimize the risk of significant error or fraud. All those involved, particularly the trio of our Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Office Administrator, are commended for their excellent work.

Some notable changes took place in 2019:

The number of Special Funds decreased from 16 to 14. Council approved the amalgamation of two funds into a new Communications Initiative fund; the Growth & Givings fund was closed out, and so was the UCW account. A new Affirming Fund was created.

A new policy statement was created to go along with the new Communications Initiative fund. Furthermore, we were extremely pleased to see that a very comprehensive document has been created by John Cooke to address the administration of the ADP (Payroll) system.

There are still some Special Funds that do not yet have a policy document associated with them. For certain funds we feel it would be beneficial to have such a document in order to capture and clarify the origin and purpose of the fund, and the authority and approvals for the use of the fund.

Examples of funds that we suggest need to be addressed in 2020 are: the new Affirming Fund and the Inspiration Fund. Groundwork for tackling the Inspiration fund has already begun.

Since we are in a transitional period with respect to our ministerial leadership it would also be timely to create a simple but helpful policy document for the Benevolent Fund.

We have previously expressed the opinion that an Operating Manual should be developed so as to provide an outline of the weekly, monthly and annual duties that are carried out by the Treasurer and

Assistant Treasurer (also known as the Envelope Steward). With the upcoming changeover in the Treasurer position, this would be an excellent time to create such a guideline.

Submitted by Laura Black and Gord Walkling

DAN LEAVER CONTRACT

MOTION to extend Dan Leaver's contract to June 30, 2020 at a cost of \$5180 (unbudgeted) which includes salary for 4 months.

LAURA BLACK, BILL PALMER. CARRIED

GLENN PARSONS CONTRACT

MOTION to extend Glenn Parsons contract to Dec 31, 2021 at the pay raise previously approved by Council and congregation.

LAURA BLACK, BRAD MACKEY. CARRIED

M&P will look into the requirement for Liability insurance with Glenn Parsons.

7. Pastoral Report and Teaching

PAT MORRISON

Two weekends ago I ran a try-region curriculum workshop day that attracted 30 congregations from across southern Ontario. I presented our home-grown children's worship curriculum and our SPLAT curriculum and gifted each congregation with a free copy of each for use in their congregation. The attendance and the feedback was very positive and requests for Grace to share other curricula have sparked the planning of another curriculum workshop day in June.

I secured funding from a few sources to be able to run a tri-region confirmation retreat weekend later in February at Pearce Williams camp that will see participation from at least four Grace youth and leadership from at least 5 Grace adults. The weekend is designed to prepare teens from across southern Ontario for confirmation in their congregations.

We have completed our portion of the workload for the Halo Project. Many thanks to Lori who did the heavy lifting. The preliminary results are expected to take a month, and the full report should arrive within six weeks.

LINDA MARCOTTE

It seems almost impossible that two months have gone by of the six-month Appointment we have here at Grace United. Time flies when you are having a good time. And, I most certainly am having a good ministry experience indeed. The ministry is busy and full of unexpected experiences. I am very thankful for all those who are overseeing this ministry, their input and suggestions to make this a meaningful & spiritual time for all here at Grace. I am grateful for the M&P's continued support through my representative, John; for team ministry with Pat, Dan and especially for all Curtis and Lori's help and patience with me as I stumble about through the holy maze at Grace and, of course my unholy haze at times.

Worship Ministry – Communion Service on the 12th; met with the Worship Committee, the Sanctuary Guild, & Grace Choir.

In-Reach Ministry – Pastoral Care – visited hospital, nursing homes, residences, and private homes – total of 15 people received pastoral care visits or calls this month. I am grateful to Sylvia for doing and helping me do this important ministry.

Pastoral Counselling is on-going.

Community at large - Attended the Community Friendship gathering; Chinese New Year's celebration

Outreach Ministry – visited the Inn of the Good Shepherd on January 22nd for the meal and was amazed what Grace does there; met with the Director and toured the building and got a feeling for what happens at that community agency; visited the Hospice; met with Daphne and learned about the Refugee project; attended L4L supper – skipped the beef! -

Teaching Ministry - Holy Conversations on Tuesday afternoon with approximately 10 people; Lenten book study – 16 people signed up; books on order; plans for author forum in place.

Proclamation Ministry – nil

Governance Committee – meet on Tuesday mornings with Pat for planning & collegial support and, occasionally with Lori as the need arises. Prepared a letter for the annual report.

Future Plans – prepare meaningful Lenten worship services; meet with the pastoral care team; offer worship & communion once a month at a nursing home; visit other community agencies as time allows.

I am off to collect my partner Ari Snyder (and **HIS** dog – Bono) who will be staying here in Sarnia for the duration of my ministry/appointment at Grace United. Pray for good driving weather! See you on February 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Dr. Linda Marcotte – Congregational Minister

8. Key Ministry Committee Reports

Worship

The January meeting was the first scheduled meeting that was held since Linda's arrival. The committee discussed some of the nuances of the Grace service with Linda, and apologies were extended to her for overlooking giving her adequate information during her first several weeks and during the recent communion service. As we transition through the interim period and anticipate a new minister in 2020, the committee is committed to facilitating these events and supporting all ministerial staff and activities. **Sanctuary Guild:** Much positive feedback has been received regarding the new banners that are displayed in the sanctuary. In addition, members of the Guild recently went to Central United Church and acquired some of their banners.

Music Initiatives: Glenn indicated that the Bluewater Chamber Choir (or a subset) would be present for worship on February 16 and April 19. As was mentioned by Bill Yates, Sarnia United Churches are organizing a spring concert on March 6th. The organizing committee is looking for participants. Our Grace choir is interested, but there are a number of members who will be away or who are not well, so it may be restricted to only supporting mass choir piece.

Christian Development

No report.

Congregational Care & Growth

Congregational Care and Growth Committee will take over the new member reception from Adult Fellowship.

Bev Walkling will replace Edna Dent as the Broadview Magazine contact unless someone else comes forward to do it or to help.

We are handing out the labelled annual reports and tax receipts on February 2nd and 9th and will decide at our meeting on the 19th how to distribute the remaining.

Membership: Colleen Livingston, who died November 28, 2019 and George Werezak who died December 26, 2019 were removed from the membership roll.

Congregational Care and Growth approved the baptism of Catherine Elizabeth Shaw, daughter of Allan and Susan.

MOTION to Council to approve the baptism of Catherine Elizabeth Shaw, daughter of Allan and Susan.
 BILL PALMER, MARION STAPLES. CARRIED

Outreach

- a) Successful soup luncheon on January 19; raised \$2285 for RayJon. Thanks to Heather Smith for support.
- b) L4L activities continue at a strong pace. Fund raising dinner planned for end of February.
- c) February 16, 2020 soup luncheon donations will go to CFGB/Brigden UC 2020 'Forget-Me-Not' Grow Project. March 15 soup luncheon will benefit Lambton Center. April 19 beneficiary TBD (possible choices include HHBH, Australian Wildfire response, River City Vineyard shelter expansion project, Community Living, St. Clair Child & Youth).
- d) Maggie has completed IOGS meal preparation schedule up to July. Thanks to those who have volunteered their time. Karen Cooke is looking after the salad prep.
- e) Next meeting is March 2, 2020. Ruth to host, Paul for devotion.

Proclamation and Special Events

No report

9. Governance and Support Committee Reports:

Planning

No report.

Finance

- a) With endorsement by Council of 2020 Budget, one key item will be to work closely with Property to ensure Capital Replacement Fund is used appropriately. Consider inviting Property to Finance Meetings as required to review decisions made.
- b) Paul will complete 2019 Grace Funds summary and communicate at February 5 Council meeting.
- c) Given the sensitivity of the 2020 budget to restoring givings to 2018 levels, the Committee endorsed a more formal review of the operating budget at the end of the first quarter of 2020.
- d) **We need additional counters** to ensure no one is required more than one coverage event per year. A bulletin item will be submitted requesting additional volunteers. A schedule for the first 6 months will be posted.

2019 Grace Funds Summary

FUND	Jan 01, 2019	Dec 31, 2019	2019 Fund Activity		MAJOR ITEMS
			IN	OUT	Greater than \$1000
Reserve	56,133	60,874	10,150	5,409	2019 deficit, estate donation

Growth in Givings (Campaign)	55,599	0	13,484	69,083	See GIG summary
L4L	20,489	12,623	3,141	11,006	Catering events
Youth Worship	4,285	4,217	264	332	
Communications Initiative Fund	14,567	17,629	3,103	42	Donations
Youth Initiatives	6,872	4,201	8,229	10,899	Student hires/grants, pancake supper
Affirming Committee	0	334	980	646	
Inn of the Good Shepherd	838	1,717	2,585	1,706	
Benevolent Fund	784	428	1,767	2,123	See Outreach summary
Memorial Fund	20,060	15,269	2,095	6,886	Praise banners
UCW	2,883	0	1,323	4,206	M&S donations
Capital Replacement	14,919	11,199	9,742	13,461	D/washer repair, Sanctuary window, Gym floor cleaner, Sanctuary HVAC heatex
Ken Plumley	1,147	1,701	2,054	1,500	3 Plumley scholarships, Memorial donation
Inspiration	15,763	16,150	640	252	
Lay Leadership Development	8,036	8,036	0	0	
TOTALS	222,375	154,378	59,577	127,551	
Refugee Committee* (for LRC)	52,685	54,649	2,370	406	GIC interest, Syrian dinner
Sarnia Community Foundation	49,000	50,500			See Finance Report

Communications

No report.

Property

Carpet installed in Brad’s old office. Adolescent from Chinese Community was locked in the freezer room and our key would not work at the time to open. Continued encouragement to unlock the door was unsuccessful, and the door was damaged to free the child. They have offered to pay for the repair; however, we are happy to take care of this. Any donation is appreciated. Hot water valve for heating system is leaking and needs to be repaired.

Trustees

Remove Rick Armstrong from Board of Trustees.

Ministry & Personnel

No report.

AOTS

The regular, Sunday morning, breakfast meeting of AOTS for January 2020, was held in the gym of Grace United at 8:00 AM, Sunday January 26th. Guest speaker was Al Grimwood who spoke about his experiences supporting fund raising for the Multiple Sclerosis Society through his participation in a bike ride from Grand Bend to London and back. Al provided background material on MS, and photos. ----- Bill Palmer

Regional Council

No report.

10. Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Next regular meeting: MARCH 4, 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

Pat Morrison led us in closing prayer.

Barb Baxter, Council Chair

Diana Fisher, Council Secretary